

# **The Lazarus Global Humanitarian Food Donation Border Access Act**

A model Act proposed by the Lazarus Council to facilitate the rapid, safe, and unhindered cross-border movement of donated food for humanitarian purposes.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of [Nation], as follows:

## **SECTION 1. TITLE**

This Act may be cited as the “Lazarus Global Humanitarian Food Donation Border Access Act.”

## **SECTION 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE**

The legislature finds that:

1. Bureaucratic delays, inconsistent import regulations, and redundant inspections cause significant spoilage of donated food intended for humanitarian relief.
2. Many food donations—particularly canned, frozen, and cooked products—pose no environmental or biosecurity risk.
3. Existing trade and environmental laws were designed for commercial goods, not humanitarian food transfers.
4. Streamlined border access procedures will save lives, reduce waste, and strengthen international cooperation.

Purpose: To create an expedited and harmonized border clearance process for qualified food donations, ensuring their timely and safe delivery to those in need.

## **SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this Act—

- “Donated Food” means any edible product voluntarily transferred without compensation for humanitarian purposes.
- “Qualified Humanitarian Shipment” means a shipment declared by a registered donor, charity, or government agency as containing donated food for humanitarian distribution.
- “Competent Authority” refers to the national customs, border, or food inspection agency authorized to clear goods.
- “Expedited Clearance” means simplified documentation, priority processing, and reduced inspection requirements consistent with humanitarian status.

## **SECTION 4. STREAMLINED BORDER PROCEDURES**

1. Expedited Processing: Qualified Humanitarian Shipments shall be processed under a dedicated “Humanitarian Fast Track” system to minimize inspection times.
2. Pre-Arrival Clearance: Donors and recipients may submit required documents electronically prior to shipment arrival.
3. Risk-Based Inspection: Only shipments containing raw agricultural or unprocessed goods may be subject to standard environmental or biosecurity review.
4. Approved Food Categories: The following categories shall be presumed safe and cleared without delay:
  - (a) Canned and sealed packaged foods;

- (b) Frozen or refrigerated goods in sealed containers; and
  - (c) Cooked foods prepared under certified sanitary conditions.
5. Mutual Recognition: Certification of safety by a recognized national or international food authority (such as FAO, WHO, or WFP) shall be accepted without reinspection.

## **SECTION 5. BORDER COORDINATION AND TRAINING**

1. Customs and border personnel shall receive training on humanitarian food donation protocols developed in coordination with the Lazarus Council and international partners.
2. The national government may adopt the Lazarus Council's model guidelines for uniform border documentation and digital pre-clearance.
3. Humanitarian corridors may be designated during declared emergencies for immediate cross-border delivery of donated food.

## **SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

1. The Minister responsible for trade, customs, or agriculture shall issue implementing rules within 90 days of enactment.
2. Existing staff and resources shall be utilized; no new departments or personnel shall be required.
3. All agencies responsible for customs, border security, and food safety shall align their internal regulations to ensure compliance with this Act.
4. Periodic summaries of humanitarian shipments cleared under this Act shall be shared with the Lazarus Council to support global transparency and coordination.

## **SECTION 7. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

1. The government shall seek bilateral or multilateral agreements with other nations for mutual recognition of humanitarian certification and pre-approved food categories.
2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall forward a certified copy of this Act to the Lazarus Council for registration and inclusion in the global compliance index.

## **SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Act shall take effect immediately upon passage and apply to all qualified humanitarian food shipments thereafter.