

Ukraine Black Sea grain deal extended for two months

UNITED NATIONS, May 17 (Reuters) – The Ukraine Black Sea grain deal has been extended for two more months, in what U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres hailed as “good news for the world,” a day before Russia could have quit the pact over obstacles to its grain and fertiliser exports.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan announced the extension in a televised speech and it was later confirmed by Russia, Ukraine and the United Nations.

The flow of ships through the corridor had been grinding to a halt during the last few days with the deal set to expire on Thursday.

“The continuation is good news for the world,” the U.N.’s Guterres told reporters on Wednesday.

The United Nations and Turkey brokered the Black Sea deal for an initial 120 days in July last year to help tackle a global food crisis that has been aggravated by Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine, one of the world’s leading grain exporters.

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