

## Food and Agriculture Organization

### *Introduction*

The Food and Agriculture Organization's primary governing body, the Conference of Member Nations, did not meet formally in the latter part of 2014; however, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) organized various meetings focused on its internal organizational structure as well as thematic issues relating to food security.<sup>1</sup> The FAO organized its yearly committee on world food security in Rome, 13-18 October of 2014, where the FAO's annual publication, "The State of Food Insecurity," was released. In addition, the FAO also held its yearly programme committee meeting in Rome, 3-7 November 2014, primarily focused on reviewing progress towards goals highlighted in the 2014-2017 Medium Term and Programme of Work detailed at the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO conference in 2013. Further, the FAO also held its yearly council meeting in Rome, 1-5 December of 2014 focused on budgetary, financial, and governance matters. These meetings serve to prepare the FAO as a body for the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the biannual FAO conference in 6-13 June of 2015, where a renewed emphasis would be placed on FAO's priorities around reduction of hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity. Of note is the FAO's role as a member of the open working group that developed a draft of the sustainable development goals. A few of the goals are directly related to the FAO's core mission of hunger and malnutrition reduction around the world. This update will present an overview of the general outcomes of the aforementioned FAO meetings as a way of demonstrating the FAO's functionality. Finally, the update will also present an overview of recent FAO actions and how FAO policies are implemented.

### *Recent Activities*

The FAO is tasked with actively seeking solutions, insights, and policies to tackle issues related to hunger and malnutrition around the world.<sup>2</sup> In order to achieve its goals, FAO disseminates technical expertise to states and partners and helps to facilitate partnerships by bringing together various actors in different regions.<sup>3</sup> In December of 2013, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/232 declaring 2015 the International Year of Soils.<sup>4</sup> Following upon this declaration, the FAO organized the first meeting of the steering committee of the international year of soils in October of 2014, seeking to foster dialogue and partnerships among relevant stakeholders in order to ensure that soil resources are used adequately in ensuring food security and nutrition.<sup>5</sup> Towards addressing problems relevant to inadequate nutrition, the FAO organized the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in Rome, 19-21 November 2014.<sup>6</sup> ICN2 brought together over 2,200 high-level intergovernmental officials to address the different problems that lead to malnutrition.<sup>7</sup> ICN2 led to two outcome documents: the *Rome Declaration on Nutrition* and the *Framework for Action*, which both encourage states to establish targeted national policies aimed at reducing malnutrition.<sup>8</sup>

"The State of Food and Insecurity," the FAO's annual publication on the current situation regarding food insecurity around the world, was released at the Committee on World Food Security in Rome.<sup>9</sup> The report highlighted various successes such as a reduction by 100 million in the number of undernourished individuals around the world, while highlighting the need for United Nations (UN) Member States to maintain sustained focus and commitment to national policies that address hunger and malnutrition reduction.<sup>10</sup> The report further highlights the need for policies that ensure increased agricultural productivity as well as promote rural development and social protection for vulnerable populations.<sup>11</sup> As part of its second annual publication, "The State of Food and Agriculture," the FAO

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<sup>1</sup> FAO, *For FAO, another busy year*, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> FAO, *Our Strategic Objectives*, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> FAO, *Partnership Strategies*, 2014.

<sup>4</sup> UN General Assembly, *World Soil Day and International Year of Soils (A/RES/68/232)*, 2013.

<sup>5</sup> FAO, *International Year of Soils*, 2014.

<sup>6</sup> FAO, *Second International Conference on Nutrition*, 2014.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> FAO, *Rome Declaration on Nutrition*, 2014, p. 5; FAO, *Framework for Action*, 2014, p. 6; FAO, *Second International Conference on Nutrition*, 2014.

<sup>9</sup> FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: Strengthening the Enabling Environment for Food Security and Nutrition*, 2013, p. 8.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

highlights the need for innovation in family farming, the need for increased public investment in agricultural research and development across states, the need for good governance, stable economic and fiscal conditions as well as the need to enact policies that ensure that low scale and family-based farmers are not excluded from the public agricultural markets.<sup>12</sup> Through its publications, regional meetings, and published technical documents, the FAO is always looking to help bring about a stable environment across several regions upon which effective policies that bring Member States away from hunger and malnutrition can be enacted.<sup>13</sup> The FAO's core mission is succinctly distilled in several of the proposed sustainable development goals, particularly goals two and fifteen.<sup>14</sup> Going forward, these goals serve to highlight several of the core missions that the FAO seeks to address.<sup>15</sup>

### ***Recent Policy Outcomes***

Across its recent meetings, the FAO and other UN entities have sought to streamline the solution strategies for eliminating food insecurity, reducing hunger, and malnourishment. Recent outcomes from the FAO, as indicated in “The State of Food and Insecurity,” “The State of Food and Agriculture,” and the *Framework for Action*, have emphasized repeatedly the need for national governments to focus and remain committed to reducing malnourishment, hunger, and food insecurity across their citizens.<sup>16</sup> Further, the FAO has encouraged Member States to commit to providing a stable legislative and socioeconomic environment for increased agricultural productivity.<sup>17</sup> Favorable economic conditions and increased investment in agriculture have been shown to have a direct impact on the availability of food and the level of nutrition in a particular region.<sup>18</sup> The FAO has also highlighted the need for Member States to seek technical assistance from the UN, non-governmental organizations, and civil society organizations to address a lack of information situation.<sup>19</sup> Increased partnership between producers, national governments, and actors that can provide access to technical expertise would further serve to help increase knowledge dissemination to producers who might lack access to such information.<sup>20</sup> In addition, across several meetings and sessions on nutrition, organized by the FAO, there has been an increased emphasis on ensuring that vulnerable and often marginalized populations are targeted in order to ensure that these communities are not left behind even as agricultural productivity increases.<sup>21</sup> Ultimately, the FAO has championed a holistic and multifaceted approach in which different actors address various aspects of the overall system in order to ensure that critical goals are being met.

### ***Implementation of Food and Agriculture Organization Outcomes***

The core functions of the FAO involve increasing the standard of living for all individuals, reducing malnourishment and hunger across the world, and increasing the welfare of rural and vulnerable populations.<sup>22</sup> To achieve its goals, the FAO helps in disseminating technical expertise to states and other relevant entities, helps to facilitate collaboration across various institutions, and helps bring relevant actors to engage on ground.<sup>23</sup> Overall, FAO serves as a partner and an advisory body to Member States as they seek to enact policies that would help reduce hunger and malnutrition.<sup>24</sup> The FAO's role as a partner manifests itself in various ways; activities range from multiple day workshops by domain experts on specialized topics, loan assistance program for rural farmers to distribution of specialized equipment to producers who might lack such equipment.<sup>25</sup> The FAO and other organizations within the UN system, such as the World Food Programme, often come together to tackle and develop comprehensive programs to aim at hunger reduction specialized in different regions of the world.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture: Innovation in Family Farming* 2014, p. 12.

<sup>13</sup> FAO, *For FAO, another busy year*, 2014.

<sup>14</sup> Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Open Working Group Proposal for Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014.

<sup>15</sup> FAO, *Urban Agriculture*, 2014.

<sup>16</sup> FAO, *For FAO, another busy year*, 2014.

<sup>17</sup> FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture: Innovation in Family Farming* 2014, p. 12.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: Strengthening the Enabling Environment for Food Security and Nutrition*, 2014, p. 8.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> FAO, *Themes*, 2014.

<sup>22</sup> FAO, *The Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals: Background*, 2014.

<sup>23</sup> FAO, *Partnerships*, 2014.

<sup>24</sup> FAO, *FAO Attributes, Core Functions, and Comparative Advantages*.

<sup>25</sup> FAO, *In action*, 2014.

<sup>26</sup> FAO, *Our Strategic Objectives*, 2014.

***Conclusion***

Going forward, a critical component of the UN's mission is poverty and hunger eradication, which is at the core of the FAO's functions. Hence, the FAO has an important role to play in ensuring that several regions of the world remain focused on the task of developing sustainable policies that bring about economic growth and stability, increase agricultural output, and especially reduce hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and food insecurity.



## Annotated Bibliography

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2014). *Framework for Action* [Outcome Document]. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm215e.pdf>

*This document is one of two outcome documents from the November second international conference on Nutrition. The goal of this document is to provide guidelines to Member States as they seek to implement the agreements in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition. The document outlines a variety of recommended actions for maintaining a stable environment, promoting sustainable food systems, and promoting international trade and investment as well as social protection. These different recommended actions would help guide delegates as they outline solutions to the topic at hand.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2014). *For FAO, another busy year*. [Web Site] Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/273380/icode/>

*This source is an overview of 2014 for the FAO. This source would prove to be quite useful to delegates as they seek examples of actions and on-the-ground activities that the FAO engaged in across the world in 2014. Further, this source outlines clearly starting from January of 2014 to December 2014 the different programs and actions that the FAO has put in place across the world. Finally, this source goes on to highlight the emerging direction that the FAO is aiming to pursue as the organization seeks to bring an end to hunger and malnutrition.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2014). *Second International Conference on Nutrition*. [Web Site]. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/icn2/en/>

*This source gives a comprehensive overview of the second International conference on Nutrition. It provides useful background, documents, and news as well as links to final outcome materials from the conference. Organizing high-level meetings is one of the critical functions of the FAO, and a unique channel through which the FAO can shine light on issues relating to hunger and malnutrition. This source can serve as a useful example to delegates as they think through possible solutions to challenges at hand.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2014). *The State of Food and Agriculture: Innovation in Family Farming* [Annual Report]. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4040e.pdf>

*The State of Food and Agriculture is an annual report published by the FAO that gives an overview of various issues and concerns associated with the agricultural sector across the world. This report was released at the end of 2014, and addresses innovation in family farming. Significant portions of individuals in rural areas are farmers, in particular, subsistence farmers. This report highlights a set of strategies that various national governments can implement to try to increase agricultural output and reduce hunger in rural areas. The report also presents ways in which governments can help spur innovation in family farming. This source will be useful to delegates as they seek an update analysis on the state of agriculture across the world.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2014). *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: Strengthening the Enabling Environment for Food Security and Nutrition* [Annual Report]. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4030e.pdf>

*The State of Food Insecurity in the World is an annual report published by the FAO that provides an overview of the current impact of food insecurity across various regions. This report was published in late 2014 as part of the Conference on World Food Security. The report examines the current state of food insecurity monitoring across the world and presents a variety of solutions to challenges facing several regions. This is a useful source for delegates as they scope the range of solutions to address the food insecurity problem around the world.*

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## I. Protecting and Securing Fisheries in Small Island Developing States

### *Introduction*

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face unique social, economic, and environmental challenges.<sup>27</sup> Despite a substantial difference in geographic size between small and large island states, fishing constitutes a major food source for SIDS.<sup>28</sup> Consequently, SIDS, along with larger, perhaps even better equipped states, face similar challenges concerning security, protection, utilization, and preservation of fisheries. Given the smaller size of these states, and a lack of resources, the aforementioned problems often pose greater threats to SIDS.<sup>29</sup> To their detriment, SIDS lack the ability to address the challenges with fisheries, which leaves them vulnerable in regards to food security.<sup>30</sup>

Over the last few months, SIDS have been a topic of discussion amongst the United Nations (UN) entities such as the General Assembly, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Secretary-General of United Nations submitted his report (69/201) to the General Assembly entitled “Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015,” which acknowledges the troubles that SIDS encounter in their attempts towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).<sup>31</sup> In 2014, the UN showed their support for SIDS by participating in the International Year of Small Island Developing States, which was established by the General Assembly through resolution 67/206 in 2012.<sup>32</sup> By participating, organizations further investigated and addressed the challenges facing SIDS such as fair investments in sustainable development, climate change, management of fisheries, and disaster.

### *Recent Developments*

On 1 September 2014, the Member States of the UN convened at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia, Samoa.<sup>33</sup> The Apia conference was the third international conference on SIDS and this conference’s primary focus was on the sustainable development of SIDS with an emphasis on “genuine and durable partnerships.”<sup>34</sup> At the conclusion of the conference, the participating governments created the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway).<sup>35</sup> The SAMOA Pathway outlines several challenges that SIDS contend with, as well as the commitment of participating Member States to aid SIDS.<sup>36</sup> In addition, the SAMOA Pathway acknowledges that the establishment of sustainable practices will be left to the leadership of each individual government.<sup>37</sup> In regards to fisheries, the SAMOA Pathway strongly supports and promotes sustainable development of small-scale fisheries and the improvement of the management and resources of those fisheries.<sup>38</sup> Despite the SAMOA Pathways support of investment and development of fisheries, the SAMOA Pathway emphasizes placing an increased level of scrutiny on subsidies that contribute to overfishing as outlined in the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) “Doha Ministerial Declaration” of December 2005.<sup>39</sup> Ultimately, the

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<sup>27</sup> UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, *About the Small Island Developing States*.

<sup>28</sup> FAO *Fisheries and Aquaculture Issues in Small Island Developing States* (COFI/99/7), 1999.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>31</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session, *Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development Agenda beyond 2015* (A/RES/69/201(2014)), 2014.

<sup>32</sup> UN Information Centre Canberra, *International Year of Small Island Developing States 2014*; United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session, *Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development Agenda beyond 2015* (A/RES/67/206(2013)), 2013.

<sup>33</sup> UN, *UN Conference on Small Island Developing States*, 2014.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>35</sup> UN, *Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway)*, 2014.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

SAMOA Pathway supports the expansion of SIDS' abilities to utilize, conserve, and manage their fisheries in order to develop sustainable fishery-related industries.<sup>40</sup>

FAO also participated in the UN Conference on SIDS and hosted two additional events that focused on sustainable economic growth and improved food security, which are key goals of FAO.<sup>41</sup> In one event in particular, the FAO co-sponsored an event with the governments of the Netherlands and Indonesia.<sup>42</sup> At this event, the FAO proposed their Blue Growth Initiative, which is composed of four components: marine and inland capture fisheries, aquaculture, livelihoods and food systems, and economic growth of ecosystem services.<sup>43</sup> One of the goals of the Blue Growth Initiative is to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in SIDS.<sup>44</sup> To achieve this goal, the initiative aims to identify and syncretize the needs of artisanal and industrial fisheries to ensure both benefit and growth.<sup>45</sup> In spite of the help SIDS gain through the initiative for their fisheries, SIDS still have to address external challenges that threaten their food security.<sup>46</sup>

Climate change poses a significant threat to the food security of SIDS. In a speech given by the FAO Director Jose Graziano da Silva at the Third International UN Conference on SIDS, the director stated several effects of climate change that have an effect on countries around the world, but that leave SIDS particularly more vulnerable.<sup>47</sup> Some of the environmental effects caused by climate change include: change in rainfall, increased temperature of surface seawater, and rising sea levels.<sup>48</sup> The director continued to state that climate change has strong implications on the food security, livelihoods, and the economy of SIDS, and there is a need for a long-term holistic approach to aid SIDS.<sup>49</sup> In the past two years, the FAO has invested about \$40 million in order to aid SIDS in the management of natural resources and food banks.<sup>50</sup> In addition, the FAO has used the Blue Growth Initiative in order to help and educate on more sustainable uses of their fisheries and other aquatic resources to increase food security and nutrition.<sup>51</sup> Despite efforts by the FAO, combating climate change takes monetary resources in order to fund projects to help Member States, and SIDS in particular, to adapt to the adjustment of climate change.<sup>52</sup> The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is in the process of preparing a proposal that would allow SIDS to write off their debts to more affluent states and use those funds for climate change adaptation.<sup>53</sup> Though the policy is innovative, to give SIDS a chance in combating climate change, financial analysts within the UNDP still believe that the money generated from the debt relief is just not enough for SIDS to front the initial cost of climate adaptation.<sup>54</sup>

Amongst discussion of the negative implications of climate change, participants on the Third International UN Conference on SIDS discussed the effects of climate change on disaster risk management.<sup>55</sup> Due to climate change, SIDS and other Pacific States are in need of resilient plans that integrate disaster risk management to their climate change adaptation and economic plans.<sup>56</sup> In conjunction with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), various Pacific regional bodies have an overall goal to develop the best-fit plan to handle climate change influenced disasters to benefit SIDS and potentially the rest of the world.<sup>57</sup> This emphasis on disasters risk management coincides with the technical consultation report indicated in the FAO's *Chairperson's Report of the Technical Consultation of International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries* of June 2014

<sup>40</sup> UN, *Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway)*, 2014.

<sup>41</sup> FAO, *Small Island Developing States: FAO's support to the Third International Conference on SIDS*; FAO, *About FAO*.

<sup>42</sup> FAO, *Global Blue Growth Initiative and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*, 2014, p. 4; FAO, *Small Island Developing States: FAO's support to the Third International Conference on SIDS*; FAO, *About FAO*.

<sup>43</sup> FAO, *Global Blue Growth Initiative and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*, 2014, p. 4; FAO, *Small Island Developing States: FAO's support to the Third International Conference on SIDS*; FAO, *About FAO*.

<sup>44</sup> FAO, *Small Island Developing States: FAO's support to the Third International Conference on SIDS*; FAO, *About FAO*.

<sup>45</sup> FAO, *Global Blue Growth Initiative and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*, 2014, p. 4.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>47</sup> FAO, *Sustainable development of Small Island Developing States a global litmus test*, 2014.

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>52</sup> The Guardian, *UN proposal of debt relief for climate adaptation divides aid experts*, 2014.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>55</sup> UNISDR, *SIDS link climate change and disaster risk*, 2014.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*

which draws attention to the devastating effects disasters, climate-driven and human-driven, can have on small-scale fisheries and the need for a plan of action and support for states effected by disaster.<sup>58</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

The protection and preservation of SIDS and their fisheries has received a great deal of attention within the past couple of months. With the conclusion of the Third International UN Conference on SIDS, the UN has provided various means of aid, innovation in sustainable development, and strategic planning. In the coming times, one of the biggest detriments to food security provided by fisheries and the infrastructure of SIDS will be global climate change. As stated, climate change has led to rises in the surface sea temperatures, which has an effect on marine life and fishing. Additionally, the increase in overall sea level poses a threat to these already low-lying island states due to a lack of funds necessary to support climate adaption infrastructure. Without the proper infrastructure in place, fisheries remain at risk. UN entities such as the FAO, UNDP, and UNISDR have taken into account the damaging effects that climate change can cause and have made active steps in preparing SIDS to handle the potential devastating effects of climate change.

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<sup>58</sup> FAO, *Chairperson's report of the technical consultation of international guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries* (COFI/2014/Inf.10), 2014.

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[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/sids/PDF/Blue\\_Growth\\_policy\\_paper.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/sids/PDF/Blue_Growth_policy_paper.pdf)

*The Global Growth Initiative and Small Island Developing States is a system proposed by the FAO that has gained great support with the international community. The success of the initiative can, in one aspect, be attributed to the FAO dividing their project into four components. By specializing their approach, the FAO has provided the international community with an ideal plan to best help SIDS.*

Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. (2014). *Sustainable development of Small Island Developing States a global litmus test*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from:

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/242479/icode/>

*In this article, the Director of the FAO brings up the detrimental effects of global climate change on SIDS. Though the change is felt by all island States, SIDS are among the most vulnerable. More importantly, the Director addresses the need for food security and sustainable development in SIDS and a need for climate adaptation. Lastly, this article addresses FAO's efforts in helping SIDS with the Blue Growth Initiative.*

United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States. (2014). *Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway)*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from:

<http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?menu=1595>

*The SAMOA Pathway is a finalized report on the discussion that took place at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. In addition, the SAMOA Pathway is the commitment by all participants to help SIDS develop sustainable practices and provide SIDS with food security, economic growth, and to fend against upcoming challenges.*

United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. (2015). *About Small Island Developing States*. Retrieved 2 January 2015 from:

<http://unohrlls.org/about-sids/>

*UNOHRLLS provides more background information on Small Island Developing States. In addition to background information, this resource provides additional historical information about the UN's actions in addressing the plight of SIDS. More interestingly, this resource provides information about the actions taken by regional bodies in the Pacific that have addressed the issue of SIDS. Lastly, there are more useful resolutions and documents concerning SIDS and the international coordination of support.*

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2014). *SIDS link climate change and disaster risk*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/39190>

*At the Third International Conference on the Small Island Developing States, the negative implications of global climate change were discussed in regards to its ability to cause disaster. This source takes a look at disaster risk management for SIDS and preparedness. In addition, this source emphasizes that even though the effects of climate change are more detrimental to SIDS, the global climate change is all issue for all island states. In this article, the need for general Pacific region preparedness is addressed and the desire for a strong and universal plan for disaster relief.*

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## II. Reducing Rural Poverty

### *Introduction*

The eradication of poverty is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that Member States committed to achieving by the year 2015.<sup>59</sup> However these goals were far from being achieved in 2012 when the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, commonly known as the Rio+20 Conference, was held. In continuation of the MDGs and building upon their partial success, the Rio+20 Conference proposed drafting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved in the year 2030, as part of the post-2015 development agenda.<sup>60</sup> The first of the proposed SDGs is to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere” and the second is to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.”<sup>61</sup> Both of these goals are intrinsic to the issue of rural poverty.

Rural poverty has received increasing international attention over the past few months due to a number of “international days” focusing on relevant issues and emphasizing the importance of rural poverty on the international agenda. 15 October 2014 marked the International Day for Rural Women as laid out in General Assembly (GA) resolution 62/136 on the *Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas*.<sup>62</sup> This was commemorated by a joint panel discussion titled “What Can We Do to Empower Rural Women in the Post-2015 Development Agenda?”<sup>63</sup> The World Food Day was held on 16 October 2014 as mandated in GA resolution 35/70 with the theme “Family Farming: Feeding the world, caring for the earth.”<sup>64</sup> 2014 was also the International Year of Family Farming and highlighted the role of small-scale, family-owned farms in providing food security while sustainably managing local resources.<sup>65</sup> This resulted in the two-day Global Dialogue on Family Farming, which brought together governments, farmers’ organizations, the private sector, and civil society representatives to identify key areas of work in support of family farming beyond 2014.<sup>66</sup> The event emphasized continued support of family farms to ensure future worldwide food security, a core objective of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). With a broader focus, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was held 17 October 2014 with the theme “Leave no one behind: think, decide and act together against extreme poverty.”<sup>67</sup> This was celebrated by a commemoration at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters, as well as a number of events all around the world, highlighting efforts dedicated towards the eradication of poverty.<sup>68</sup>

The Second International Conference on Nutrition, held in Rome, Italy in November 2014, resulted in a *Framework for Action* and provides a number of policy options that governments may adopt to ensure better worldwide nutrition.<sup>69</sup> Recommendation 9, stresses the importance of strengthening local food production by family farms while addressing women’s empowerment.<sup>70</sup>

In addition, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued his synthesis report on the post-2015 development agenda titled “The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet.”<sup>71</sup> This is one of the most important documents produced as it synthesizes all inputs to date on the post-2015 development agenda, the current context and problems, as well as international development efforts in recent years.<sup>72</sup> Finally, there are

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<sup>59</sup> UN, *We Can End Poverty: United Nations Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015*.

<sup>60</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development Goals*.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> UN General Assembly, *Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/RES/62/136)*, 2008.

<sup>63</sup> FAO, *New York event highlights the crucial role of rural women in the Post-2015 Agenda*, 2014.

<sup>64</sup> UN General Assembly, *Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/RES/62/136)*, 2008.; UN General Assembly, *World Food Day (A/RES/35/70)*, 1980; FAO, *Beyond the International Year of Family Farming*, 2014.

<sup>65</sup> FAO, *Beyond the International Year of Family Farming*, 2014.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> UN General Assembly, *Observance of an international day for the eradication of poverty (A/RES/47/196)*, 1993; UN Department of Public Information, *International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 17 October*.

<sup>68</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2014*.

<sup>69</sup> FAO & WHO, *Second International Conference on Nutrition Conference Outcome Document: Framework for Action*, 2014.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> UN General Assembly, *The Road to Dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet (A/69/700)*, 2014.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

recommendations for future actions including the establishment of an online global platform to map technology gaps, enhance international cooperation, and promote information sharing between entities.<sup>73</sup>

The role of women in rural communities has been a major issue on the international agenda and was addressed in an event organized by FAO, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and UN-Women on “What Can We Do to Empower Rural Women in the post-2015 Development Agenda?”<sup>74</sup> Women in rural communities face the double-edged sword of extreme poverty and gender discrimination, despite making up more than 40% of the agricultural labor force.<sup>75</sup> FAO highlighted progress in training of women in Farmer Field Schools, which enable farmers to experiment and develop solutions to their own problems and has shown much potential in tackling larger societal issues such as gender inequality, violence, and food insecurity.<sup>76</sup> The discussion panel concluded by strongly encouraging the adoption of specific policies to “address the challenges faced by women farmers globally.”<sup>77</sup>

### ***Recent Developments***

#### *Improving Agricultural Productivity and Rural Infrastructure due to Population Growth*

Major population growth worldwide is expected in the future, however there is a significant lack of sufficient rural infrastructure to support increased agricultural productivity to meet future needs.<sup>78</sup> The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) produced a policy dialogue focused on pro-poor public private partnerships (5P) for rural development.<sup>79</sup> The focus of the dialogue was energy services for the rural poor in Asia and the Pacific, following up on a successful community mobilization pilot project in Jakarta and Cinta Makar, Indonesia developed by a local initiative and ESCAP.<sup>80</sup> This was followed up by a meeting in Lao People’s Democratic Republic titled “Pro-Poor Public-Private Partnership: Scaling-up Off-grid Rural Electrification in Lao People’s Democratic Republic,” in which policy makers, business leaders and donor agencies discussed the adoption of a similar approach in Lao People’s Democratic Republic.<sup>81</sup> The Global Institute for Tomorrow Global Leaders Program will consider the recommendations from this meeting and adopt them in the chosen village, as part of its program in Lao People’s Democratic Republic.<sup>82</sup>

Another initiative taken by the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) was the establishment of the Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Associations in Asia and the Pacific (ReCAMA) in October 2014, which is responsible for strengthening the capacity of national associations and to “foster regional cooperation, trade and investment” in sustainable machinery.<sup>83</sup> CSAM is focused on developing a regional framework that will improve the accessibility and quality of agricultural mechanization data, and promoting sustainable agriculture in the Asia and Pacific region.<sup>84</sup> The 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Council of the CSAM in December 2014 highlighted the Centre’s past efforts such as its work on the regional database on agricultural mechanization, it and

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<sup>73</sup> UN General Assembly, *The Road to Dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet (A/69/700)*, 2014.

<sup>74</sup> FAO, *New York event highlights the crucial role of rural women in the Post-2015 Agenda*, 2014.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> FAO, *Land Resources: Farmer Field School*, 2015; FAO, *Farmer Field Schools engage women and men in gender-based violence prevention*.

<sup>77</sup> FAO, *New York event highlights the crucial role of rural women in the Post-2015 Agenda*, 2014.

<sup>78</sup> The World Bank Group, *Raise Agricultural Productivity*, 2014.

<sup>79</sup> UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Policy Dialogue on “Pro-Poor Public Private Partnership (5P) for rural development: Widening access to energy services for the rural poor in Asia and the Pacific through community mobilization,”* 2014.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

<sup>81</sup> UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *UN seeks private sector perspectives for bringing electricity to off-grid communities*, 2014.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization. *Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Association in Asia and the Pacific (ReCAMA) was established, 28-30 October 2014, Wuhan, China*, 2014.

<sup>84</sup> UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization. *Regional Workshop on Establishing a Regional Database of Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific & the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Technical Committee of CSAM, 17-19 November 2014, Siem Reap, Cambodia*, 2014.

recommended the design of pilot projects to indicate good practices of adoption of sustainable agricultural mechanization among Member States.<sup>85</sup>

### *Climate Change*

Rural communities are, by nature, more susceptible to climate change, which affects harvests greatly and over time traps rural communities in a cycle of poverty.<sup>86</sup> This cycle can be offset by the use of renewable energy.<sup>87</sup> Thus, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) organized a session in Beirut, Lebanon to discuss the use of renewable technologies for development of Arab rural areas in November 2014, which resulted in the establishment of a Renewable Energy training center in rural Lebanon.<sup>88</sup> This is part of the ESCWA Development Account project “Capacity Building on Climate Change Mitigation for Poverty Alleviation in Western Asia” established earlier in 2014 and funded by the UN.<sup>89</sup> The project, started in 2010, promotes renewable energy services in rural areas through its Renewable Energy Education Park.<sup>90</sup> It aims to implement pilot projects such as wind turbine designs and solar energy technology in countries with special needs.<sup>91</sup>

### **Conclusion**

The issue of rural poverty is essential to the post-2015 development agenda as it has wide-reaching effects of significant impact, particularly decreased food availability against the future increase in global population. There are myriad aspects to rural poverty such as the role of gender, energy, and renewable technologies. It is important to approach these issues in a sustainable manner that is coherent with the overall goals of the post-2015 development agenda. Although the elimination of extreme poverty has long been on the international agenda, there are significant obstacles to overcome before rural poverty can be brought to an end. There is a pressing need to ensure that those who are most responsible in providing food to the world do not themselves starve in the process. International efforts have been active in addressing this issue with a number of pilot projects and sustainable approaches but there are still steps to be taken to establish a framework that can achieve greater success on a global scale.

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<sup>85</sup> UN, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, *The Tenth Session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), 16 December 2014, Bangkok, Thailand*, 2014.

<sup>86</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development, *Climate change: building the resilience of poor rural communities*, p. 2.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *ESCWA Session on "Appropriate RE Technologies for Developing Arab Rural Areas," 26/11/2014, within context of International Conference for RE in Developing Countries (REDC)*.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

<sup>90</sup> UN Development Account, *Development Account Projects: Capacity-building on climate change mitigation for poverty alleviation in Western Asia*, 2013.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

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*This article highlights the main outcomes of an event jointly organized by several international agencies such as FAO, WFP, and IFAD, in celebration of the International Day for Rural Women. It is focused on the role of rural women and the unique challenges they face in the case of rural poverty and food insecurity. It will also link delegates to a number of additional documents and resources on the topic.*

International Fund for Agricultural Development. (n.d.). *Rural Poverty Portal* [Website]. Retrieved 11 January 2015 from: <http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org/>

*The Rural Poverty Portal provides extremely relevant information on the topic by tackling the various dimensions of rural poverty and providing information on the topic in various areas. In addition, it provides up-to-date news on recent projects and programs aimed at alleviating poverty around the world. The “Learning and Adapting” section is especially useful as it provides past examples of successful stories in alleviating poverty around the world.*

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization. (2014). *Welcome to the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization* [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2015 from: <http://un-csam.org/index.asp>

*The CSAM is a regional organization established under the auspices of the UNESCAP. It focuses on reducing rural poverty and achieving production gains through sustainable agricultural mechanization and technical co-operation between Member States. It has several ongoing projects to promote this aim and has established partnerships with varied stakeholders for its projects in the Asia-Pacific region.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *The Road to Dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet (A/69/700)* [Report]. Synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: [www.undocs.org/A/69/700](http://www.undocs.org/A/69/700)

*The Secretary-General's report on the post-2015 development agenda is an important resource as it effectively sums up lessons learnt from the MDGs, provides key information and sets the global context for the post-2015 development agenda. It outlines the situation clearly, how it has progressed in previous years and recent international efforts as well as challenges facing future interventions. It provides significant context for the issue of rural poverty as it faces the world today and may be useful as a starting point. Having said that, delegates should make sure to not get carried away by the breadth of the issues discussed.*

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*This source takes a human-rights perspective to the issue of rural poverty and provides excellent insight into the rural world by outlining the advantages and positives of rural life while illustrating the issues behind their poverty and suggesting possible solutions. Following several panel discussions, a draft declaration was issued on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. This report will give delegates invaluable, multi-faceted information on the rural poor and their different needs.*

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### III. Investing in Agriculture for Food Security and Economic Growth

#### *Introduction*

Current events throughout the world threaten the economic growth and food security obtained in recent years. The potential for situations of food insecurity exist in countries affected by disease outbreaks, conflict, and prolonged adverse weather events; a juxtaposition to record production of bumper crops over recent years.<sup>92</sup> Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1 is the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.<sup>93</sup> There has been a successful reduction of the proportion of people affected by extreme poverty and it is likely that the goal of reducing by half, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger will be met.<sup>94</sup> While this achievement demonstrates many successes within the United Nations (UN) system, many people are still affected by extreme poverty and hunger. Additionally, there are increasing numbers of projects that are providing positive economic impacts while making it difficult for communities to ensure safe and adequate food supplies.<sup>95</sup> An example of this are mining projects that provide an economic boost to a region through direct investment and infrastructure development, but the increased demand for land can encroach on arable land resulting in the displacement and reduction of area for local food production.<sup>96</sup>

With the MDG deadline approaching and the ongoing transition to the post-2015 development agenda, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has continued its work on poverty and hunger reduction with efforts focusing on increasing agricultural production.<sup>97</sup> Increased investment through traditional and non-traditional means can provide the basis for solid economic growth and the reduction of hunger.<sup>98</sup> This topic was highlighted with 2014 being recognized as the “International Year of Family Farming” and the UN System holding various events to highlight the role of the family farm in economic development.<sup>99</sup> Though investment in small-scale farming is a traditional agricultural investment, the changing economic climate and projected demands for food encourage innovative investments in both food technology and infrastructure.<sup>100</sup>

#### *Recent Developments*

FAO provided the forum for extensive discussions on the topic through the fourth quarter of 2014. The Committee on World Food Security convened in Rome, Italy, with substantive discussion occurring, including the adoption of the *Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems*.<sup>101</sup> The *Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems* were drafted to establish a known set of guidelines for all stakeholders to follow when pursuing agricultural and food system projects that ensure fair and responsible investment.<sup>102</sup> Principle affirms that “[r]esponsible investment in agriculture and food systems contributes to positive impacts on food security and nutrition, particularly for the most vulnerable, at the household, local, national, regional, and/or global level”. This broad principle is encompassed in the subsequent goals, including respecting cultural heritage and diversity.<sup>103</sup> The *Principles* have broad support from both private sector stakeholders and governmental stakeholders, providing guidance for all levels of investment.<sup>104</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> FAO, *Crop Prospects and Food Situation: No. 4, December 2014*, 2014; UN News Centre, *UN agency reports record cereal crop as Ebola, conflict threaten food security*, 2014.

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<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>95</sup> Van Vark, *Mining for smartphone materials is eating up farmland*, 2014.

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<sup>102</sup> Committee on World Food Security, *Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems*, 2014.

<sup>103</sup> Ibid.

<sup>104</sup> FAO, *Principles for responsible agriculture and food investments are approved*, 2014.

Further discussion was also encouraged to address the growing issue of ensuring food security during crises.<sup>105</sup> Discussion was held on the Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises at the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome during October 2014.<sup>106</sup> This agenda will be revisited and potentially adopted at the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on World Food Security.<sup>107</sup> The Global Dialogue on Family Farming also occurred in Rome, Italy during October 2014 to promote discussion on the role of family farming, with numerous stakeholders present.<sup>108</sup> The Second International Conference on Nutrition was held in Rome, Italy, with extensive discussion occurring on the role of nutrition in the post-2015 development agenda.<sup>109</sup> This conference also produced the *Rome Declaration on Nutrition*, a comprehensive document that further affirms the need for the elimination of malnutrition in all forms and acknowledges the challenges of achieving this goal.<sup>110</sup>

### *Family Farming*

The International Year of Family Farming provided the backdrop for a year of events that highlighted the role of family farms in economic development and the reduction of poverty. While large-scale economic development projects can provide a platform for agricultural development and extended economic growth, small-scale family farms must be considered, particularly because 500 million of the 570 million total farms worldwide can be classified as family farms.<sup>111</sup> While many of these farms are small, their impact on the individual economy and global economy is significant by providing both subsistence and a means of financial support in areas that have historically lacked support.<sup>112</sup> Many of these farms are in upper and lower middle income countries, and while their impact is noticeable, it should be noted that further development and promotion in low income countries could have increase impact.<sup>113</sup> Through the Zero Hunger initiative started in 2003, Brazil has made great strides to ensure the food security of its populace.<sup>114</sup> Programs such as the Family Farm Food Procurement Program have been implemented to support both family farms through the procurement of food through family farms for vulnerable populations.<sup>115</sup>

### *Food Security During Crisis*

Conflict, natural disasters, and disease outbreaks are examples of events that can lead to a protracted crisis with significant effects on food security in the affected areas. Protracted crises include prolonged events or recurrent events that have an impact on food production and livestock cultivation resulting in food insecurity.<sup>116</sup> Food insecurity can manifest itself in an increase in the crude mortality rate, prevalence of malnutrition, and lack of food access.<sup>117</sup> Investment in both infrastructure and agriculture can provide resilience to a food system in the event of a crisis. Current challenges being faced in the current West African Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak highlight the importance of future investment in both areas.<sup>118</sup> Recent events like the West African Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak highlight the impact of protracted crises on food security of the affected areas.<sup>119</sup> This outbreak has shown that the majority of the impact comes from the shortage of labor and decreased levels of personal and household income, with areas that have higher prevalence of disease being the most affected.<sup>120</sup> While current levels of food production

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<sup>105</sup> Committee on World Food Security, *Chair's Summary: 41<sup>st</sup> Plenary Session of the CFS*, 2014

<sup>106</sup> Committee on World Food Security, *Report on the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on World Food Security*, 2014.

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> FAO, *The Global Dialogue on Family Farming*, 2014.

<sup>109</sup> FAO and WHO, *Second International Conference on Nutrition Conference Outcome Document: Framework for Action*, 2014; FAO and WHO, *Second International Conference on Nutrition Conference Outcome Document: Rome Declaration on Nutrition*, 2014.

<sup>110</sup> FAO and WHO, *Second International Conference on Nutrition Conference Outcome Document: Rome Declaration on Nutrition*, 2014.

<sup>111</sup> FAO, *What do we really know about the number and distribution of family farms in the world?*, 2014; Schneider, *Key Aspects of the Family Farming in the World*, 2014.

<sup>112</sup> FAO, *What do we really know about the number and distribution of family farms in the world?*, 2014.

<sup>113</sup> FAO, *Towards Stronger Family Farms*, 2014; FAO, *What do we really know about the number and distribution of family farms in the world?*, 2014

<sup>114</sup> FAO, IFAD, and WFP, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2014*, 2014.

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

<sup>116</sup> FAO, *Framework for Action for Addressing Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises: Co-Chair's Draft*, 2014.

<sup>117</sup> EC-FAO Food Security Programme, *An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security*, 2008.

<sup>118</sup> European Commission, *Impact of the West African Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak on Food Security*, 2014; FAO, IFAD, and WFP, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2014*, 2014.

<sup>119</sup> European Commission, *Impact of the West African Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak on Food Security*, 2014.

<sup>120</sup> Ibid.

remain relatively stable, the impact of this outbreak as a new growing season begins remains unknown, leading to concerns of further food insecurity even after the outbreak subsides.<sup>121</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

As the deadline for the MDGs rapidly approaches and the post-2015 development agenda is finalized, opportunities arise for further investment in agriculture that can have a lasting impact on those most affected by food insecurity and poverty. While there are many challenges such as disease, conflict, and increasing numbers of extreme weather events to providing the most basic level of food security, further commitment by Member States and international organizations will ensure that extreme poverty and malnutrition are adequately addressed. Sustainable development can be utilized to provide a level of economic growth that can be locally sustained, utilizing existing resources that encourage engagement on all levels.

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<sup>121</sup> European Commission, *Impact of the West African Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak on Food Security*, 2014.

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[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs1314/CFS41/CFS41\\_Final\\_Report\\_EN.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs1314/CFS41/CFS41_Final_Report_EN.pdf)

*This report provides a brief overview of the discussion that occurred at the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee on World Food Security. This document is organized in a way that provides a great deal of resources for further research on the topics being discussed. Delegates should utilize this resource to help determine the most pertinent food security issues affecting their Member States, and what actions are currently being discussed at an international level.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2014). *Panorama of Food and Nutritional Security in Latin America and the Caribbean 2014* [Report]. Retrieved 10 January 2015 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4230e.pdf>

*This report provides an overview of current progress made towards the achievement of MDG in Latin America and the Caribbean. This report provides examples of novel approaches taken towards addressing malnutrition and the provision of food security. Delegates should utilize this document as a comprehensive overview of the current situation in Latin American Member States, with particular attention being paid to approaches that can be utilized in similar situations.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and World Health Organization. (2014). *Second International Conference on Nutrition Conference Outcome Document: Rome Declaration on Nutrition* [Decision]. Retrieved 11 January 2015 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf>

*The Rome Declaration on Nutrition is an outcome document that provides a concise outline of current goals that were discussed and decided upon at a joint FAO WHO conference on global nutrition. Delegates should utilize this document as an example of a consensus document that highlights current priorities by Member States and International Organization. Particular attention should be paid to the language used to promote awareness of not only under nutrition, but also the growing burden of obesity.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2014). *Towards Stronger Family Farms* [Report]. Retrieved 12 January 2015 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4171e.pdf>

*This report highlights the realities of family farms worldwide. This document outlines current regional trends being observed, as well as suggestions to most appropriately promote and encourage the growth of family farms. Delegates should pay particular attention to the trends outlined and utilize them as a start for further research that addresses the overall topic.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2014). *What do we really know about the number and distribution of family farms in the world?* [Background Note]. Retrieved 11 January 2015 from:

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/019/i3729e/i3729e.pdf>

*This document was presented as a background paper for “The State of Food and Agriculture 2014” and provides a comprehensive overview of family farms, primarily in classification and geographic distribution. Delegates should utilize this document in order to further develop knowledge on family farms in the context of agricultural growth and food security, in addition to becoming familiar with possible areas of growth that warrant further research.*

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