NMUN•DC

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Background Guide 2019

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2019 National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, DC (NMUN•DC)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This year's staff is: Director Zachery Stuebs and Assistant Director Allison Tu. Zack is a software developer currently residing in Madison, WI. Allison is graduating with a B.A. in Political Science from California State University, San Bernardino and will be pursuing a M.A. in Public Administration.

The topics under discussion for FAO are:

 I. The Impact of Climate Change on Global Food Security
 II. Capacity Building for Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries

FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations consisting of a permanent staff and a biennial conference of Member States. It has tasked itself with the elimination of hunger and malnutrition worldwide. The FAO seeks to improve rural livelihoods and increase the resilience of agriculture to disasters and climate change. The linkages between agriculture and the environment have been an increasing focus within the organization, especially in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to conduct additional research, explore your Member State's policies in-depth, and examine the policies of other Member States to improve your ability to negotiate and reach consensus. In preparation for the conference, each delegation will use their research to draft and submit a position paper. Guidelines are available in the NMUN Position Paper Guide.

The NMUN website has many additional resources, including two that are essential both in preparation for the conference and as a resource during the conference. They are:
1. The NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide, which explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not discuss the topics or agenda with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. The NMUN Rules of Procedure, which includes the long and short form of the rules as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory NMUN Conduct Expectations on the NMUN website. They include the conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the conference itself, please contact the Under-Secretary-General Daniel Sweeney at usgdaniel.dc@nmun.org or Secretary-General Chase Mitchell at secgen.dc@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,
Zachery Stuebs, Director
Allison Tu, Assistant Director

Committee Overview

"Achieving zero hunger is a fundamental condition to sustainable development."[1]

Introduction

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), founded in 1945, is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency that coordinates efforts on the eradication of hunger and food insecurity.[2] The FAO's headquarters are in Rome, Italy and the organization works in over 130 countries.[3] The FAO

> The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** is a specialized agency, which coordinates with the United Nations through the Economic and Social Council.

facilitates partnerships between the UN, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations, Member States, the private sector, and other stakeholders.[4] Through its variety of functions, the FAO works to reduce hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity; increase the sustainability and productiveness of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; reduce rural poverty; enable inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems; and improve the resilience of livelihoods to disasters.[5]

The FAO was preceded by the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA), which was founded in 1905 in Rome to study the state of agriculture and disseminate the information.[6] The IIA dissolved during the Second World War and, in 1943, the Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture (ICFA) was established at the Hot Springs Conference in Virginia, United States with the goal of creating a new permanent agricultural organization.[7] After the Second World War, the ICFA drafted the constitution of the FAO, which was signed at the First Session of the Conference of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations in Quebec, Canada and entered into force on 16 October 1945 to establish the FAO.[8] In 1947, the UN and the FAO entered into an agreement for the FAO to become a specialized agency of the UN, providing information to and coordinating with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).[9]

The FAO, within the broader UN system, oversaw the establishment of important agricultural agreements and organizations, including the creation of the World Food Programme (WFP) in 1961.[10] In 1974, amid global food crises, the first World Food Conference convened in Rome, Italy.[11] Member States adopted the *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition* (1974), proclaiming that, "every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop fully and maintain their physical and mental faculties."[12] In commemoration of the FAO's founding, the FAO Conference established World Food Day, which is observed on 16 October.[13] At the World Food Summit in 1996, the *Rome Declaration on World Food Security* and the *World Food Summit Plan of Action* were adopted.[14] Both recognize seven broad commitments including the eradication of poverty, implementation of policies to improve physical and economic access of nutritionally adequate and safe food, and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and rural development practices.[15]

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[1] FAO, *A Statement by FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva*, 2018.
[2] FAO, *About FAO*, 2018.
[3] Ibid.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Ibid.
[6] Phillips, FAO - its Origins, Formation and Evolution 1945-1981, 1981.
[7] Ibid., pp. 12-13.
[8] Ibid., p. 13.
[9] *Protocol Concerning the Entry into Force of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*, 1947.
[10] Ibid.
[11] FAO, *Appendix: Declaration of The World Food Summit: Five Years Later*, 2002.
[12] FAO, *World Food Summit*.
[13] FAO, *V. Major trends and policies in food and agriculture*, 1979.
[14] Ibid.
[15] Ibid.

Governance, Structure, and Membership

As a specialized agency, FAO's membership is independent from that of the UN, though nearly all UN Member States are Member Nations of the FAO.[16] FAO currently has 194 Member Nations, two associate members (Faroe Islands and Tokelau), and one member organization (European Union).[17] The primary body of the FAO, established by Article III of the *Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations* (1945), is the Conference of Member Nations, which meets every two years in regular session and can vote to hold special sessions.[18] Each member, including Associate Members, is represented in the conference and has one vote; non-member organizations may attend by invitation but do not have the right to vote.[19] The Conference's purpose is to determine the policy and approve the budget of the FAO.[20] The Conference may make recommendations on food and agriculture to Member States and Associate Members, by a two-thirds majority, with the objective of implementation by national action.[21] In addition, the Conference may make recommendations to any international organization regarding issues pertaining to the FAO and may review any decision made by the FAO Council.[22] The Director-General leads the FAO and is appointed by the Conference for an initial four-year term that can be renewed once, for a total tenure of eight years.[23] The Conference has established Regional Conferences for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Near East and North Africa.[24] They serve as forums for Member States from the same geographic region to meet and promote regional consensus on food and agriculture priorities and challenges.[25]

The Council of FAO is the executive body of the organization and typically convenes two to three times per year, more frequently than the biennial FAO Conferences.[26] The Council acts on current food and agricultural activities and situations, and activities of the organization as a whole, including the development of the Programme of Work.[27] The Conference elects a body of 49 Member States to serve three-year terms on the Governing Council; the Council's powers are also delegated by the Conference.[28] Three Council Committees and four Technical Committees report to the FAO Council and support the administrative and programmatic work of the organization, respectively.[29]

The programmatic and technical work of the organization is conducted by its six main departments: Agriculture and Consumer Protection; Economic and Social Development; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Forestry; Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance; and Technical Cooperation.[30] FAO also has specialized divisions, such as the Agricultural Development Economics Division, which support their own departments and prepare evidence-based policy analysis on agriculture development and related topics.[31]

The majority of FAO funding is provided by obligatory, assessed contributions from Member States.[32] The amounts Member States are assessed are determined at the FAO Conference.[33] Member States,

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[16] FAO, *Legal Office: FAO Members*, 2018.
[17] Ibid.
[18] FAO, *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Volumes I and II*, 2017.
[19] Ibid.
[20] Ibid.
[21] Ibid.
[22] Ibid.
[23] Ibid.
[24] FAO, *FAO Regional Conferences*, 2018.
[25] Ibid.
[26] FAO, *FAO Council*, 2018.
[27] Ibid.
[28] Ibid.
[29] FAO, *Governing Bodies*, 2018.
[30] FAO, *Departments*, 2018.
[31] Ibid.*;* FAO, *Agricultural Development Economics Division (ESA)*, 2018.
[32] FAO, *Technical Cooperation Department*, 2018.
[33] FAO, *Strategic Planning*, 2018.

international financial institutions, and the private sector, also contribute voluntary funding directed towards specific programs and the FAO's programmatic work.[34]

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

FAO's Constitution outlines the organization's primary directives, responsibilities, and mandate and states that the FAO was created with the purpose of "raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of the peoples; improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products; bettering the condition of rural populations; and contributing towards an expanding world economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger."[35] The FAO's core functions are to collect and analyze information related to nutrition, food, and agriculture and to make this collection and analysis of data available to its members and other organizations.[36] In addition, the FAO provides technical assistance to Member States, organizes programs and missions, cooperates with governments, and takes necessary and appropriate actions to implement the mandate of the organization as set forth in the preamble.[37] The FAO also serves as a forum to foster conversation and consensus amongst policy makers and experts, to create partnerships between industry, farms and nonprofits, and to facilitate public and private investments toward achieving the FAO's mandate.[38]

Since the creation of the WFP, the FAO Director-General and UN Secretary-General have jointly appointed the WFP Executive Director.[39] Of the WFP Executive Board's 36 members, the FAO and ECOSOC each appoint 18 members.[40] The FAO and WFP co-lead the Food Security Cluster, a group of organizations designated by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, to ensure adequate nutrition and food provision in humanitarian emergencies by coordinating partner agencies including the International Federations of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and other international NGOs.[41] While the WFP provides food in emergency situations, the FAO provides seeds, livestock and agricultural tools, designs training and rehabilitation programs, and helps mobilize donors through the Consolidated Appeals Process.[42] Due to the relationship between disasters, food insecurity, and decreased levels of nutrition, the FAO has implemented programs in multiple regions to reduce the risk of food insecurity through a multi-sector approach with four broad thematic pillars: "Enabling the Environment; Watch to Safeguard; Apply Risk and Vulnerability Reduction Measures; and Prepare and Respond."[43]

The FAO actively supports implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[44] The FAO is a custodian agency, designated by the UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators responsible for collecting, analyzing, verifying, and distributing data from Member States on 21 indicators across SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14, and 15.[45] The FAO contributes to SDG reports for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development's review of progress and establishes partnerships with other international agencies to monitor and report on the indicators.[46] The FAO also addresses climate change, including by working to enhance the capacity of states and by advocating for the integration of agricultural issues into the international climate agenda.[47] Since 90% of FAO partner countries' long-term climate goals relate to agriculture, the FAO has prioritized support for countries to their "nationally determined contributions," which are their national plans for implementing the *Paris Agreement*.[48] In 2016, the FAO became an

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[34] FAO, *Resource Partners,* 2019.
[35] Ibid.
[36] Ibid, p. 3.
[37] FAO, *FAO Attributes, Core Functions, and Comparative Advantages*, 2012.
[38] FAO, *How We Work*, 2019.
[39] WFP, *Governance and Leadership*, 2018.
[40] WFP, *Members of the Board*, 2019.
[41] Food Security Cluster, *About FSC*; FAO, *FAO in Emergencies: Prepare and Respond,* 2018.
[42] Ibid.
[43] FAO, *Resilient Livelihoods: Disaster Risk Reduction for Food and Nutrition Security*, 2013, p. 21.
[44] FAO, *FAO and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2019.
[45] FAO, *FAO and the SDGs*, 2015.
[46] Ibid.
[47] FAO, *FAO's Work on Climate Change*, 2017, p. 6.
[48] FAO, *Nationally Determined Contributions*, 2019.

accredited grant implementing entity with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), allowing the organization to submit proposals for funding that it has developed with Member States.[49]

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

The 40th FAO Conference was held from 3-8 July 2017, where Member States discussed and reviewed the programmatic work of the FAO on the SDGs.[50] The 2017 FAO Conference adopted *the Medium Term Plan 2018-21* which establishes five strategic objectives through 2021: eradication of malnutrition and hunger; increasing the productivity and sustainability of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; reducing rural poverty; improving the inclusiveness and efficiency agriculture and food systems and; increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.[51] FAO adopts a theme to focus their work for each biennium; for 2018-2019 it selected "Climate Change and its Impact on the Work and Activities of FAO" with the goal of improving Member States' food and agriculture systems' resiliency to the effects of global climate change.[52] The 2019 *Programme Evaluation Report*, prepared in advance of the 41st Conference, found that the FAO made the most positive impacts through policy and field level interventions but could increase its efforts in convening key actors, strategic advising and facilitating knowledge on achieving strategic objectives.[53]

The 161st session of the FAO Council was held in April 2019, during which it received reports from the technical committees and held discussions on the 2019-2022 program of work.[54] During the session, the FAO Council reviewed the *Director-General's Medium Term Plan 2018-2021* (MTP) and the *Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021* (PWB), which was proposed by the Director-General and builds upon the organization's work on the 2030 Agenda and, more broadly, food security and sustainability.[55] The PWB also addresses the importance of incorporating cross-cutting themes such as gender, governance, climate change, and nutrition in FAO's work.[56] Prior to the 2019 meeting, the FAO Council most recently addressed gender and geographic equality through its 2018 *Action Plan for the Achievement of Equitable Geographic Distribution and Gender Parity*, which established new policies on sexual harassment and diverse hiring for the FAO.[57] The Council exercised its oversight role for the WFP by accepting nominations for Member States to fill seats on the WFP Executive Board during the 160st Council Session and received amendments to the WFP's general rules for the 161st Council Session.[58]

The 2017 UN Climate Conference (COP23) adopted the *Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture* (KJWA), which acknowledged the importance of agriculture adaptation for climate change mitigation.[59] In response, the FAO submitted a report to the UNFCCC detailing its resources for supporting the decision.[60] During the subsequent 2018 COP24 in Katowice, the FAO provided resources to help implement agricultural climate change adaptations through an open-access data source, Collect Earth Online, and a publication, *Climate-Smart Agricultures 2018: Case Studies*.[61] After the publication of the *2017 FAO Strategy on Climate Change*, the FAO implemented GCF supported projects in 2018 to

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[49] FAO, *Green Climate Fund*, 2019.
[50] FAO, *FAO Conference Ends with Endorsement of UN agency's Programme of Work and Budget*, 2017.
[51] FAO, *The Director-General's Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19*, 2017, p. 5.
[52] FAO, *2018-19 Biennial Theme - Climate Change and its Impact on the Work and Activities of FAO*, 2017; FAO, *Assessment of FAO Governance Reform*, 2015, p. 7.
[53] FAO, *Programme Evaluation Report 2019*, 2019, pp. 4-5.
[54] FAO, *FAO Council 161st Session*, 2019.
[55] Ibid.
[56] Ibid, p. 94.
[57] FAO, *Action Plan for the Achievement of Equitable Geographic Distribution and Gender Parity of FAO Staff*, 2018.
[58] FAO, *Membership of the WFP Executive Board*, 2018; FAO, *Amendments to the World Food Programme (WFP) General Rules*, 2019.
[59] FAO, *FAO & the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture*, 2019.
[60] Ibid.
[61] FAO, *FAO Urges to Scale up Response to Climate Change in Agricultural Sectors,* 2018.

enhance farming resilience to climate change in El Salvador and Paraguay.[62] After launching the *Global Action Programme for Small Island Developing States* (SIDS) in 2017, the 34th session (2018) of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) in Fiji focused on SIDS, blue economy, climate change and hunger reduction.[63] These climate resilience efforts also intersect with the SDGs and FAO's work on forest cover and land use.[64] In 2018, the 30th session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) in Sudan focused on sustainable food culture, and preserving biodiversity in forests and fisheries.[65] To further these aims in 2019, the FAO partnered with Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Swedish International Development Corporation Agency (SIDA) to protect West Africa's forests through legislative advocacy.[66] The 31st session (2018) of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) in Russia, focused on sustainable food systems and the use of technology to promote e-agriculture.[67] Subsequently, in 2019, the FAO and European Commission cohosted the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin, where 74 agriculture ministers released a communique to affirm their support for digitalization in agriculture.[68]

The FAO has promoted policies aimed at the eradication of hunger and economic development by focusing on thematic issues such as antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and migration.[69] To combat antimicrobial resistance, the FAO is collecting data, developing policies, and advocating against AMR through ongoing projects in multiple regions such as the One Health approach, whereby plant, animal, food, environmental, and public health professionals coordinate to identify and address high AMR risks.[70] The FAO plays a vital role in addressing migration's root causes through targeted agricultural and rural development.[71] In 2018, the FAO co-chaired the Global Migration Group with the International Organization for Migration and helped lead efforts to adopt the *Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration* to raise awareness of how sustainable agricultural development relate to the mass movement of people across borders.[72]

Conclusion

The FAO is committed to addressing contemporary global and cross cutting challenges like climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals due to their intersections with its historic mission of combatting malnutrition and poverty.[73] To supplement its role as an agricultural knowledge base, the FAO is now incorporating new information technologies and promoting e-agriculture to promote sustainable agriculture.[74] Through collaboration with other international bodies, the FAO continues to mobilize parliamentarians, experts, and civil society to promote climate-resilient food production.[75]

Annotated Bibliography

[62] FAO, *FAO Strategy on Climate Change*, 2017; FAO, *Green Climate Fund Approves $127 Million Project for El Salvador Dry Corridor*, 2018; FAO, *Green Climate Fund Approves First FAO Funding Proposal, a $90 Million Project to Combat Climate Change, Hunger and Poverty in Paraguay*, 2018.

[63] FAO, *Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States: Supporting the Implementation of the Samoa Pathway*, 2017; FAO, *FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC)*, 2018.

[64] FAO, *Land, Water and the SDGs*, 2019.

[65] FAO, *FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC)*, 2018.

[66] FAO, *Sida, FAO, ECOWAS Join Forces to Protect West Africa's Forests*, 2019.

[67] FAO, *FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)*, 2018.

[68] FAO, *GRRA 2019 Communique Stresses Support to Farmers through Digital Innovation,* 2019.

[69] FAO, *Themes*, 2018.

[70] FAO, *Antimicrobial Resistance: Projects*, 2019; FAO, *Anti-Microbial Resistance is a Threat to Lives and Livelihoods Worldwide*, 2018.

[71] FAO, *FAO and IOM Boost Cooperation on Migration*, 2018.

[72] Ibid.

[73] Ibid, p. 20.

[74] FAO, *Innovation at FAO.*

[75] FAO, *Partnerships*, 2019.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2017). *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Volumes I and II*. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: http://www.fao.org/3/a-mp046e.pdf

> *The Basic Texts of the FAO include the mandate, the constitution, and an overview of the governing bodies. Delegates should use these documents as a base for further research and ensure recommended actions fit within the mandate of the organization. In order to propose policy that is within the scope and mandate of the FAO, delegates need to have a keen understanding of the FAO's powers, authority, and ability to implement policy and programmatic activities.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2018). *FAO's Work on Climate Change* [Report]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6919e.pdf

> *This report discusses the ways in which the FAO will work towards addressing climate change and the methods to develop actions and generate knowledge towards achieving Nationally Determined Contributions and sustainable agriculture. It provides valuable insight into how the FAO collects data, designs programs and forms partnerships to create climate resilient food systems. It is important for delegates to understand the FAO''s work on climate change, designated a top organizational priority, and current approaches towards addressing this global and cross cutting theme.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2018). *FAO Attributes, Core Functions, and Comparative Advantages* [Report]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/025/md881e01.pdf

> *This document clearly outlines the core functions of the FAO and how they, as outlined in the FAO's constitution, contribute to the success of the organization. In addition, it outlines the unique abilities and roles of the FAO in comparison to other international organizations in pursuing its mandate, such as knowledge bases and partnerships. It is imperative that delegates have a strong foundational knowledge of the mandate, functions and unique organizational capacities of the FAO in order to propose policy that is actionable.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2019). *Programme Evaluation Report 2019* [Report]. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: http://www.fao.org/3/mz027en/mz027en.pdf

> *The Programme Evaluation Report covers the work of the FAO during the years 2017 and 2018 and highlights successes and remaining challenges to the FAO's work in achieving its previous goals. The report highlights lessons learned from strategies to implement new land use norms, programs to address farming techniques and partnerships with other organizations. It is important for delegates to understand the areas in which the FAO excels in achieving its goals and strategic objectives in order to incorporate these strengths into new policies. Therefore, it is also important to understand where the FAO acknowledges that it could improve in order to propose new ways in which the committee may approach solutions to the issues that the FAO is working to resolve.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2019). *The Director-General's Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21*. Retrieved 14 June 2019 from: http://www.fao.org/3/my734en/my734en.pdf

> *The MTP outlines the current priorities and immediate work of the FAO. The MTP identifies ten challenges to achieving the FAO's goal and priorities and determined five strategic objectives: hunger reduction, sustainable agriculture, rural poverty reduction, inclusive and efficient food systems, and resilience of livelihoods to crises. It is crucial for delegates to understand the ten challenges to achieving not only the strategic objectives of FAO but furthermore how the challenges may impede any work of the organization. In addition, knowledge of the strategic objectives of FAO is important in order for delegates to propose actionable policy that is aligned with the committee's current priorities.*

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I. The Impact of Climate Change on Global Food Security

Introduction

The threat to global food security posed by climate change is no longer imminent—it has already been a contributing factor in the global increase of people affected by hunger and malnutrition since 2015.[76] One in nine people did not have sufficient access to food in 2017 while 22% of children globally and 40% of children in least developed countries (LDCs) experience stunted growth due to malnutrition.[77] Agriculture is the sector most vulnerable to extreme weather due to the sensitivity of food crops, livestock, and fish to temperature fluctuations and drought.[78] Climate variability and the increased frequency and severity of natural disasters resulting from climate change will continue to threaten food security by decreasing crop growth, increasing livestock mortality, and reducing fishery and forestry yields.[79]

Not all countries and populations are affected equally by climate change.[80] LDCs and small island developing states (SIDS), which already face greater difficulties in meeting established development goals, stand to be harmed the most by rising sea levels and more severe weather events.[81] Vulnerable groups that already face economic or societal disadvantages, such as rural populations, persons with disabilities, women, and children, are the most susceptible to food insecurity resulting from climate change.[82] To confront these challenges, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) seeks to engage actors at the national, regional, and international levels in order to improve the adaptive capacity of agricultural sectors while ensuring each person has sufficient access to safe and nutritious food and safeguarding the environment from degradation and climate change.[83]

International and Regional Framework

The 1996 World Food Summit was the first international conference hosted by FAO to recognize the interrelatedness of climate change and food security.[84] Objective 3.2 of this conference's outcome document, the *World Food Summit Plan of Action* (1996), called on governments to investigate this link, particularly as it relates to land and water use.[85] Agricultural adaptation appeared again in 2015, when the General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a wide-ranging set of interconnected objectives that include both food security and climate change.[86] Target 2.4 calls for the utilization of techniques that increase agricultural productivity while adapting to climate change, and Target 13.1 calls for promoting resilience to natural disasters and climate-related hazards.[87] Another post-2015 framework, the *Paris Agreement* (2015), mentions the need to protect food production from the effects of climate change.[88] The parties to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) (1992) then decided to draft the 2017 *Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture* (KJWA), an agreement to collaborate on adaptation to climate change within the agricultural sector.[89] The KJWA

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[76] FAO et al., *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018: Building climate resilience for food security and nutrition*, 2018, p. 38.

[77] Ibid, p. xii; UN DPI, *Global Community Falling Short on Eradicating Hunger by 2030, Speakers Warn, as Second Committee Debates Agriculture Development, Food Security (GA/EF/3481)*, 2017.

[78] FAO, *FAO's Work on Climate Change*, 2018, pp. 5, 11.

[79] FAO, *FAO Strategy on Climate Change*, 2017, p. 11; FAO, *Climate change and food security: risks and responses*, 2016, pp. 14, 16.

[80] Ibid, p. 11.

[81] Ibid, p. 11.

[82] Ibid, p. 91; Yu, It's time to recognize climate change as a disability rights issue, *World Economic Forum*, 2018.

[83] Ibid, pp. 11-12.

[84] World Food Summit, *Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action*, 1996.

[85] Ibid.

[86] UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, pp. 6, 14.

[87] Ibid, pp. 15, 23.

[88] UNFCCC, *Paris Agreement*, 2015, p. 3.

[89] FAO, *Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture FAQs*, 2019.

tasked FAO to give input on and assist with initiatives related to agriculture within the high-level talks that take place under the UNFCCC.[90]

The Future We Want, the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), stressed the importance of regional-level frameworks to ensure sustainable development, such as the *African Strategy on Climate Change*, which was adopted in 2014.[91] The strategy outlines nine actions to take on agriculture and climate change, including promoting resilience through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), improving water management, and providing training to farmers.[92] In Asia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) developed the *ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework for Climate Change* (2018), which starts by outlining the particular vulnerabilities of that region to climate change.[93] The strategic priorities identified included investing in research to promote adaptation, partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector, examining the role of early warning in disaster prevention, and furthering regional cooperation on the implementation of UNFCCC guidelines.[94]

Role of the International System

FAO works with the other two Rome-based agencies (RBAs), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), in order to achieve their shared goal of eliminating hunger and malnutrition.[95] This cooperation is guided by the *Directions for Collaboration among the Rome-Based Agencies* (2016), which outlines the common goals of the RBAs and details in general how they should work together.[96] The three bodies assist Member States in achieving the SDGs related to food security by developing joint programs and strategies in line with national priorities.[97] At the international level, the RBAs support the United Nations system by providing advice and data to inform decision-making.[98] They also advise the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which provides policy guidance to the international community, such as the *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*.[99] Additionally, the RBAs have formed a number of thematic teams to focus on particular issues and monitor the progress of more than 100 bilateral or trilateral projects.[100] One such team is the Joint Working Group on Climate Change, which implements the IFAD-WFP Weather Risk Management Facility and supports the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture.[101]

The RBAs cooperate with other global and regional organizations.[102] At the global level, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework was established by the General Assembly in resolution 72/279 (2018) to provide a set of guidelines for the coordination of development assistance.[103] The Framework's predecessor, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), facilitated collaboration between the RBAs and a wide range of actors on promoting food security, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the

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[90] FAO, *FAO & the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture*, 2019.
[91] UN General Assembly, *The future we want (66/288)*, 2012, p. 22; African Union, *African Strategy on Climate Change*, 2014.
[92] Ibid, pp. 39-40.
[93] ASEAN, *ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework for Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food and Nutrition Security and Achievement of SDGs*, 2018, p. 2.
[94] Ibid, pp. 4-6.
[95] WFP, *Rome-Based Agencies*, 2019.
[96] Ibid; WFP, *RBA Collaboration Guidance Material*, 2015, p. 1.
[97] Ibid; FAO, *Progress Report on Rome-based Agencies collaboration*, 2018, p. 13.
[98] Ibid.
[99] CFS, *Committee on World Food Security*; Ibid, p. 9.
[100] Ibid, p. 1.
[101] Ibid; Ibid, p. 2.
[102] Ibid, p. 2.
[103] UN ECOSOC, *Development Coordination Office: Report of the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (E/2019/62)*, 2019, p. 3.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).[104] At the regional level, in order to keep RBAs in close contact with its Member States and better tailor locally-effective solutions, regional offices in Europe, Western Asia, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Latin America function as focal points for planning and implementing initiatives.[105] For example, the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa has coordinated workshops to train project managers in climate-smart agriculture concepts in order to promote climate-resilient agriculture in locally-driven initiatives.[106] Further, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific created a Regional Initiative on Climate Change to strengthen Member States' capacities for adaptation and strengthen policy coherence in the areas of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and climate change.[107]

Supporting National Governments

One multi-faceted challenge in adapting agricultural sectors to the impacts of climate change is translating multilateral frameworks and national priorities into effective policies, institutions, and action.[108] According to the United Nations Environment Programme's 2008 report on *Agriculture, Agro-Biodiversity, and Climate Change*, a lack of clearly-defined objectives and roles at the national level can lead to policy redundancy and gaps, ultimately wasting resources and creating poor adaptation outcomes.[109] As a starting point, FAO recommends that governments consider the implementation of the *Paris Agreement*, the SDGs, and other international instruments in order to broadly guide national policy on adaptation for the agriculture sector.[110] Furthermore, there is a significant financial barrier, especially in LDCs, to implementing international agreements and national adaptation plans.[111] FAO assists governments in developing innovative investment strategies, drawing from both domestic and international sources to secure adequate funding for the agricultural transformation needed to adjust to increased climate variability.[112] Another approach is pursuing more cost-effective solutions; for example, preventive approaches, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and early warning can greatly reduce the impact of climate-related disasters such as drought.[113] In trials that spanned ten countries, FAO found that investments in DRR, such as planting a type of coastal vegetation called mangroves to protect against flooding, reduced damages by 3.7 times the initial investment cost when hazards struck.[114]

Access to agriculture and climate data is an important enabler of effective policy and implementation decisions.[115] Actors such as the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and Global Open Data for Agriculture & Nutrition (GODAN) work to increase the availability of data relevant to agriculture, including climate patterns and water availability.[116] FAO also recognizes the importance of assisting governments in collecting and analyzing data and developing systems to disseminate it to farmers and other relevant groups.[117] Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are a powerful way to relay data in ways that can help the recipients make better decisions based on climatic conditions.[118] There are a number of efforts in this area by organizations like the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the

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[104] FAO et al., *Collection and analysis of bilateral or tripartite work collaboration in Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2018, p. 11.
[105] FAO, *Worldwide Offices*, 2019.
[106] FAO, *FAO trains Islamic Development Bank project managers on climate-smart agriculture*, 2019.
[107] FAO, *Climate Change Regional Initiative*, 2019.
[108] UNEP, *Agriculture, Agro-Biodiversity, and Climate Change*, 2008.
[109] Ibid, p. 96
[110] Ibid, p. xiv.
[111] Ibid.
[112] Ibid, p. 20.
[113] Ibid, p. 20; FAO, *Disaster Risk Reduction in Agriculture*, 2019.
[114] UN DPI, *'Disaster resilient' farming reduces agriculture risks, yields economic gains, says new UN agriculture agency report*, 2019.
[115] Global Open Data for Agriculture & Nutrition, *Open data & Climate change*.
[116] Ibid.
[117] Ibid, p. 21.
[118] FAO, *Information and Communication Technology in Agriculture: A Report to the G20 Agricultural Deputies*, 2017, pp. ix-x.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) that can be supported by the international community.[119] For instance, IFPRI worked with Finland's Food Africa Programme to carry out research on the viability of services that deliver weather information to farmers via ICTs in Africa.[120] Additionally, FAO has noted that financing for developing countries and South-South cooperation (SSC) would help in leveraging ICTs for agricultural uses.[121]

Many rural populations and women rely heavily on agriculture for the bulk of their income and are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.[122] Additionally, the World Bank noted that engaging female farmers and ensuring their access to adequate resources is essential to achieving SDG 2.[123] Women face systemic barriers such as discriminatory land ownership laws and unequal access to financial resources.[124] The World Bank advocates for approaches that include addressing the specific challenges of vulnerable populations by including them in decision-making and program design.[125] Financial mechanisms like the Special Climate Change Fund and the Green Climate Fund help Member States take the necessary steps to empower women and promote climate-conscious innovation in agriculture.[126]

Local Approaches to Agricultural Adaptation

In addition to policies and institutions at the national level, local action can be taken to reduce the vulnerability of agriculture to climate change.[127] FAO has taken a number of approaches, such as providing drought-resistant seeds and agroforestry techniques to farmers in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.[128] Another example is the Mali-based project to provide practical education on climate change and food security for smallholder farmers.[129] These efforts can be complemented by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the coalition of 28 NGOs that partnered to catalog more than 3,200 wild and domesticated crop species and develop high-yield, climate-resistant seeds.[130] CSOs can also help bridge the gaps between academia, governments, and populations, as well as advocate for vulnerable populations and promote accountability in the achievement of national adaptation plans.[131]

The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) is an initiative designed to promote agricultural adaptation at the community level by bringing resources directly to smallholder farmers in developing countries.[132] Community members and researchers start by working together to determine situationally-appropriate techniques, technologies, and development plans.[133] For example, in the Nyando region of Kenya, agro-forestry was used in order to increase crop yields and diversify the kinds of products grown by the local population.[134] CCAFS then works with local governments, CSOs, and the private sector in order to build capacity to enact and sustain these transformations.[135] Finally, the CCAFS Climate Analogues tool is used to determine what communities share conditions that would be conducive to sharing information gained from the trials.[136] If a present-day

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[119] Ibid, p. xii.
[120] Ibid, p. 5.
[121] Ibid, p. xii.
[122] Ahmad, *Gender, Agriculture, and Climate Change*, 2014, p. 2.
[123] Ibid, p. 2.
[124] Ibid, p. 2.
[125] Ibid, p. 4.
[126] Ibid, p. 3.
[127] Ibid, p. 2.
[128] Ibid, pp. 30-31.
[129] Ibid, p. 46.
[130] Ibid, p. 78.
[131] Canales, Civil Society and the Integration of Climate Change Risks into Planning and Policy-making, *World Resources Report*.
[132] CGIAR, *Climate-Smart Villages*.
[133] Ibid.
[134] Ibid.
[135] Ibid.
[136] Ibid.

community is predicted to have future climatic conditions similar to the present-day conditions in another community, that information can be incorporated into longer-term plans for agricultural adaptation.[137]

Conclusion

The impacts of climate change have already played a part in increasing the number of food-insecure people globally, impeding progress on SDG 2, End Hunger.[138] The goals of increasing food yields while also climate-proofing agriculture are both achievable with effective interventions at the regional, national, and local levels.[139] In particular, ensuring adequate resources to implement policies in a data-driven manner will empower developing countries to achieve their development priorities.[140] At the local level, disseminating knowledge and planning for the short- and long-term can increase smallholder farmers' preparedness for climate variability.[141]

Further Research

While creating plans to promote climate adaptation in the agricultural sector, delegates could consider the following questions: What agricultural commodities are most important to different Member States and how is the production of those resources affected by climate change? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the policies in place at the global, regional, and national levels? What areas for cooperation between FAO and other United Nations bodies exist but are not yet effectively utilized? How can civil society and the private sector be leveraged to promote food security in the face of climate change?

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> *This primary source document provides a comprehensive overview of climate-related challenges in Africa and potential strategies. Printed by the UN, this AU strategy identifies clear goals for the continent including in agriculture and food security. Delegates can use this source to understand key regional priorities and approaches towards food security and other climate related challenges.*

CGIAR. (n.d.). *Climate-Smart Villages* [Website]. Retrieved 29 April 2019 from: https://ccafs.cgiar.org/climate-smart-villages
> *This website was created to outline the climate-smart villages concept, which provides a framework for local action. It explains how climate-smart villages are created, what kinds of projects they undertake, and how information is shared to benefit others. This source is useful for seeing an example of how governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector can interact in order to improve agricultural resilience to climate change.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2016). *Climate change and food security: risks and responses* [Report]. Retrieved 1 March 2019 from: http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5188e.pdf
> *This FAO report was created to draw attention to the ways that climate change impacts food security and agriculture. It provides a comprehensive quantitative analysis of the issue while also providing policy recommendations. Delegates could use this document as a means to compare their national priorities against the full scope of the topic.*

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[137] Ibid.
[138] Ibid, p. 38; Ibid, p. 15.
[139] Ibid, pp. 11-12.
[140] Ibid.
[141] Ibid, p. 46.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2018). *FAO's Work on Climate Change* [Report]. Retrieved 1 March 2019 from: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/FAO%E2%80%99s%20Work%20on%20Climate%20Change.pdf

> *This report highlights current activities by FAO in the area of agriculture and climate change. It starts by examining the state of the topic since 2015, including the specific areas of forests, livestock, soils, and food waste. This is followed by a discussion of FAO's role, starting broadly and then focusing on each FAO initiative related to climate change. Delegates will find this report helpful as they formulate ideas on how FAO can act, based on what it has done in the past.*

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> *This report was drafted by FAO to examine progress on SDG targets 2.1 and 2.2 relating to eliminating hunger and malnutrition. It provides a brief overview of the challenges currently being faced by the international community in terms of food security. The first section examines broad trends and discusses the impacts of food insecurity. The second section delves in-depth on the relationship between climate change and food security. Delegates will find this report useful because it provides context on the issue and, towards the end, discusses possible paths to increase the resilience of agriculture to climate change.*

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II. Capacity Building for Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits."[142]

Introduction

In 2019, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimated that the number of undernourished people in the world had risen to 826 million, 10.8% of the global population.[143] This number has been increasing since 2014, as has the number of people who have been determined as "crisis-level" food-insecure, which rose from 108 million in 2016 to 124 million in 2017, according to the World Food Programme (WFP).[144] FAO has defined undernourished as "a state, lasting for at least one year, of inability to acquire enough food, defined as a level of food intake insufficient to meet dietary energy requirements."[145] Countries that are classified as low-income food deficit countries (LIFDC) have an undernourished population that is repeatedly faced with chronic food insecurity through high food cost and/or nutritionally-deficient food.[146] The FAO has recognized that capacity building, which refers to the process of strengthening the abilities of governments and peoples to successfully achieve their goals with sustainable solutions, is necessary to alleviate the poverty, hunger, and malnutrition often faced in LIFDCs.[147]

Populations in many LIFDCs are dependent on food imports in order to meet basic nutritional needs, making them vulnerable to price volatility.[148] This lack of sufficient access to nutritional foods can be compounded by natural disasters, climate change, conflict, and disease.[149] The challenge of developing sustainable and resilient methods for food production while also creating economic growth and opportunities within a country is often met by offering technical support, in the form of experts who can assist with policy development or training, and direct support in many forms, including official development assistance.[150] This capacity building is most demanded by countries of the global south, which includes most of the LIFDCs.[151] To confront these challenges, FAO has sought to engage actors at the national, regional, and international levels in order to improve the adaptive capacity of agricultural sectors while increasing food quality and food quantity and safeguarding the environment from degradation and climate change.[152]

International and Regional Framework

Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948) affirmed the right of every individual to be free from hunger and have access to nutritious foods and the need to eradicate world hunger and achieve food security.[153] At the World Food Summit in Rome in 1996, FAO adopted the *Rome Declaration on World Food*, which emphasized food access, security, and nutrition.[154] More recently, in Quito, Ecuador at the United Nations (UN) Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), the international community further addressed the importance of food security and nutrition for urban populations and adopted the *New Urban Agenda* (2017).[155] Additionally, in 2019 the UN

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[142] The Nobel Prize, *Martin Luther King Jr. – Acceptance Speech*, 1964.

[143] FAO et al, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*, 2019.

[144] WFP, *Global Report on Food Crises 2018*, 2018.

[145] FAO, *FAO framework for the Urban Food Agenda: Leveraging sub-national and local government action to ensure sustainable food systems and improved nutrition*, 2019.

[146] FAO, *Low-income food-deficit countries*, 2019.

[147] FAO, *Capacity building*, 2010; FAO, *FAO Capacity Development*, 2019.

[148] Harvest Help, *Causes of Food Insecurity in African and Other Third World Countries,* 2012.

[149] Ibid.

[150] Ibid.

[151] Ibid.

[152] Ibid.

[153] UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A(III))*, 1948.

[154] FAO, *Draft Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security*, 2009.

[155] UN General Assembly, *New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256)*, 2017.

General Assembly adopted two resolutions: 73/132, which highlighted the need to scale up national commitments and increase investments for nutrition, and 73/253, which recognized the need to strengthen capacity building in food systems in response to climate change.[156]

The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, adopted in 2015, highlighted an important link between food security and sustainable development, and outlined the eradication of world hunger in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.[157] Addressing food security and sustainable development has also become a priority for regional organizations like the African Union (AU), which outlined goals on nutrition, agricultural development, and resilient economies and communities in its Agenda 2063.[158] It builds on previous efforts by the AU to link agricultural development and food security, including the *Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods*.[159] Adopted in 2014 by the AU, the *Malabo Declaration* committed African countries to end hunger by 2025 and highlighted improving agricultural trade, infrastructure investment, and resilience of production systems to climate change.[160]

Role of the International System

The FAO often works alongside the WFP to alleviate food insecurity and creating capacity building strategies that can aid LIFDCs.[161] Key issues that aggravate food insecurity and malnourishment include poverty, lack of investment in sustainable agriculture, unstable markets, and food wastage.[162] The FAO classifies countries as LIFDCs based on three criteria: per capita earnings compared with the cost of living, food imports compared to exports, and how often the country has met the previous two criteria from year to year.[163] The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Concern Worldwide, and Welthungerhilfe publish the Global Hunger Index (GHI) report, which provides tracking the state of hunger in 119 countries, as well as at the regional and global levels.[164] The GHI 2017 report analyzed the significant concerns of food waste, food loss, and malnutrition in relation to inequality, power, and hunger.[165] The report highlighted non-governmental organization (NGOs) such as La Via Campensina, which work toward supporting smaller-scale food producers and bringing food systems back to the local and community level in an effort to reach greater effectiveness at food loss reduction through capacity building measures.[166] The GHI 2018 report emphasized the necessity for capacity building through policy recommendations that focus on long-term solution building.[167] The long-term solutions include applying capacity assessments (CAs) as part of educating farmers on best regional and local practices.[168] It also included measures that help to assess methods of governance, farming, and knowledge-sharing, which could further provide CAs for struggling LIFDCs.[169]

CAs are a structured approach towards identifying individual actors, organizations, potential environments, and available resources that can be used to help understand what is lacking within a country or sector and suggest measures that fit the context of the problem.[170] Understanding the best measures to take for communities and regions struggling to maintain consistent access to nutritional

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[156] UN General Assembly, *Global health and foreign policy: a healthier world through better nutrition (A/RES/73/132)*, 2018; UN General Assembly, *Agricultural development, food security, and nutrition (A/RES/73/253)*, 2018.
[157] UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (*A/RES/70/1),* 2017.
[158] African Union, *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want Framework Document*, 2015.
[159] Ibid.
[160] Ibid.
[161] WFP, *What Causes Hunger?*, 2013.
[162] Ibid.
[163] Ibid.
[164] Global Hunger Index, *Global Hunger Index 2018*, 2018.
[165] Global Hunger Index, *Global Hunger Index 2017 – Issue in Focus: The Inequalities of Hunger,* 2017.
[166] Ibid.
[167] Global Hunger Index, *Global Hunger Index 2018 – Issue in Focus: Forced Migration and Hunger*, 2018.
[168] Ibid.
[169] Ibid.
[170] FAO, *FAO Capacity Development: How to carry out a Capacity Assessment*, 2019.

foods and vulnerable to climate change or food shortages can be determined through implementing CAs.[171] The FAO highlights CAs as a way to increase the resilience of food systems.[172] CAs allow regions struggling to achieve food security to identify capacity gaps, detect failure in governance, and strive to meet key resiliency measures to better address key weaknesses.[173] These measures contain recommendations for both national and local governments, such as creating local farming commerce and improving multi-stakeholder partnerships.[174] The improvement of multi-stakeholder partnerships includes alleviating price volatility and environmental food shocks, and sharing governance mechanisms aimed at community knowledge and involvement.[175] Taking these actions can reinforce other capacity building measures and provide long-lasting and sustainable growth.[176]

Resiliency and Capacity Building

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) defines resiliency as the ability for a system to absorb and recover from shocks due to events such as natural disasters, conflict, and food shortages, while also adapting to current needs of a particular region or community.[177] Mainstreaming sustainable agricultural farming practices and food systems that are resilient against shocks such as climate change, food loss, and disruption in the food supply chain has been identified as key to improving food security by the FAO.[178] Sustainable management of natural resources, collective agriculture, infrastructure for distribution systems, and promoting dialogue between rural and urban food producers are areas for capacity building among local governments.[179] According to UNDP, actors implementing methods to establish sustainable and resilient food systems should consider the concerns of local governments and communities, their inclusion and participation in the decision-making process, and varied approaches in working alongside NGOs and international organizations.[180] An example of a multi-tiered approach in implementing a framework addressing rural-urban coordinated action is the Urban Food Agenda, which works to promote public-private partnerships with local needs.[181] The *Urban Food Agenda*, an FAO framework, addresses the gap between the demand of local communities and governments in developing efficient capacity building strategies to combat food insecurity and malnutrition by providing available services and skillsets from stakeholders.[182]

By creating opportunities for coordination of multi-stakeholder partnerships with local governments in order to provide greater support in underserved regions, areas can move closer towards building sustainable food systems and resilient agricultural communities.[183] Multi-stakeholder participation often include coordination across multiple levels of governance, tools aimed towards lifting community participation, use of innovative systems for sustainable practices, and aim to strengthen policies to enhance resilient food systems.[184] This participation should include specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound commitments towards enhancing the resilience and sustainability of food systems and increase affordability, as highlighted in the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.[185] The FAO has further encouraged the use of CAs in order to increase capacity building for resilient food systems alongside multi-stakeholder partnerships.[186] The FAO, along with the WFP and the International Fund for

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[171] Ibid.
[172] Ibid.
[173] Ibid.
[174] Ibid.
[175] Ibid.
[176] Ibid.
[177] UNDP, *Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific*, 2018.
[178] Ibid.
[179] Ibid.
[180] Ibid.
[181] Ibid.
[182] Ibid.
[183] FAO, *Assessing capacities in Mesoamerica to enhance responsible investments in agriculture and food systems*, 2017.
[184] Ibid.
[185] FAO, *Driving commitment for nutrition within the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition*, 2019.
[186] Ibid.

Agricultural Development (IFAD), further emphasized the need to mainstream the inclusion of climate resilience-building methods for resilient food systems, coordination policies between governments and stakeholders, and CA strategies.[187]

Building Capacity against Food Loss

A 2019 FAO report found that over 50% of food produced ends up in landfills, with one-third of food produced thrown out.[188] Capacity building measures focused on food loss reduction look not only towards reducing the amount of food waste, but also implementing sustainable food systems and farming practices in order to improve food production without higher environmental costs.[189] An FAO initiative, Mainstreaming Food Loss Reduction Initiatives for Smallholders in Food Deficit Areas, works to reduce food losses throughout the supply chain with three desired outcomes.[190] The first outcome, the Global Community of Practice (CoP), addresses food loss reduction methods by emphasizing capacity building methods with knowledge sharing platforms, partnerships between smallholder farmers and local markets, and food loss analysis aimed towards withstanding shocks due to price volatility, natural disasters, and food waste during transit.[191] The second outcome addresses developing strengthened value chain production capacity and storage of goods by identifying key points of food loss in the supply chain.[192] The final outcome works towards providing food supply chain national policy frameworks aimed towards long-term stability.[193]

In 2014, the regional program, Capacity Building for Food Loss Reduction in the Near East, was used in order to address the high food losses and waste in the Near East and North Africa region.[194] Over 50% of the region's food is imported, but over a third of its food is lost.[195] The regional program worked to address high food losses and waste by enhancing the roles of food managers, facilitating an environment for good food handling practices, and streamlining value chain management.[196] Another project, the Food Loss and Waste Reduction and Recovery (FLoWeR) initiative, helped to address food loss by furthering awareness on food loss, improving capacity to reduce waste, and assisting stakeholders involved in the agricultural food systems in the surrounding region of Mauritius.[197] The Conference on Food Loss and Food Waste Reduction and Recovery developed the FloWeR initiative in order to achieve greater dialogue, facilitate a knowledge-sharing platform, promote policies for food loss reduction, and build capacity in innovative technologies to help reduce waste.[198] The FAO's Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction highlights specific issues found in countries of all income levels related to capacity building against food waste.[199] The Save Food Initiative also works to provide regional methods geared towards capacity building for production planning, mainstreaming resource-efficient production and practices, awareness raising and advocacy, innovative processes and products, and supply chain development.[200]

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[187] FAO, *In Brief: The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*, 2018.
[188] Ibid.
[189] FAO, *FAO Facilitates Training for 2,000 Stakeholders on Capacity Building for Food Loss Reduction in the Near East*, 2017.
[190] FAO et al, *Mainstreaming Food Loss Reduction Initiatives for Smallholders in Food-Deficit Areas,* 2017.
[191] Ibid.
[192] Ibid.
[193] Ibid.
[194] Ibid.
[195] Ibid.
[196] Ibid.
[197] Ibid.
[198] Ibid.
[199] Ibid.
[200] FAO, *Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction*, 2015.

Conclusion

The alleviation of food insecurity in LIFDCs has many aspects that must all be addressed in order to effectively combat nutrition and food deficiencies in low-income countries.[201] FAO has indicated in the past that measures should take into account the specific situational concerns of Member States and that further development in capacity-building for resilient food systems should place an emphasis on shared knowledge governance, multi-stakeholder engagement, and collaboration through CAs, potentially leading to greater success in mitigating food insecurity.[202] Addressing the underlying causes of food loss may help to enable the stabilization of food demand and allow for nutritionally dense food goods to be more accessible in struggling communities.[203]

Further Research

As delegates prepare to discuss capacity building for LIFDCs, they should consider the following questions: How can knowledge sharing platforms be used to enable greater capacity and application of sustainable farming practices? How can public and private entities work with local communities to better address their specific needs? What can LIFDCs do to further mainstream sustainable capacity building measures into their national frameworks? How can food waste and food loss in production be curbed? How can regional collaboration help to address undernutrition in regions with high LIFDCs status? What methods can the FAO, alongside other international and local agencies, provide to aid LIFDCs? What can be done among regional groups such as ASEAN, AU, and OAS to build greater capacity and resilience to withstand malnutrition and food insecurity?

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> *This publication provides a framework to guide the FAO in providing support to countries, local governments, and communities on how achieve a sustainable and resilient food system. The FAO and UN provide the mechanism, the* New Urban Agenda*, in order to help facilitate the achievement towards the 2030 Agenda. Delegates wishing to gain better understanding on how to implement a platform that addresses not only resilient food systems, but also how to include dialogue and coordination among multi-stakeholders, NGOs, and rural-urban communities in the capacity-building process should look to this as a guide.*

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[201] Ibid.
[202] Ibid.
[203] Ibid*.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations et al. (2017). *Mainstreaming Food Loss Reduction Initiatives for Smallholders in Food-Deficit Areas* [Policy Brief]. Retrieve 25 April 2019 from: http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7614e.pdf

> *The brief provides examples of regional and local collaboration in addressing food loss reduction through the collaboration of three Rome-based agencies of the FAO, WFP, and IFAD. The collaboration of the three agencies provides analysis of the causes of hunger, food insecurity, and poverty and methods towards mitigating their effects on regional and local communities. Delegates looking for examples of Member States participating in applying the suggested solutions and its outcomes may find the document helpful.*

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> *This report provides analysis of the underlying causes food insecurity, indicators of malnutrition, and the progress towards achieving SDGs, in particular SDG2. The FAO collaborated alongside WFP, UNICEF, and other UN organizations in providing a progress report access how world hunger has grown and the effects of nutrition deficit foods on low-income, food insecure countries. It also provides recommendations and other potential policy options which could help alleviate food insecurity. Delegates wishing to gain greater understanding of key suggestions on the causes and potential solutions when addressing world hunger, food security, and nutrition as a whole should would find this report beneficial.*

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> *This report by the UNDP addresses key guiding principles aimed towards understanding how best to address resiliency in food systems in throughout Asia and the Pacific. The report provides insight on how to create capacity measures aimed towards resiliency of local communities and regional governments. It highlights necessary measures for cities and governments to apply in order to create more resilient food systems. Delegates looking to for different applications of capacity building would find the document helpful.*

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