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## Food and Agriculture Organization Background Guide 2023

Written by Kaytlyn Marcotte and Alexander Imhof



# NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2023 National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, DC (NMUN•DC)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). This year's staff is: Director Kaytlyn Marcotte and Assistant Director Theresa McMackin. Kaytlyn holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Political Economy from the College of Idaho, presently she works as a Customer Account Manager for Idaho Milk Products, Inc.. This is her fourth year on NMUN•DC staff and is excited to serve as your 2023 Director of FAO. Theresa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Historical Studies and a Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies from Stockton University; she currently works as a medical office associate at a regional hospital in New Jersey. This is her third year on NMUN•DC staff and can't wait to see everyone in person at the conference.

The topics under discussion for FAO are:

1. Implementing the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031
2. Addressing the Current State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, FAO, consists of permanent staff and holds a biennial conference of Member States. FAO is committed to eliminate food insecurity, malnutrition, and improve agricultural methods. With a particular focus on improving rural livelihoods and Member States facing the effects of climate change, FAO utilizes the Strategic Framework to address current issues. Tasked with these action items, the FAO has linked themselves with the Sustainable Development Goals to improve global livelihoods.

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 Alliyah Edwards at [usgalliyah.dc@nmun.org](mailto:usgalliyah.dc@nmun.org) or Secretary-General Ana Williamson at [secgen.dc@nmun.org](mailto:secgen.dc@nmun.org).

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

Sincerely,  
Kaytlyn Marcotte, Director  
Theresa McMackin, Assistant Director



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## Committee Overview

### **Introduction**

Founded in 1945, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the leading intergovernmental organization facilitating global partnerships and coordinating efforts to eradicate hunger and food insecurity.<sup>1</sup> Through the variety of functions that FAO performs, it works to improve nutrition, increase agricultural productivity, reduce rural poverty, protect livelihoods from disasters, and ensure efficient and inclusive agricultural systems.<sup>2</sup> In recent years, FAO has focused on the eradication of malnutrition and hunger.<sup>3</sup>

FAO is built on the foundations of the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA); the FAO inherited the statistical functions of the IIA and while FAO has a much broader mandate and reach, the core mission between the IIA and FAO remained largely the same: addressing the needs of farmers, agriculture, and economic development.<sup>4</sup> Since its inception, FAO has notably helped to establish the World Food Programme (1961), the *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition* (1974), the Special Programme for Food Security (1994), and the World Food Summit Plan of Action (1996).<sup>5</sup>

### **Mandate, Functions, and Powers**

FAO's primary responsibilities are outlined in the *Basic Texts* of FAO that include FAO's *Constitution* (1945) and the applicable *Rules of Procedure*.<sup>6</sup> The mandate of FAO, as outlined in the preamble of the constitution, is to address the following: "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."<sup>7</sup>

Whilst the following list is not exhaustive, FAO's mandate can be summarized as:

- **FAO will generally:** collect and analyze information related to nutrition, food, and agriculture;<sup>8</sup> organize and implement programs and missions;<sup>9</sup> provide assistance in emergencies;<sup>10</sup> partner with private sector entities, agricultural research institutions, and various civil society organizations (CSOs);<sup>11</sup> and cooperate with and provide technical assistance to Member States to ensure the mandate of the organization is implemented appropriately.
- **FAO will not generally:** unilaterally direct Member States, NGOs, other UN agencies and stakeholders to carry out an action.

### **Governance, Structure, and Membership**

FAO is a specialized agency of the UN and reports to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).<sup>12</sup> FAO currently consists of 195 members, including two associate members (The Faroe Islands and Tokelau), as well as one member organization (European Union).<sup>13</sup> The primary body of FAO is the Conference of the Organization established by Article III of FAO *Constitution* (1945), which meets every

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<sup>1</sup> FAO, *About FAO*, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> FAO, *The Director-General's Medium-Term Plan 2018-21 and Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19*, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> FAO, *About FAO*, 2017; FAO, *FAO – its origins, formation and evolution 1945-1981*, 1981.

<sup>5</sup> FAO, *FAO – its origins, formation and evolution 1945-1981*, 1981; UNOHCHR, *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger Malnutrition*, 1996-2017; FAO, *World Food Summit: Report of the World Food Summit*, 1996.

<sup>6</sup> FAO, *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Volumes I and II*, 2013, p. 3.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> FAO, *FAO Attributes, Core Functions, and Comparative Advantages*.

<sup>10</sup> FAO, *FAO Emergencies and Resilience*.

<sup>11</sup> FAO, *Partnerships*, 2021.

<sup>12</sup> New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2022-23*, 2021, p. 9.

<sup>13</sup> FAO, *Legal Services for Development: Membership of FAO*.

two years in regular session.<sup>14</sup> The purpose of the Conference is to determine the policy and approve the budget of FAO.<sup>15</sup> The Conference may establish Regional Conferences, review decisions made by the council or subsidiary body, make recommendations to members related to food and agriculture with the goal of implementing these recommendations by national action, and may also make recommendations to international organizations regarding FAO-related issues.<sup>16</sup> There are Regional Conferences for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Near East and North Africa.<sup>17</sup> Regional conferences occur biennially and are hosted on a rotating basis by Member States of the region.<sup>18</sup> These are the highest governing bodies of FAO at the regional level and allow for the discussion of regional priorities, challenges, and the formulation of coherent and aligned positions on global policy.<sup>19</sup>

A body of 49 Member Nations is elected to serve three-year terms on the Council of the Organization.<sup>20</sup> The Council is the executive body of the organization and meets between the biennial FAO Conference years.<sup>21</sup> The council acts on current food and agricultural activities and situations, and activities of the organization of the whole, including the development of the Programme of Work.<sup>22</sup>

The Director-General leads 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.<sup>23</sup> Director-General QU Dongyu reformed the organizational structure of the FAO in 2020.<sup>24</sup> The reformed structure is composed of thirteen cross-cutting offices, three centers of collaboration with other agencies, and three workstreams with fifteen divisions.<sup>25</sup>

Funding for FAO is derived from various sources, with the majority of the funding coming from obligatory, assessed contributions by Member States, as well as voluntary contributions by Member States and other partners.<sup>26</sup> The 2022-2023 FAO planned budget is \$3.25 billion US dollars: 31% of its current funding comes from assessed contributions and 69% comes from voluntary contributions.<sup>27</sup> Further funding for specific programs includes contributions from Member States, international financial institutions, as well as the private sector.<sup>28</sup>

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

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<sup>14</sup> FAO, *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Volumes I and II*, 2013.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> FAO, *FAO Regional Conferences*.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> FAO, *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Volumes I and II*, 2013.

<sup>21</sup> FAO, *Governing and Statutory Bodies: Council*.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> FAO, *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Volumes I and II*, 2013.

<sup>24</sup> FAO, *Further Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021 (CL164/3)*, 2020, p. 6.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., p. 19.

<sup>26</sup> FAO, *Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget (OSP): FAO's Budget*.

<sup>27</sup> FAO, *Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget (OSP) Planning: FAO's Budget*, 2021.

<sup>28</sup> FAO, *Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget (OSP): FAO's Budget*.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Further Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021 (CL 164/3)*. 2020. Retrieved 20 March 2023 from <http://www.fao.org/3/nc436en/nc436en.pdf>

*This document focuses on the program adjustments to its work and budgets. In 2020, the FAO underwent significant restructuring which is laid out in this document. It is important to understand how the FAO restructured and how this will impact the work of FAO moving forward. Delegates should use this a foundational document in becoming familiar with the Committee and its work.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *FAO Conference endorses new Strategic Framework to drive agri-food systems transformation*. 2021. Retrieved 20 March 2023 from: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1412520/icode/>

*This press statement provides delegates with a summary of the recent FAO Conference and the new Strategic Framework before they start reading the documents produced by the Conference. This will provide delegates an introduction and assist in understand the documents produced by the Conference. This document should be used in the initial stages of research to provide a basic understanding.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations et al. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*. 2021. Retrieved 20 March 2023 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/cb4474en.pdf>

*This report was written by FAO, IFA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO and is recent to this year. The document provides delegates with statistics and indicators of the current food security situation. The document provides delegates with policy recommendations to combat the global food insecurity issues. Delegates should use this source to understand what FAO can do and for researching issues to discuss during the conference.*

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## 1. Implementing the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031

*“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”<sup>29</sup>*

### **Introduction**

As a specialized agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) sets forth the work and research regarding international food and agriculture safety and programs.<sup>30</sup> The 2022-2031 Strategic Framework of the FAO was formed around the global needs and challenges the international community is facing presently such as the growing effects of climate change, continued food scarcity from conflicts, and many other challenges.<sup>31</sup> The current Strategic Framework was adopted at the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the annual FAO Conference in June 2021 and outlines the “four betters,” which are linked to specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 15 (life on land), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals).<sup>32</sup> The Four Betters serve as the primary pillars for the Strategic Framework and focus on four core areas of improvement; environment, health, nutrition, and production.<sup>33</sup> In conjunction with the specific SDGs, the 2022-2031 Strategic Framework aims to effectively address and focus on specific priority areas; “better production, better nutrition, better environment, and better life,” to achieve the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>34</sup> Better Production has been aligned with the following: SDG 2, targets 3 and 4, SDG 6 target 4, SDG 14, targets 6 and 17, and SDG 15 target 2.<sup>35</sup> United with SDG 2 targets 1, 2, and 2.c and SDG 3 and target 2, Better Nutrition has a key focus on improving global healthy diets for all and combating the undernourishment of children.<sup>36</sup> Better Environment is one of the largest topics within the Strategic Framework and is aligned with SDG 2 target 5, SDG 13 target 13.a, SDG 14 target 4, and SDG 15 targets 1 and 4.<sup>37</sup> Finally, Better Life aligns with SDG 2 (target 3) and SDG 5 target 5.a, indicators 5.a.1 and 5.a.2, and focuses on the ways in which the international community can become more inclusive by providing education, resources, and access to all people to have more food security.<sup>38</sup> Aligning with specific SDGs allows the FAO to create specific programs in tandem with ongoing sustainability efforts.<sup>39</sup> The international community is at a crucial stress point for food security due to the rise of inflation and conflicts causing more peoples to experience food insecurity.<sup>40</sup>

### **International and Regional Framework**

Prior to the adoption of the first Framework, the FAO utilized data from the World Food Survey and the World Census of Agriculture.<sup>41</sup> The World Food Survey was first published in 1946 and illustrated the global status of nutrition for 70 Member States.<sup>42</sup> Today, the World Food Survey has been replaced by

<sup>29</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Food Security Policy Brief*. 2006.

<sup>30</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *About the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*. 2022.

<sup>31</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Strategic Framework 2022-2031*. 2021.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Better Production*. 2022.

<sup>36</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*. 2022.

<sup>37</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Better Environment*. 2022.

<sup>38</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Better Life*. 2022.

<sup>39</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Better Production*. 2022.

<sup>40</sup> World Bank. *Food Security Update*. 2023.

<sup>41</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *About the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*. 2022.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

the World Food Summit which occurs annually and covers a variety of topics regarding food security such as access to reliable food sources and average calories consumed.<sup>43</sup> Between the 1950s to 1960s the FAO focused heavily on key efforts such as the 1952 Desert Locust Programme, the 1957 World Seed Campaign, and the 1961 Freedom from Hunger Campaign.<sup>44</sup> First defined in the 1996 World Food Summit, food security is achieved when all persons have sufficient access to nutritious and safe food.<sup>45</sup>

The Strategic Framework of the FAO is one of the guiding documents for the work of this body, where the first Framework (2000-2015 Strategic Framework) was adopted in 1999 and is renewed every ten to fifteen years.<sup>46</sup> Each Strategic Framework is evaluated every four years to identify areas of progress and is comprised of an analysis of the annual reports.<sup>47</sup> The 2000-2015 Strategic Framework focused on food insecurity, regulatory frameworks for forestry, and improving education on food and agriculture management.<sup>48</sup> Each strategic framework focuses on the current issues and needs of the international community while building upon the works of prior frameworks.<sup>49</sup> Additionally each Strategic Framework has a medium term assessment which allows for the Strategic Framework to reflect on the progress made and any areas of focus which need further improvement.<sup>50</sup> In 2009 the FAO adopted the 2010-2019 Strategic Framework which built upon previous efforts in the 2000-2015 Framework.<sup>51</sup> Similarly to the 2022-2031 Framework, the 2010-2019 Framework focused on a variety of strategic objectives including access to safe and quality food, sustainable use of land, water and forests, increased and sustainable production of crops, livestock, and fisheries.<sup>52</sup>

The 2010-19 Framework served as a transitional framework between historical efforts tackled by previous frameworks such as the World Seed Campaign and the shift within the FAO during 2015 to align with the newly adopted SDGs.<sup>53</sup> As the international community began to shift a larger focus towards sustainable development and protecting the planet, the General Assembly began its work towards adopting a new agenda for sustainable development.<sup>54</sup> Adopted in 2015 by the General Assembly resolution 70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” created the seventeen SDGs which are key targets for the planet as well as the international community.<sup>55</sup> The adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda)(2015) created an additional foundation for future FAO Strategic Frameworks.<sup>56</sup> As outlined in the 2030 Agenda, much of the 2022-2031 Strategic Framework aligns key targets and efforts to specific SDGs.<sup>57</sup>

### **Role of the International System**

The FAO works closely with UN-Habitat, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), The World Food Programme (WFP), and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality (UN Women) to discuss topics related to the current Strategic Framework such as creating more inclusive farming education and providing nutrition classes to women

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<sup>43</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of Food Security and in the World*. 2022.

<sup>44</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *About the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*. 2022.

<sup>45</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Food Security Policy Brief*. 2006.

<sup>46</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *A Strategic Framework for FAO 2000-2015*. 1999.

<sup>47</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Strategic Framework 2022-2031*. 2021.

<sup>48</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *A Strategic Framework for FAO 2000-2015*. 1999.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *The Director-General’s Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23*. 2021. p.90.

<sup>51</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Strategic Framework 2010-2019*. 2009.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

<sup>55</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Strategic Framework 2022-2031*. 2021.

and children.<sup>58</sup> Most notably, UNICEF's Nutrition Strategy for 2020-2030 provides in tandem strategies to ensure improved nutrition levels for children.<sup>59</sup> These strategies include supporting programs for breastfeeding, micronutrition programs for young children, and increasing access to safe, diverse, and affordable food for children.<sup>60</sup> In addition to the work done within coordination with various UN bodies, the private agriculture sector has shaped certain objectives such as creating more accessible farming technology and hybrid seed programs which produce higher yield crops of the Strategic Frameworks into cooperative efforts to achieve the goals laid out in the Framework.<sup>61</sup>

Companies such as Fonterra (New Zealand), FreilandCampina (Germany), Cargill, and Nestlé have partnered with FAO programs to achieve the goals laid out in the Strategic Framework, which include efforts towards sustainable farming and production, reducing food waste within factories and local communities, and making efforts towards the zero-hunger initiative.<sup>62</sup> FAO has created a strategic partnership with the private food and agriculture sector through the SAVE FOOD working group, which aims to reduce packaging waste and food waste in production processes.<sup>63</sup> FAO has been able to establish the zero waste goals and partnered with companies such as TetraPak, Nestlé, and many other food manufacturers to evaluate ways in which to reduce waste through their partnerships.<sup>64</sup> The implementation of the SAVE FOOD program within private food production companies such as Walmart aims to limit the waste of food within the production process as well as in the distribution process.<sup>65</sup> In doing so there is more good quality food processed and distributed to the international community.<sup>66</sup> SAVE FOOD utilizes the 2013 Toolkit: Reducing the Food Wastage Footprint, which provides a composite of 77 different initiatives in food waste reduction from different Member States.<sup>67</sup> The 2013 Toolkit is comprised of many changes in practice of the food supply chain such as: more sustainable packaging, better production to decrease waste, and improving post-harvest food storage.<sup>68</sup> The reduction of waste moves the international community closer to more sustainable and cost-effective food options.<sup>69</sup>

### ***The Four Betters of the 2022-2031 Strategic Framework***

The guiding ideals of the current Strategic Framework for the current decade are the Four Betters: Better Production, Better Nutrition, Better Environment, and Better Life which represent the necessary areas to improve upon in the aim to leave no person behind.<sup>70</sup> Each of the Four Betters approaches a different umbrella of improvement which the FAO has pinpointed for growth, adaptation, or expansion.<sup>71</sup> Better Production focuses on how to create a more sustainable, inclusive, and effective production process from the farm to the factory and throughout the supply chain at all levels.<sup>72</sup> As the international community faces the many challenges of climate change, the agrifood system must also evolve to continue the same or similar capacity as in previous decades.<sup>73</sup>

<sup>58</sup> United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld Library. *Food Security and Nutrition – A Global Issue*. 2023.

<sup>59</sup> United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. *Nutrition, for Every Child UNICEF Nutrition Strategy 2020-2030*. 2020.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Corporate Environmental Responsibility at FAO 2021 Report*. 2022.

<sup>62</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Partnering with Private Sector for Sustainable Food and Agriculture*. 2022.

<sup>63</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *SAVE FOOD Meeting unveils bountiful private sector opportunities for reducing Food Loss and Waste*. 2015.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> Nestlé. *Nestlé Commitment to Reduce Food Loss and Waste*. 2015.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Toolkit Reducing the Food Wastage Footprint*. 2013.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *SAVE FOOD Meeting unveils bountiful private sector opportunities for reducing Food Loss and Waste*. 2015.

<sup>70</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *What is FAOs Strategic Framework?*. 2021.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Strategic Framework 2022-2031*. 2021.

<sup>73</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Better Production*. 2022.

A key project to note regarding Better Production is the ongoing efforts to produce higher-yielding rice in Madagascar.<sup>74</sup> This project has benefited over 300 farmers of which nearly half were women by implementing more training on the types of seed and planting needed to create higher yields of rice.<sup>75</sup> In addition the project also focuses on providing training and education on the hybrid crop and the methods needed to maintain the hybrid rice.<sup>76</sup> A hybrid crop, which is the utilization of crossbred seeds, yields stronger and healthier seeds and crops.<sup>77</sup> In practice hybrid crops are more manageable in Member States who have more dry soil and naturally experience low yield crops.<sup>78</sup>

Better Nutrition aims to promote more access to food, increased nutrition within food, and increased access to healthy diets.<sup>79</sup> Some of the primary focuses of Better Nutrition for the FAO is the focus on reducing undernourishment and improving food safety and security.<sup>80</sup> Food safety is the practice in which food is stored, manufactured, and prepared for consumption in order to prevent foodborne illnesses such as salmonella and listeria.<sup>81</sup> This is a particular challenge for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) who often lack the infrastructure, refrigeration, and proper heating technology for food production and preparation.<sup>82</sup> Food insecurity is an ongoing issue throughout the international community and has become further exacerbated for some Member States during times of conflict.<sup>83</sup> In partnership with UNICEF, the FAO has been working extensively on ensuring nourishment for infants and their mothers; the focus on pregnant mothers' nourishment is vital to ensure children are born healthy and maintain the proper weights needed to survive infancy and early childhood.<sup>84</sup> One of the key focuses within this program is to teach pregnant mothers how to obtain the proper nutrition and access to staple foods such as rice, maize flour, and other fortified foods to ensure they maintain healthy pregnancy weights.<sup>85</sup> In turn, these women have a better chance for their infants to be born at a healthy birth weight.<sup>86</sup>

Better Environment focuses on how to sustainably maintain global agriculture and fisheries, create innovative and sustainable food systems, and combat climate change.<sup>87</sup> The aims of Better Environment focuses on ways to implement more sustainable and strategic practices related to agriculture, livestock practices, fisheries, marine, and forest ecosystem conservation by utilizing more sustainable practices; this includes not over producing, cutting down, or overfishing these areas.<sup>88</sup> A successful project in position with Better Environment, is the Common Oceans Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program (2014-2019).<sup>89</sup> This program focused on reducing the overfishing of Tuna around the world, and trained fishery officers on the significance of overfishing, compliance efforts, and the signs of overfishing.<sup>90</sup> As a result, overfishing of the tuna population decreased from 13% of the population being overfished down to just 5% overfishing rates.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Better Production*. 2022.

<sup>75</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Promoting Hybrid Rice to Improve National Food Security and Livelihoods – FAO-China South-South Cooperation (SSC) Project in Madagascar*. 2022.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid.

<sup>79</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Strategic Framework 2022-2031*. 2021.

<sup>80</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Better Nutrition*. 2022.

<sup>81</sup> World Health Organization. *Food Safety*. 2023.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*. 2022.

<sup>84</sup> United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. *Global Action Plan on Child Wasting*. 2019.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.

<sup>87</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Strategic Framework 2022-2031*. 2021.

<sup>88</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Better Environment*. 2022.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

<sup>90</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Not a Drop in the Ocean*. 2019.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

Better Life focuses on creating more inclusive economic growth in all areas of development.<sup>92</sup> A project highlighting Better Life is the FAO program is “Giving women in Guatemala a Voice in Food Security and Nutrition.”<sup>93</sup> The Guatemala Ministry of Agriculture ratified their first policies and efforts for gender equality in farming in 2016.<sup>94</sup> This newly adopted policy aimed to abolish the discrimination women faced when accessing jobs in the agriculture sector.<sup>95</sup> As a result a special cabinet for women was created within the Ministry and provides technical assistance to women farmers.<sup>96</sup> The FAO has worked with Guatemala and other Member States such as Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Zambia regarding efforts in creating policies on equal access for women to enter the agriculture sector, lobby for agriculture needs on a local and national level, and hold local ministries more accountable in cases regarding discrimination against women in agriculture.<sup>97</sup>

### ***The Effect of Global Crises on the Progress of the 2022-2031 Strategic Framework***

One of the many challenges facing the FAO 2022-2031 Strategic Framework is the continuation of international and regional conflicts.<sup>98</sup> With the impacts of COVID-19 still lingering and increased conflicts such as the Ukraine-Russia conflict, the international community is facing growing challenges.<sup>99</sup> Continuing situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syria, Sudan, Yemen, and other Member States pose an increased threat to food security and the supply chain stability.<sup>100</sup> The WFP has warned that these increased and continuous crises will cause a drastic increase in food insecurity, which is defined as not having access to sufficient food or sufficient quality of food, for the entire international community.<sup>101</sup> Specifically, the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict has caused the costs of grain as a commodity to be at a historical high since the start of the conflict in 2020.<sup>102</sup> This has caused many finished food products such as baked items, yogurts, and many others to increase in price in international markets, and the current situation in Ukraine has had a continued impact on the global supply chain.<sup>103</sup> The supply chain for Ukrainian grain historically has provided grain to livestock and food production, while the ongoing conflict has placed more than 345 million persons at risk for food insecurity.<sup>104</sup>

In conjunction with current global crises, the international community is facing the everlasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic with increasing levels of food insecurity.<sup>105</sup> Presently, the international community is facing unseen levels of income loss in addition to increased conflict globally.<sup>106</sup> The present FAO Strategic Framework aims to combat food emergencies and implement strategic programming to ensure food security is more stable for the future.<sup>107</sup> Outlined in the Strategic Framework Medium Term plan, under Better Life goal three, “Agriculture and Food emergencies,” the FAO reported that the current

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<sup>92</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Strategic Framework 2022-2031*. 2021.

<sup>93</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Giving Women in Guatemala a Voice in Food Security and Nutrition*. 2016.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> United Nations, World Food Programme. *FAO and WFP warn of looming widespread food crisis as hunger threatens stability in dozens of countries*. 2022.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid.

<sup>100</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Global Humanitarian Response Plan Addressing the impacts of COVID-19 and safeguarding livelihoods in food crisis contexts*. 2020.

<sup>101</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of Food Security and in the World*. 2022.

<sup>102</sup> Ibid.

<sup>103</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Note on the Impact of the War on Food Security in Ukraine*. 2022.

<sup>104</sup> The New York Times. *How Russia’s War on Ukraine is Worsening Global Starvation*. 2023.

<sup>105</sup> United Nations, World Food Programme. *FAO and WFP warn of looming widespread food crisis as hunger threatens stability in dozens of countries*. 2022.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

<sup>107</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of Food Security and in the World*. 2022.

needs of this effort include providing quick response and food resources on a local response level to Member States facing these situations.<sup>108</sup>

The WFP working hand in hand with the FAO published a report in 2022 outlining hunger hotspots within the international community.<sup>109</sup> The report outlined two different categories of hotspots: “Highest concern” and “Very high concern.”<sup>110</sup> Member States in the first category, “Highest concern,” include Afghanistan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Somalia, Yemen, and South Sudan, who are currently experiencing levels of food insecurity, food deserts, and continuous conflict which has further exacerbated humanitarian efforts to provide food assistance.<sup>111</sup> The situation in Yemen has increased food insecurity to famine levels and has further decreased the level of humanitarian access which provides assistance and continues programs.<sup>112</sup> With ongoing violations of ceasefire, humanitarian groups have not been able to access communities facing hunger needs, which has further escalated hunger levels.<sup>113</sup> Member States in the second category, “Very high concern,” include Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Sudan, and the Syrian Arab Republic.<sup>114</sup> Presently, 25.9 million people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are anticipated to face food crisis due to population migration caused by ongoing conflicts.<sup>115</sup> Due to the ongoing displacement of people within the Democratic Republic of the Congo, there has been limited resources and food security.<sup>116</sup> Strategic partnerships within the international community such as the UNICEF 2020-2030 Nutrition Strategy will assist the FAO’s goals to achieve the present Strategic Framework by incorporating important United Nations (UN) efforts with private sector initiatives.<sup>117</sup>

### **Conclusion**

The adoption of the FAO 2022-2031 Strategic Framework provides the international community with a scope of guidelines and initiatives to create a more sustainable planet.<sup>118</sup> Though there are unique challenges that face the planet such as global warming, conflict, and hunger, the Framework’s Four Betters illustrates how to create lasting change.<sup>119</sup> These ongoing and increasing number of conflicts and crises within the international community provide a barrier for the FAO completing the goals detailed within the Better Life section of the Framework.<sup>120</sup> Crises and conflicts often limit the feasibility of humanitarian efforts in addition to deteriorating efforts of advancement regarding programs for food safety, health, agriculture, and equality which provide a unique challenge to the FAO and the advancement of the 2022-2031 Strategic Framework.<sup>121</sup>

### **Further Research**

To further the discussion of this topic, delegates must understand the advancement of the *2022-2031 Strategic Framework both in the scope of the FAO, UN bodies, and the broader international community*. Delegates should be aware of the current challenges of the *Strategic Framework*, the *progress of the Four Betters*, and how the ongoing *international conflicts have directly affected the global population in tandem with the efforts of the Strategic Framework*. Delegates are recommended to consider the

<sup>108</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *The Director-General’s Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23*. 2021. p.90.

<sup>109</sup> United Nations, World Food Programme. *Hunger Hotspots FAO-WFP Early Warnings on Acute Food Insecurity June to September 2022 Outlook*. 2022.

<sup>110</sup> Ibid.

<sup>111</sup> Ibid., pp. 13-15.

<sup>112</sup> Ibid., p.15.

<sup>113</sup> Ibid.

<sup>114</sup> Ibid. p.16.

<sup>115</sup> Ibid. p.16.

<sup>116</sup> United Nations, World Food Programme. *Democratic Republic of the Congo*. 2022.

<sup>117</sup> United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund. *Nutrition, for Every Child UNICEF Nutrition Strategy 2020-2030*. 2020.

<sup>118</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Strategic Framework 2022-2031*. 2021.

<sup>119</sup> Ibid.

<sup>120</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *The Director-General’s Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23*. 2021.

<sup>121</sup> Ibid.

following questions in their further research: How can barriers be removed to ensure that the global population can obtain more access to safer food? How can UN Bodies and NGOs expand current programs and efforts for areas of conflict? What efforts can be taken by strategic partnerships to help achieve the goals of the Strategic Framework?

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*This document provides information on the types of strategic partnerships the FAO seeks with the private sector and how this will benefit the work of the body. This document will also help delegates gain a deeper understanding of engaging with partnerships within the private sector. Delegates should use this document to gain a better understanding of the types or partnerships that can be utilized to implement and address the current strategic framework.*

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*This document details the current framework of the FAO and the key areas of focus. By detailing the current challenges in the international community regarding access to food and agriculture, the FAO provides evidence for the decisions to choose the “Four Betters,” within the framework. Delegates should utilize this source to gain a deeper understanding of the current Strategic Framework of the FAO.*

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*This document provides a more in depth understanding of the Strategic Framework and how the FAO aims to achieve the Four Betters. This report also addresses the budgets for the various projects and efforts outlined within the Framework. Delegates should utilize this source to gain deeper understanding of the Framework and the current scope of efforts.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Food. *Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*. 2022. Retrieved 11 February 2023 from: <https://www.fao.org/3/nj164en/nj164en.pdf>

*This document provides greater insight into how current crises affect the international community on a large scale. The report discusses how the current situation between the Russian Federation and Ukraine is causing the cost of commodity grain and finished food products to rise dramatically over the past year. Delegates should use this source to gain a deeper knowledge on how the FAO addresses current crises and how these crises affect the international community.*

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*This annual report by the FAO provides insight into how the international community is performing on food production and nutrition. While analyzing the statistics of food insecurity regarding access and healthy diets, the report provides information on how current situations and crises are also affecting food security. Delegates should use references in this document to obtain a deeper knowledge of the current food and nutrition situation the international community faces.*



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## 2. Addressing the Current State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture

*"It is said that if you give a man a fish, you would feed him for a day, but if you teach a man to fish you feed him for a lifetime. I say, "Teach a wo(man) how to culture fish, you will empower the entire country."*

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### **Introduction**

Since 1960, the world's aquatic food diet has nearly doubled, and is projected to keep growing.<sup>123</sup> Currently, aquatic foods provide 17% of global protein intake, and reaches higher than 50% of protein intake in some countries.<sup>124</sup> Aquaculture and fisheries industries account for the economic livelihood of almost 60 million people.<sup>125</sup> Fisheries refer to the harvesting of aquatic stock, existing across the world in oceans, lakes, and rivers.<sup>126</sup> Much of aquaculture is conducted inland, but ocean aquaculture also is performed.<sup>127</sup> Aquaculture refers to the breeding or farming of aquatic life, often for the purpose of harvest.<sup>128</sup> Aquaculture also implies an individual or corporate ownership of the aquaculture facilities, planning, development, or sale of the stock being cultivated.<sup>129</sup> The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recognizes the key role fisheries and aquaculture must play in achieving sustainable and nutritional food security.<sup>130</sup> Sustainable fishing is emphasized in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 (Life below water), of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.<sup>131</sup> SDG 14 emphasizes how the international community can manage marine resources in a more equitable fashion.<sup>132</sup> Despite promising industry growth of both fisheries and aquaculture in supporting global diets, the sustainability of this growth is cause for concern.<sup>133</sup> The environmental costs of growing unsustainable fisheries and aquaculture sectors around the world negate many positives that the expansion of these two industries have brought in recent years.<sup>134</sup> These include degradation of ecosystems, marine pollution, and the loss of fish populations.<sup>135</sup> The Food and Agriculture Organization has set forth several targets to achieve progress towards sustainability in fisheries and aquaculture which include reducing overfishing and the reduction of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and the increased access to aquaculture technology.<sup>136</sup>

At present, the world is currently not on track to achieve the targets of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) for many reasons, including growing inequality, climate change, and political conflicts.<sup>137</sup> The number of people affected by food insecurity has been increasing which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>138</sup> The global pandemic disrupted global supply chains, lowered agricultural productivity as producers got ill,

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<sup>122</sup> Bhaskar, Charles John Ph.D. *World Fisheries Day Quotes*. 2020.

<sup>123</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022.

<sup>124</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Aquaculture Development*. 2020.

<sup>125</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Aquaculture Development*. 2020.

<sup>126</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Concepts and Definitions*.

<sup>127</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022.

<sup>128</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Concepts and Definitions*.

<sup>129</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>130</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Sustainable Development Goal 14.

<sup>131</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>132</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 667*. Rome, 2022.

<sup>133</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Committee on Fisheries. *Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 667*. Rome, 2022.

<sup>134</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>135</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>136</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Committee on Fisheries. *Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture*. 2021.

<sup>137</sup> World Economic Forum. *Sustainable Development – How much progress is being made on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals?* 2022.

<sup>138</sup> Tufts University Press. *How Covid-19 Affects Agriculture and the Global Supply Chain*. 2020.

causing a significant increase in the price of food and food product.<sup>139</sup> However, aquatic foods have been highlighted as an instrumental piece in returning the international community to making progress in its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>140</sup> Though most aquaculture is commercial, subsistence and recreational producers exist around the world.<sup>141</sup> According to FAO studies, aquaculture may be a long term solution to many of the problems faced by the world's fisheries such as declining stocks and overfishing.<sup>142</sup> Still, FAO notes that while the growth potential for aquaculture to feed and nourish the world is a possibility, such growth must be sustainable.<sup>143</sup> The impacts of aquaculture on the environment are still being fully assessed, though ocean acidification and natural ecosystem degradation remain pressing issues.<sup>144</sup> Aquaculture is believed by oceanic organizations such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) to be more sustainable than fishing, as aquaculturists can more easily monitor pollution, ecosystems, and fish health than fishers.<sup>145</sup> However, aquaculture has a high cost to entering the industry, as it requires aquaculture facilities and training to be competitive.<sup>146</sup> Similarly, the rise of the industry may have adverse effects on small scale producers, and vulnerable participants such as women that make up the most overworked, lowest paid and having of the least job stability in the industry.<sup>147</sup> This is prevalent due to lower or nonexistent regulation, and systemic inequalities.<sup>148</sup> Solutions to these problems are essential to creating sustainable growth in one of the world's fastest growing and most promising food producing sectors.<sup>149</sup>

### ***International and Regional Framework***

The status of fisheries, including aquaculture, has been of interest to the international community since the 1800s with the conception of territorial waters, as ownership of such waters implied the ownership of aquatic resources residing within them.<sup>150</sup> The principles of international maritime law were set down formally with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) effective in 1994 that outlined several important details regarding fisheries and aquaculture.<sup>151</sup> The document outlined the accepted extent of a country's territorial waters, the responsibilities and rights of foreign fishers conducting fisheries, and Member States' right to a 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).<sup>152</sup> These EEZ's are different from territorial waters in that the coastal state has right to those maritime resources, but they are not that nation's sovereign territory.<sup>153</sup> General Assembly resolution A/71/391 was the most recent review of UNCLOS, reaffirming its commitment to sustainable use of marine resources.<sup>154</sup> The 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995 Code) became the first document to exclusively set standards for the conservation, management, and development of fisheries.<sup>155</sup> The 1995 Code was unique in that it set forth expectations on how Member States were to manage fish stocks

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<sup>139</sup> Ibid.

<sup>140</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Committee on Fisheries. *Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture*. 2021.

<sup>141</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022.

<sup>142</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Committee on Fisheries. *Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture*. 2021.

<sup>143</sup> Ibid.

<sup>144</sup> Convention on Biodiversity (CBD). *Aichi Biodiversity Targets*. 2021.

<sup>145</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA). *Aquaculture Supports a Sustainable Earth*. 2020.

<sup>146</sup> Ibid.

<sup>147</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022.

<sup>148</sup> Svien Jentof. *Blue Justice – Small Scale Fisheries in the Blue Economy*. 2021; United Nations Development Programme. *Discussion on Gender and Fisheries Law Enforcement*. 2020.

<sup>149</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Committee on Fisheries. *Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture*. 2021.

<sup>150</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica. *Territorial Waters and International Law*.

<sup>151</sup> United Nations. *Convention on the Law of the Sea*. 1994.

<sup>152</sup> Ibid.

<sup>153</sup> United Nations. *Convention of the Law of the Sea. Part V - Exclusive Economic Zone*. 1994.

<sup>154</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Review of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (A/71/391)*. p.3. 2016.

<sup>155</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. 1995.

within their territorial waters and offered a comprehensive guide for long term sustainable outcomes.<sup>156</sup> It also created a groundwork for the collaboration among Member States, regional bodies, and private sector organizations that FAO would rely on for future developments in the industry.<sup>157</sup> Part of these talks were the multilateral treaty United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) that clarified the status of migratory fish that pass between the territorial waters of multiple countries and in international waters and the responsibility of governments in conservation.<sup>158</sup> General Assembly resolution A/RES/77/118 reaffirmed international commitment to preserving oceanic biodiversity, and the management of migratory fish stocks, going into the 2020s decade.<sup>159</sup>

The FAO 2022 Strategic Framework was put in place to respond to the progress on achieving the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.<sup>160</sup> The Framework makes special mention of how the four betters (better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life) will translate to a fisheries and aquaculture context.<sup>161</sup> The Strategic Framework is a primary map to what the FAO hopes to accomplish both in regard to fisheries and aquaculture, but also the agenda of the organization more generally.<sup>162</sup> Being a growing industry, a primary concern in implementing the goals of the strategic framework within the Fisheries sector is to do so sustainably.<sup>163</sup> This can be accomplished with increased aquaculture, conservation measures and restrictions on overfishing.<sup>164</sup> The Blue Transformation plan published in 2022 outlines the coordination between the 2021 Declaration on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture by FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the 2022 Strategic Framework.<sup>165</sup> The plan seeks to expand fisheries management, increase sustainable aquaculture, and innovate new systems for aquaculture production.<sup>166</sup> The Blue Transformation plan notes that proper fisheries management, paired with conservation efforts, are key to mitigating overfishing and fish habitat loss.<sup>167</sup>

Overfishing and IUU fishing remains one of the largest causes of fish stocks declining in recent years, and a primary issue for FAO's efforts regarding making Fisheries and Agriculture more sustainable.<sup>168</sup> The most effective policy solutions in combating IUU fishing have been the reduction of harmful fisheries subsidies at all levels, and the *Agreement on Port State Measures* (APSM).<sup>169</sup> The APSM was adopted in 2009 and requires fishing vessels to ask permission to dock and allows seaports to reject permission to dock for vessels engaging in unauthorized fishing.<sup>170</sup> The most recent policy passed by the World Trade Organization (WTO) at the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) called for the end of harmful subsidies and had Member States commit to reduction.<sup>171</sup> The General Assembly holds annual sessions on oceans and the law of the sea, discussing issues relevant to fisheries and aquaculture.<sup>172</sup> General Assembly resolution A/RES/77/248 and General Assembly resolution A/RES/76/72 make special note of fisheries and aquaculture management, pursuant to SDG 14 (Life Below Water).<sup>173</sup>

Proper growth of the fisheries and aquaculture industry in a sustainable manner impacts progress on SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 14 (Life Below Water) because of the industry's capacity to feed people

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<sup>156</sup> Ibid.

<sup>157</sup> Ibid.

<sup>158</sup> Ibid.

<sup>159</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Oceans and the Law of the Sea (A/77/118)*. 2016. p. 3.

<sup>160</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Strategic Framework 2022-2031*. 2022.

<sup>161</sup> Ibid.

<sup>162</sup> Ibid.

<sup>163</sup> Ibid.

<sup>164</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Blue Transformation - Roadmap to 2030*. 2022.

<sup>165</sup> Ibid.

<sup>166</sup> Ibid.

<sup>167</sup> Ibid.

<sup>168</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Development Goal 14*.

<sup>169</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Agreement on Port State Measures*. 2009; United Nations Commission on Trade and Development. *Regulating Fishing Subsidies*. 2023.

<sup>170</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Agreement on Port State Measures*. 2009.

<sup>171</sup> World Trade Organization of the United Nations. *Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies*. 2022.

<sup>172</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Oceans and the Law of the Sea (A/77/248)*. 2022.

<sup>173</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Oceans and the Law of the Sea (A/76/72)*. 2021; United Nations, General Assembly. *Oceans and the Law of the Sea (A/77/248)*. 2022.

around the world, and promote ocean health through sustainable practices.<sup>174</sup> The focus of SDG 2 is to eliminate hunger and provide adequate nutrition, while promoting sustainable agriculture.<sup>175</sup> While fisheries and aquaculture are not mentioned explicitly, the indicators 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 of SDG 2, take special interest in volume produced by small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists including fishers.<sup>176</sup> Preserving the opportunities for these groups, and keeping them competitive with the wider industry is necessary to promote equitable growth.<sup>177</sup>

The Shanghai Declaration, adopted by the Global Conference on Aquaculture (GCA) in 2021, drafted as a plan for the utilization of aquaculture over the next decades.<sup>178</sup> The main outcomes of the declaration were recognizing the need for networks of information sharing regarding recent advancements, and standardization practices regarding feeding, breeding, stress management, and disease resistance among aquatic stock.<sup>179</sup> The GCA was the first time global leaders in aquaculture codified their support of using aquaculture to advance the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.<sup>180</sup>

### **Role of the International System**

The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) is a committee on fisheries issues and works with the FAO general conference and executive committee.<sup>181</sup> COFI is a leader in publishing fisheries resources, such as the 2022 Blue Transformation, and Transshipment: A closer look.<sup>182</sup> The Committee publishes *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture* (SOFIA) biennially.<sup>183</sup> The document contains major developments in the fisheries industry, such as statistics on growth or aquaculture production.<sup>184</sup> Among binding instruments, resolution COFI/2022/4 confirmed support for small scale and artisanal fisheries.<sup>185</sup> In this resolution, the committee summarized the contributions of small-scale fishers in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, such as employment, nutrition, and following existing national guidelines.<sup>186</sup> The 35th session of COFI also discussed new ways to implement the 1995 Code, and assessed loopholes that allow for fish sales derived from IUU Fishing recorded in resolution COFI/2022/5.<sup>187</sup> COFI called upon Member States to endorse the first Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment, another measure of standardizing fisheries practice and reducing malpractice.<sup>188</sup> The Fisheries and Aquaculture Division (NFI) of FAO has declared three targets based on the goals of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, sustainable fisheries, sustainable aquaculture, and sustainable trade and value chains.<sup>189</sup> These targets include minimizing environmental impacts of the industry, and increasing equity among industry participants.<sup>190</sup> Specifically, the NFI has taken interest in

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<sup>174</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022.

<sup>175</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Sustainable Development Goal 2*. n.d.

<sup>176</sup> Ibid.

<sup>177</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Committee on Fisheries. *Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture*. 2021.

<sup>178</sup> Global Conference on Aquaculture. *The Shanghai Declaration*. 2022.

<sup>179</sup> Ibid.; National Geographic. *How to farm better fish*. 2019.

<sup>180</sup> Global Conference on Aquaculture. *The Shanghai Declaration*. 2022.

<sup>181</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Committee on Fisheries 35th Session*. 2022.

<sup>182</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Blue Transformation - Roadmap to 2030*. 2022; Food and Agriculture Organization. *Transshipment, a closer look*. 2020.

<sup>183</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022.

<sup>184</sup> Ibid.

<sup>185</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Committee on Fisheries 35th Session, Supporting Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries (COFI/2022/4)*. 2022.

<sup>186</sup> Ibid.

<sup>187</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Committee on Fisheries 35th Session, Combating IUU and Overfishing (COFI/2022/5)*. 2022.

<sup>188</sup> Ibid.

<sup>189</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division. *Three Targets*.

<sup>190</sup> Ibid.

Targets 14.4 sustainable fishing, and 14.6 reduce overfishing subsidies, seeing the success of these goals as crucial because of their overall effect on the sustainability of the industry.<sup>191</sup>

The Food and Agriculture Organization works in tandem with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to ensure cooperation across territorial and international waters.<sup>192</sup> RFMOs fall broadly into two categories: those focusing on regions of the ocean and those focusing on highly migratory fish stocks (HMFS) such as tuna.<sup>193</sup> Even though these RFMOs cover almost 95% of the ocean, overfishing became a major concern at the end of the 20th century as the demand for fish outgrew the supply.<sup>194</sup> Advances in fishing technology have become very effective, so much so that fish populations have not been able to replenish as fast as they are being fished.<sup>195</sup> It is estimated that for every three fish being caught globally, only one fish is born.<sup>196</sup> This resulted in the creation of fisheries and aquaculture bodies within existing regional frameworks and unions such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the African Union (AU) to conserve and manage fisheries.<sup>197</sup> The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) has had success in reducing the amount of food imported by members of CARICOM, which has an impact against overfishing as more fish is used to feed people within CARICOM countries.<sup>198</sup> By creating supply chains that prioritize local producers and smaller scale fishers, the market incentive for IUU has decreased.<sup>199</sup> The CRFM working alongside CARICOM has coordinated the fisheries policies of its members towards sustainable development, adopting Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) in 2014.<sup>200</sup> The CCCFP affirmed the open communication between members regarding fisheries, and the commitment to harmonize fishing policies.<sup>201</sup>

Aquaculture has come to replace fisheries in some countries, such as China and Indonesia, which together account for nearly three fourths of the world's aquaculture production.<sup>202</sup> Though aquaculture has always had a rich history in East Asia, commercial marine aquaculture took off in the 1960s and has spread outward since.<sup>203</sup> Capture fisheries remained stable during the COVID-19 Pandemic, though Aquaculture grew at its projected rate and was the only food-producing sector to do so.<sup>204</sup> Both the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Chinese government have indicated the rise in aquaculture facilities is at least partially due to the decline in wild fish populations.<sup>205</sup> Much of China's aquaculture takes place inland, and makes use of natural habitats for fish, more easily made productive for aquaculture than open ocean.<sup>206</sup> China has managed to keep the sector thriving while also implementing standards that protect marine environments, but this has made it harder for small scale producers.<sup>207</sup> The Ministry of Rural Affairs and Agriculture has noted many small scale aquaculturists do not possess the resources to

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<sup>191</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division. *Three Targets*.; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Sustainable Development Goal 14.

<sup>192</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Advisory Bodies, 2000-2017*.

<sup>193</sup> Ibid.

<sup>194</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Advisory Bodies, 2000-2017

<sup>195</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022.

<sup>196</sup> Ibid.

<sup>197</sup> Caribbean Community. *The Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP)*. 2011; African Union. *African Union IX Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture*. 2014.

<sup>198</sup> Caribbean Community. *12th Conference of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism*. 2018.

<sup>199</sup> Ibid.

<sup>200</sup> Caribbean Community. *The Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP)*. 2011.

<sup>201</sup> Ibid.

<sup>202</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Aquaculture Production*. 2022; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Fisheries and Aquaculture Profile for China*.

<sup>203</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *National Aquaculture Sector Overview: China*. 2011; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Fisheries and Aquaculture Profile for China*.

<sup>204</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Aquaculture Governance in China*. 2021.

<sup>205</sup> People's Republic of China, Ministry of Rural Affairs. *14th Five-year Plan for National Fishery Development*. 2022.

<sup>206</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Aquaculture Governance in China*. 2021.

<sup>207</sup> Ibid.

implement newer technologies and techniques, and this will be a focus point going forward.<sup>208</sup> Because aquaculture resources are expensive and have high maintenance costs, providing them to smaller producers has been harder for governments and NGOs.<sup>209</sup> In the Netherlands, NGOs such as the North Sea Foundation have had more success in assisting small-scale producers because of higher fish prices in the developed world.<sup>210</sup>

### ***Combating IUU and Overfishing***

IUU fishing and overfishing remain the largest obstacle in creating a future with sustainable fisheries.<sup>211</sup> These types of malpractice are indicators of poor fisheries governance, and cause damage to both the environment and the sustainable growth of the industry.<sup>212</sup> Illegal and Unregulated fishing occurs when fishers violate fishing laws, or no laws exist to regulate fisheries.<sup>213</sup> Unreported fishing encapsulates when fishing is either not reported, underreported, or forcibly reported in contravention with the laws of a relevant country.<sup>214</sup> FAO estimated in a 2016 Study that IUU catches made up 11-19% of reported catches, translating roughly to 10 to 23 billion US dollars.<sup>215</sup> Recent studies by the Global Review of Studies have focused on creating a more concise estimation; however several problems exist, such as access to fishing data and discrepancies in reporting.<sup>216</sup> Since each RFMO reports data separately, and many sources being unreliable as to the legality of catches have been roadblocks in getting accurate statistics.<sup>217</sup> Violations of reduction policies are still very common and commercial and state sponsored fisheries routinely use loopholes to engage in IUU fishing and overfishing.<sup>218</sup> This is especially common in least developed countries (LDCs) where governments do not have the capacity or resources to engage in monitoring, control, and surveillance.<sup>219</sup>

The Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) launched alongside APSM has made the largest impact on creating better data regarding IUU and Overfishing.<sup>220</sup> The global record assigns each vessel a unique vessel indicator (UVI) to be used by national inspectors, NGOs such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), The Global Network for Energy Efficient Shipping (GMN), Mare Liberum, and the public, to keep track of suspicious catches and collect international data.<sup>221</sup> Phase 1 of the Global Record plan hopes to register all vessels with 100 or more gross tonnage, with a feasibility study in place to assess when to move to Phases 2 and 3, dealing with smaller weights respectively.<sup>222</sup> This helps reduce overfishing by monitoring vessels and assisting national authorities in enforcing their own policies.<sup>223</sup>

Currently, the size of the world's fishing fleet is just over 4.1 million vessels and that amount of fishing vessels has been declining.<sup>224</sup> Some of this reduction can be attributed to better maritime technology, as well as targeted reductions by national governments.<sup>225</sup> The size of the world's fishing fleet is a top concern for the sustainability of fisheries, as well as the ocean in general because of the environmental

<sup>208</sup> People's Republic of China, Ministry of Rural Affairs. 14th Five-year Plan for National Fishery Development. 2022.

<sup>209</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022.

<sup>210</sup> North Sea Foundation. *About Us*.

<sup>211</sup> United Nations Environment Programme. *Fisheries Subsidies*. 2020.

<sup>212</sup> Ibid.

<sup>213</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Concepts and Definitions*.

<sup>214</sup> Ibid.

<sup>215</sup> Global Review of Studies, Review of Studies Estimating IUU Fishing and the Methodologies Utilized, 2016

<sup>216</sup> Ibid.

<sup>217</sup> Ibid.

<sup>218</sup> Ibid.

<sup>219</sup> Ibid.

<sup>220</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Global Record of Fishing Vessels*.

<sup>221</sup> Ibid.

<sup>222</sup> Ibid.

<sup>223</sup> Ibid.

<sup>224</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022.

<sup>225</sup> Curtis, J. et al. *Dynamics of aquaculture governance (2010–2020)*. 2023.



and ecosystem degradation from shipping.<sup>226</sup> Fleet reduction also lowers carbon emissions, since 62% of the global fishing fleet being motorized and operating on nonrenewable fuel such as oil or natural gas.<sup>227</sup> Policies reducing the global fishing fleet support more energy efficient fishing, and reduce the chances of overfishing since there are less vessels out fishing.<sup>228</sup>

Per the SOFIA, 70% of the world's fish stocks are currently used, overused, or in crisis.<sup>229</sup> The decline of these fish stocks has negative effects on other marine wildlife and the health of the ecosystems they inhabit.<sup>230</sup> Many fish used by humans are considered to be keystone species, organisms that have a large impact on their environment and ecosystem.<sup>231</sup> The European Commission, with the EU's High Representative on Oceans and Fisheries, have released the Oceans and Fisheries Action Plan recommending that new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) be established to relieve pressure on vulnerable marine populations and support marine habitat recovery.<sup>232</sup> Many governments have existing MPAs, such as the Bowie Seamount MPA in Canada, or Apo Island MPA in the Philippines.<sup>233</sup> Currently, 5% of the world's oceans benefit from this conservation status.<sup>234</sup>

### ***Encouraging Sustainable Aquaculture***

Aquaculture is an incredibly fast-growing sector of the food producing industry, growing annually at 5.8%, more than any other major food producing sector.<sup>235</sup> The 2022 State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture has outlined that if properly supported, the amount of people aquaculture products can feed may grow by as much as 25% per capita by 2050.<sup>236</sup> In 2021 UN Nutrition recognized that the aquatic food was both accessible and affordable, and was highly nutritious, essential for physical and cognitive development.<sup>237</sup> Because the rate of aquaculture is growing and its capacity to feed many people around the globe, the Food and Agriculture Organization is especially concerned that this development take place sustainably, with minimal negative impacts to the environment.<sup>238</sup>

By 2030, the Food and Agriculture Organization predicts the aquatic food consumption per capita across the world will be 230 million tons, mostly coming from increases in aquaculture.<sup>239</sup> Though attention is usually given to ocean resources, inland aquaculture accounted for almost 55 million tons of aquatic food in 2020, compared to 34 million from the oceans.<sup>240</sup> Though inland facilities have a higher starting cost because of equipment, maintenance costs for ocean facilities are larger in the long-term.<sup>241</sup> Prices of aquatic foods are also expected to increase, with population growth and higher demand for the most nutritious stock.<sup>242</sup> The effects of increased fisheries and aquaculture on climate change are still ongoing,

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<sup>226</sup> Ibid.

<sup>227</sup> Ibid.

<sup>228</sup> Ibid.

<sup>229</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022.

<sup>230</sup> Ibid.

<sup>231</sup> World Economic Forum. *What is a keystone species and why do they matter?*. 2021.

<sup>232</sup> European Commission. *Oceans and Fisheries Marine Action Plan*. 2023.

<sup>233</sup> Government of Canada. *SGaan Kinghlas-Bowie Seamount Marine Protected Area Management Plan*. n.d; Underwater 360. *Apo Island, the road to MPA status*. 2018.

<sup>234</sup> Marine Protected Atlas. 2022.

<sup>235</sup> Global Conference on Aquaculture. *The Shanghai Declaration*. 2022.

<sup>236</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022.

<sup>237</sup> United Nations Nutrition. *The role of aquatic foods in sustainable healthy diets*. 2021

<sup>238</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Blue Transformation - Roadmap to 2030*. 2022.

<sup>239</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022.

<sup>240</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Inland Fisheries*. 2022.

<sup>241</sup> Ibid.

<sup>242</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022; United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Consumer prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs rose 10.5 percent for the year ended September*. 2022.

many scientists believe reducing the climate effects of aquaculture such as marine pollution and environmental degradation by as much as 30% is possible.<sup>243</sup>

Concerning the sustainable development in the sector is the treatment of small-scale producers, such as women and indigenous aquaculturists.<sup>244</sup> 2022 was declared the year of international year of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture by the FAO Committee on Fisheries resolution 6/2017, asserting the importance of these producers in developing more sustainable aquaculture.<sup>245</sup> In 2020, an estimated 58.5 million people were engaged as full-time, part-time, occasional, or unspecified workers in fisheries and aquaculture, and of these approximately 21% were women, according to the Organization for Economic Collaboration and Development (OECD).<sup>246</sup> Barriers of access to information, technology, and advancement within existing facilities management prevent these groups from seeing the benefits of other industry participants.<sup>247</sup> The collection and production of aquaculture sees more inequality than processing, which is the activity of preserving the fish to be ready for consumption.<sup>248</sup> This is because of weak labor laws, and wage inequality within the industry.<sup>249</sup> Solving these problems of equity is highlighted in Shanghai Declaration, affirming the need for social change within aquaculture as well as technological and political.<sup>250</sup>

### **Conclusion**

The FAO is committed to continued development of sustainable fisheries and Aquaculture.<sup>251</sup> This role may be defined broadly around its mission to achieve the objectives of the sustainable development agenda, and work within the guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization Strategic Framework.<sup>252</sup> The nature of the current situation has created what seemingly is a choice between growth of industry and potential to reduce hunger at the expense of sustainability.<sup>253</sup> With the capacity for aquatic food to feed the globe, the international community stands on a precipice to both provide solutions and commit to changing the world in sustainable ways with the correct path forward.<sup>254</sup> Following indicators to both increase global output whilst being cognizant of recovering fish stocks, ecosystem degradation, and equitable opportunity in the industry will be key in charting a course for this future.<sup>255</sup> Despite many obstacles, Member states have several tools available to help produce lasting results.<sup>256</sup>

### **Further Research**

Delegates should consider the following question as they explore this topic: In what ways can the international community support increased production whilst maintaining sustainability? How can Member States reform or reapproach the structure of the RFMO system? What other bodies might the FAO utilize in better achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda and implementing the 2022 Strategic Framework? What steps can the Food and Agriculture Organization take to better ensure access to resources and information for implementing sustainable aquaculture, especially in developing states? Considering the nature of collective agreements such as the PSMA, how can Member States coordinate

<sup>243</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA). *Aquaculture Supports a Sustainable Earth*. 2020.

<sup>244</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Committee on Fisheries 35th Session, Supporting Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries (COFI/2022/4)*. 2022.

<sup>245</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Committee on Fisheries 34th Session, Supporting Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries (COFI/2020/6)*. 2022.

<sup>246</sup> Organization for Economic Collaboration and Development. *Review of Fisheries*. 2022.

<sup>247</sup> Ibid.

<sup>248</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022.

<sup>249</sup> Ibid.

<sup>250</sup> Global Conference on Aquaculture. *The Shanghai Declaration*. 2022.

<sup>251</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Blue Transformation - Roadmap to 2030*. 2022.

<sup>252</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Strategic Framework 2022-2031*. 2022.

<sup>253</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*. 2022.

<sup>254</sup> Global Conference on Aquaculture. *The Shanghai Declaration*. 2021.

<sup>255</sup> Ibid.

<sup>256</sup> Ibid.

policy on Fisheries and Aquaculture? What can the international community do to reduce the causes and impacts of IUU fishing?

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*The Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) is the first binding international agreement to target IUU Fishing, made effective in 2016 with 55 parties participating. The document entails the domestic policies that participants to the document agree to, as well as the mechanism by which they occur. The document is an effective example of mitigating illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing activity that still considers the long-term strategy of a sustainable fishing environment. Delegates should use this as the primary resource for recent and historical cooperation in fighting IUU Fishing, and what policies have been effective.*

Food and Agriculture Organization. Report of the Thirty Fifth Session of the Committee of Fisheries (2022). Retrieved February 2023 from: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc3652en/cc3652en.pdf>

*This report of the 35th committee details some of the most recent discussion regarding SOFIA as well as recommendations made by COFI. Highlights of this report include various committees and initiatives sponsored by COFI as well as the international partners involved in creating a more sustainable fishing environment. The document outlines several policy solutions that COFI believes are integral to supporting small scale fisheries and reinforces the need for global cooperation around achieving the sustainable development Agenda and specifically the role of SDG 14 (Life Below Water). Delegates should use this resource as a starting point for researching the discussion of development of aquaculture around the globe. It also functions as a sample for what is currently being discussed by COFI.*

Food and Agriculture Organization. Strategic Framework 2022-2031 (2022). Retrieved February 2023 from: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb7099en/cb7099en.pdf>

*The Food and Agriculture Organization Strategic Framework is a plan to better achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Framework was created as a response to the mounting challenges created by COVID-19 and to streamline the implementation of new solutions. The document is guided by the four betters: better production, better nutrition, better environment, and a better life. It outlines how the Food and Agriculture Organization will pursue sustainable, equitable, and efficient food systems. This document is among the most important recent topics for understanding the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization as well as its specific plans for the future of Fisheries and Aquaculture in regards to the agenda.*

Food and Agriculture Organization. The State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022: Contributing to Food Security and Nutrition for All. FAO-SOFIA (2022). Retrieved February 2023 from: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0461en/cc0461en.pdf>

*This document by the Food and Agriculture Organization encompasses the general status and statistics of the fisheries and aquaculture industry around the world in 2022-2023. The document provides an overview of the role the international community, the private sector, regional bodies, fishing fleets, and small-scale producers have within the overarching environment of the sector. The SOFIA also contains the most up to date statistics regarding the growth of the industry, fish populations, and fleet size. Delegates will find this as an introduction to the specifics of the industry and the general problems facing fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the authoritative source on fisheries and aquaculture data.*

Global Conference on Aquaculture. The Shanghai Declaration (2021). Retrieved February 2022 from: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8517en/cb8517en.pdf>

*The Food and Agriculture Organization helped organize the conference in Shanghai with the help of China's Ministry of Rural Affairs (MARA) resulting in the Shanghai Declaration. The document examines where the aquaculture industry is heading and what industry participants see for the future. The Declaration focuses on challenges*

*within the industry and how industry leaders mean to face them over the next decade. Delegates will find this report an important guide to their solutions as it was prepared by both industry experts and policymakers, with key suggestions as to where the future of implementing Aquaculture is headed. The document provides several insights into the best ways to increase education and access to sustainable aquaculture and the technological innovations that will be at play in this growing industry.*

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