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FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION COUNCIL
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2013

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS





Message from the Executive Staff Regarding Position Papers for the 2013 NMUN•DC Conference

At the 2013 NMUN•DC Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee assignment. Delegates should be aware that their role in each committee impacts the way a position paper should be written. While most delegates will serve as representatives of Member States, some may also serve as observers or NGOs. To understand these fine differences, please refer to the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#).

Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation's policy regarding the topic areas under discussion and establish precise policies and recommendations in regard to the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State should be identified and addressed. Making recommendations for action by your committee should also be considered. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference. NGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as position papers of countries. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in material that is entirely original. NMUN/NCCA will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism. In this regard, the NMUN Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind delegates that although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the Conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents. This plagiarism policy also extends to the written work of the Secretariat contained within the Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy will be immediately reported to faculty advisors and may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incidents of plagiarism to the Secretariat.

Delegation's position papers can be awarded as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, delegations must have met the formal requirements listed below. Please refer to the sample position paper below this message for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion. All papers must be typed and formatted in the same manner as this example. The following format specifications are required for all papers:

- Length must not exceed two single-sided pages
- Margins must be set at 1 inch or 2.54 centimeters for the whole paper
- Font must be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Country/NGO name, school name, and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page
- Agenda topics must be clearly labeled in separate sections
- National symbols (headers, flags, etc.) are deemed inappropriate for NMUN position papers

To be considered for awards, position papers need to be submitted by email in .pdf or .doc formats by 1 October 2013. As proof of submission, include yourself as an email recipient. Please use the committee name, your assignment, and delegation/school name in both the email subject line and in the filename (example: GA1st_Cuba_Mars College).

1. Send one complete set of all position papers for each of your country/NGO assignments to the Secretary-General at secgen.dc@nmun.org.

2. Send a copy of your position paper for each assigned committee to the corresponding committee email address listed below. Please note, the email addresses will be active on 1 August, 2013.

Committee	Email Address (active on 1 August)
General Assembly First Committee	ga1.dc@nmun.org
General Assembly Second Committee	ga2.dc@nmun.org
International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014	icpd.dc@nmun.org
Food and Agriculture Organization Council	fao.dc@nmun.org
United Nations Environment Programme	unep.dc@nmun.org
Security Council	sc.dc@nmun.org

Once the formal requirements outlined above are met, Conference staff use the following criteria to evaluate Position Papers:

- Overall quality of writing, proper style, grammar, etc.
- Citation of relevant resolutions/documents
- General consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints
- Consistency with the constraints of the United Nations
- Analysis of issues, rather than reiteration of the Committee Background Guide
- Outline of official policy aims within the committee's mandate

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff.

Sincerely,



Kristina Getty
Secretary-General, NMUN•DC 2013



Cara Wagner
Director-General, NMUN•DC 2013

Sample Position Paper

The following position paper is designed to be a sample of the standard format that an NMUN position paper should follow. Papers may be no longer than two single-sided pages. Only the first two pages of any submissions will be considered for awards.

Delegation from
Canada

Represented by
University of Jupiter

Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary

The topics before the General Assembly Plenary are: Breaking the Link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict; the Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy; and the Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa. Canada is dedicated to collaborative multilateral approaches to ensuring protection and promotion of human security and advancement of sustainable development.

I. Breaking the Link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict

Canada endorses the Kimberley Process in promoting accountability, transparency, and effective governmental regulation of trade in rough diamonds. Canada believes the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is an essential international regulatory mechanism and encourages all Member States to contribute to market accountability by seeking membership, participation, and compliance with its mandate. Canada urges Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2007 Kimberley Process Communiqué to strengthen government oversight of rough diamond trading and manufacturing by developing domestic legal frameworks similar to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. Canada further calls upon participating states to act in accordance with the KPCS's comprehensive and credible systems of peer review to monitor the continued implementation of the Kimberley Process and ensure full transparency and self-examination of domestic diamond industries. The delegation of Canada draws attention to our domestic programs for diamond regulation including Implementing the Export and Import of Rough Diamonds Act and urges Member States to consider these programs in developing the type of domestic regulatory frameworks called for in General Assembly resolution 55/56. Canada recognizes the crucial role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the review of rough diamond control measures developed through the Kimberley Process and encourages states to include NGOs, such as Global Witness and Partnership Africa Canada, in the review processes called for in General Assembly resolution 58/290. Canada urges Member States to act in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/182 to optimize the beneficial development impact of artisanal and alluvial diamond miners by establishing a coordinating mechanism for financial and technical assistance through the Working Group of the Kimberley Process of Artisanal Alluvial Producers. Canada calls upon states and NGOs to provide basic educational material regarding diamond valuation and market prices for artisanal diggers, as recommended by the Diamond Development Initiative. Canada will continue to adhere to the 2007 Brussels Declaration on Internal Controls of Participants and is dedicated to ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective regulation of the rough diamond trade through the utilization of voluntary peer review systems and the promotion of increased measures of internal control within all diamond producing states.

II. The Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy

Canada is dedicated to integrating alternative energy sources into climate change frameworks by diversifying the energy market while improving competitiveness in a sustainable economy, as exemplified through the Canadian Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. Canada views the international commitment to the promotion of alternative sources of energy called for in the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations under Article 4 of the UNFCCC by continuing to provide development assistance through the Climate Change Development Fund and calls upon Member States to commit substantial financial and technical investment toward the transfer of sustainable energy technologies and clean energy mechanisms to developing States. Canada emphasizes the need for Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2005 Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference to strengthen domestic policy frameworks to promote clean energy

technologies. Canada views dissemination of technology information called for in the 2007 Group of Eight Declaration on Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy as a vital step in energy diversification from conventional energy generation. Canada calls upon Member States to integrate clean electricity from renewable sources into their domestic energy sector by employing investment campaigns similar to the Canadian \$1.48 billion initiative ecoENERGY for Renewable Power. Canada encourages states to develop domestic policies of energy efficiency, utilizing regulatory and financing frameworks to accelerate the deployment of clean low-emitting technologies and calls upon Member States to provide knowledge-based advisory services for expanding access to energy in order to fulfill their commitments to Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Canada urges states to address the concerns of the 2007 Human Development Report by promoting tax incentives, similar to the Capital Cost Allowances and Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses, to encourage private sector development of energy conservation and renewable energy projects. As a member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, Canada is committed to accelerating the development of renewable energy projects, information sharing mechanisms, and energy efficient systems through the voluntary carbon offset system. We are dedicated to leading international efforts toward the development and sharing of best practices on clean energy technologies and highlight our release of the Renewable Energy Technologies Screen software for public and private stakeholders developing projects in energy efficiency, cogeneration, and renewable energy. Canada believes the integration of clean energy into state-specific strategies called for in the General Assembly Second Committee's report to the General Assembly Plenary on Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/62/419/Add.9) will strengthen energy diversification, promote the use of cogeneration, and achieve a synergy between promoting alternative energy while allowing for competitiveness in a sustainable economy.

III. Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Canada views the full implementation of the treatment and prevention targets of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Especially in Africa, as essential to eradicating malaria and assisting African states to achieve Target 8 of Goal 6 of the MDGs by 2015. Canada recommends Member States to cooperate with the World Health Organization to ensure transparency in the collection of statistical information for Indicators 21 and 22 of the MDGs. Canada reaffirms the targets of the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action stressing regional cooperation in the implementation, monitoring, and management of malaria prevention and treatment initiatives in Africa. To fully implement General Assembly resolution 61/228, Canada believes developed states must balance trade and intellectual property obligations with the humanitarian objective of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. We continue to implement Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health into our compulsory licensing framework through the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act. Canada urges Member States to support compulsory licensing for essential generic medication by including anti-malarial vaccines and initiating domestic provisions to permit export-only compulsory licenses to domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers, similar to Canada's Access to Medicines Regime. Canada calls upon Member States to establish advanced market commitments on the distribution of pneumococcal vaccines to developing States in cooperation with PATH and the Malaria Vaccine Initiative. Canada emphasizes the need for greater membership in the Roll Back Malaria initiative to strengthen malaria control planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation by promoting increased investment in healthcare systems and greater incorporation of malaria control into all relevant multi-sector activities. Canada continues to implement the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) New Agenda for Action on Health to reduce malaria infection rates among marginalized populations in Africa, increase routine immunizations rates, and reduce infection rates of other neglected infections. Canada will achieve the goal of doubling aid to Africa by 2008-2009 by providing assistance to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We urge Member States to increase donations to intergovernmental organizations and NGOs that support malaria programming in Africa, exemplified by CIDA's contribution of \$26 million to the Canadian Red Cross. We continue our efforts to provide accessible and affordable vector control methods to African States through the Red Cross' Malaria Bed Net Campaign and the African Medical Research Foundation Canada by supplying insecticide-treated mosquito nets and Participatory Malaria Prevention and Treatment tool kits.

Official Welcome

The 2013 National Model United Nations Washington D.C. (NMUN•DC) Conference team and your Director, Katrena Porter, and Assistant Director, Katherine Van Marter, would like to welcome you to the Food and Agriculture Organization. Katrena graduated from the University of New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and currently attends Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Katherine graduated from Georgia State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations and a minor in Public Policy and is starting law school at Tulane University in the fall.

Everyone at NMUN•DC has worked diligently to prepare for this conference, and we hope that you will conclude the weekend at the conference with a greater appreciation for the international work being done to improve nutrition, increase agricultural productivity, raise the standard of living in rural populations, and contribute to global economic growth through the Food and Agriculture Organization.

As we know from our time on the dais, Model United Nations is a great opportunity for delegates to gain a new set of skills and expand their knowledge. We have worked hard on this background guide to include vital information on the topics before this committee. It is intended to serve as a starting point for your research and help you delve deeper into the topics. Your preparation will aid you throughout the conference and allow you to represent your Member State's policies and positions to the best of your ability.

The Food and Agriculture Organization has played a significant role in strategic planning to achieve not only its own mandate and goals, but also that of the United Nations system. During your preparation, we stress that it is vital for delegates to understand the wide range of issues falling under food and agriculture to ensure an educational and dynamic simulation during the conference.

It is our privilege to be a part of your experience at NMUN•DC, and we look forward to working with all of you and watching your work unfold.

History of the Food and Agriculture Organization Council

Established in 1945 in Quebec City, Canada, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is the "oldest permanent specialized agency" of the United Nations (UN). Specialized agencies are autonomous bodies that are formed independently or through the UN by intergovernmental agreements. Formed through an agreement made by 44 Member States at the Conference on Food and Agriculture held in the United States in 1943, the FAO serves as a prime example of a specialized agency working directly with the UN to further the well-being of the global population. The terms of this arrangement were agreed upon by the agency and the Economic and Social Council, which also facilitates the role and work of the FAO and makes recommendations to the General Assembly and Member States based on the work of this agency.

Membership to the FAO is implicit for those Member States that ratified the United Nations treaty at its founding, and new members are admitted contingent upon a two-thirds majority vote by the FAO in favor of admission. Currently, 191 Member States of the UN also participate in the FAO. These delegations meet regularly at biennial conferences held to discuss the current workings of the organization, set future goals, create a working budget and elect the 49 Council Members that will serve for three years. Further, a Director-General is elected every four years. The current Director-General, Jose Graziano da Silva, will be in office until July 21, 2015. The Director-General manages and coordinates special projects, can establish committees and working parties to handle specific tasks, and communicates with public and other UN agencies and bodies. The organization is funded by 95% voluntary contributions made by various forms of trust funds developed by the United Nations, including the Government Cooperative Programme, Unilateral Trust Fund, and UN Joint Programmes. The remainder of the organization's funding comes from assessed contributions by Member States as determined by commitments made at the biennial conferences. This means that the FAO is faced with a wide scope of international commitments to improve the role of food and agriculture in the world, but is constrained by a limited budget and selective funding.

According to the FAO mandate, the body works to "raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy." It conducts research, publishes

information, and facilitates developmental and educational projects through bilateral and multilateral efforts. It undertakes this work through seven departments: Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Economic and Social Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Forestry, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance, Natural Resources Management and Environment and Technical Cooperation. These departments employ 3,576 staff members, of which only 5% work at the headquarters in Rome, Italy. However, the full extent of the staff spans the globe, and, as stated by the FAO Director-General, a recent emphasis on “cutting bureaucracy and other costs by decentralizing and increasing field office presence” has allowed the FAO to expand its primary role as a source for information and research on agriculture, nutrition, and human food security policy. This is because the FAO’s staff is increasingly global and able to reflect such efforts to cut bureaucracy by decentralizing and increasing field office presence.

This mandate is expressed through five strategic objectives as noted on the FAO’s Web site. These objectives are: to help eliminate hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition; make agriculture more sustainable and productive; reduce rural poverty; ensure inclusive and efficient food systems; and protect livelihoods from disaster. To accomplish its goals, the FAO takes action in four areas: putting information within reach, sharing policy expertise, providing a meeting place for Member States, and bringing knowledge to the field. Examples of the important work that the body is undertaking include the “Zero Hunger Initiative,” the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the FAO’s work to build resilience against diseases that could affect food production.

Increasingly, the work of the FAO is tied to the work of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and other organizations. For example, all of the above initiatives are coordinated with the 32 bodies and funds under the UNDG to facilitate partnerships and encourage reciprocity through agencies working in similar capacities. The FAO has expanded and integrated its research and publications through partnerships within and outside of the UNDG that allow its field work and initiatives to expand further into the scientific and informational realm. Recently, the FAO has worked with the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development to mollify the burden on drought-ridden countries in Africa through scientific monitoring and fact-based forecasting. Additionally, the United Nations Environmental Programme has co-sponsored an initiative with the FAO to utilize scientific knowledge, combined with emphasis on traditional food sourcing and production, to increase the population of pollinating insects, therefore increasing crop production in needy countries in Latin America and Africa.

These projects are setting the tone for the continued work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The FAO Council held its 147th session on June 24, 2013. At this session it drew up a provisional agenda for review by the FAO Conference, examined issues pertinent for discussion at the Conference and beyond, set a recommended budget for review by the Conference, and undertook other administrative necessities for the continued success of the organization. The FAO Council will hold its next session in December 2013. As the FAO remains the pre-eminent authority on issues relating to food and agriculture in the international community, close attention will be paid to the its outcomes just as all such sessions prior have been.

I. Promoting Gender Equality in Agriculture

- Why is gender equality essential to the Food and Agriculture Organization’s achievement of agriculture and rural development?
- Where have gender mainstreaming agricultural plans been implemented and how can they be applied to other Member States with similar objectives?

The mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) includes improving agricultural efficiency and production, bettering the lives of rural populations, increasing nutrition levels, and contributing to the expansion of the global economy. Of these goals, improving agricultural efficiency is a goal that greatly depends on gender equality, a concept that can be found not only throughout the United Nations (UN) system but also in national policies and instruments such as the *Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa* and the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union*. Gender equality is present when both men and women have the opportunity to experience equal rights, including but not limited to equal employment opportunities, access to available resources, and equal recognition in decision-making. The FAO seeks to achieve gender equality in several ways: through gender analysis to study agricultural roles of different sexes, through gender balance to provide opportunities for all sexes, and through gender mainstreaming to assess agricultural efforts between all sexes.

In order to best understand gender equality as defined by the FAO, the concept and impact of gender must first be examined. Globally, gender is a concept that varies between cultures and can even evolve over time. The FAO's concept of gender assigns roles to the sexes via resources, opportunities, and other services, which are often controlled predominantly by men. For example, men often bring harvested items to market, while ascribing to women the job of providing the labor for harvesting such items. Because of the overwhelming male control of these resources, rural women often lack proper access not only to assets and services, but also opportunities and education. The failure to obtain such assets often leads to decreased nutrition for her, high rates of child and infant mortality for her children, and her lower economic productivity. These social costs also yield high economic costs, which threaten food security for all. Further, in many societies gender roles in agriculture are clearly defined and protected. Men, for instance, are frequently responsible for commercial agricultural production, irrigation of crops, as well as trading large animals or selling timber. While women often plant and harvest the crops and care for small farm animals, they often have no option to participate in the former. Because of this clear difference between gender roles maintained by both males and females, gender discrimination is often present. Gender discrimination is when a person, because of perceived gender roles, is barred from experiencing the full extent of human rights. This inequality often prevents females from receiving equal access to resources available for agricultural development. For example, girls are more frequently taken out of school to assist with the maintenance of the household and some farming.

Considering these inequalities, empowering women in particular is essential to fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), human rights agreements, and the FAO's mandate because they comprise such a large part of the population and are the specific focus of many of the MDGs and agreements. For example, according to the FAO, women make up about two-thirds of livestock keepers, while about 43% of the agricultural labor force in developing countries includes women. Unfortunately, even though women are such a large part of the population, the problem of gender discrimination still exists. In agriculture, this is apparent through women's lower wages, heavier workloads, and potential inability to hold property or land in the form of livestock upon the death of their husbands.

As a response to gender discrimination, there has been a focus on elucidating the benefits of implementing projects and policies that promote gender equality. Several benefits of this implementation, according to a report by the World Bank, include: a decrease in infant and child mortality rates, increased nutrition, and greater economic productivity and quicker growth. In further support of gender equality, the *FAO State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11 Report* explains that female farmers who have equal access to the agricultural benefits available to their male counterparts could considerably improve and increase production on their farms. In order to achieve these potential benefits of gender equality in agriculture, the FAO seeks to promote women's voices at all levels of decision-making, provide for access to opportunities and supplies, eliminate discrimination, and ensure awareness of gender in regard to agricultural plans and agendas. This concept of equality is very prominent to the work of the FAO as well as the UN as a whole. To show the FAO's firm commitment to the concept, the *FAO Policy on Gender Equality: Attaining Food Security Goals in Agriculture and Rural Development* was endorsed by the FAO's Director-General in 2012. The policy focuses on the FAO's mandate and attempts to fully integrate gender equality into the following areas: "food and nutrition security, agriculture and consumer protection, economic and social development, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, natural resource management and environment and technical cooperation, knowledge exchange, research and extension."

One way that the FAO has begun to implement these goals is through the utilization of gender analysis to study the agricultural roles of both men and women and identify their jobs, what resources are available to them, and their necessities and primacies. For example, a study in Burkina Faso showed that altering resource allocations, such as farming supplies, between women and men could increase the household's output between 10-20%. Additionally, a study in Kenya showed that women's loan repayment rates are potentially 10 times higher than their male counterparts. The benefit of gender analysis is that it prevents repeating past errors and creates more efficient projects and programs. Analysis can discover what tasks are more predominately culturally assigned to women or men, and a program or project may be created accordingly to ease the work that is more likely to be done by women, while supplementing such tasks or making them more effective. For instance, if it is discerned that harvesting crops is designated as a woman's job in a respective culture, a program that allows for digging irrigation ditches would benefit women because it would allow those women to spend less time watering the crops and more time on other

farm duties such as animal care. In order to prevent addressing the needs of women alone, potential impacts on all genders are also often taken into account when these types of tasks are being studied.

In addition to completing gender analysis, the FAO promotes gender balance both internally and through its strategic objectives to ensure equal participation by, and opportunity for all sexes. Gender balance is achieved when all sexes have equal access to both resources and decision-making at all levels. To achieve gender balance, significant action or input is needed from national and international development agencies, governments, and rural communities. This includes the placement of both men and women in positions of community decision-making groups, the employment of both men and women on the staff of projects and programs, and equal training of both men and women in new positions. For example, the FAO has improved its own gender balance by increasing female staff by 18% from 1994 to 2011. Additionally, prior examples of training, such as that related to enterprise development and farming, have focused on women to women training in order to promote women as a group.

In parallel with a focus on gender balance, the FAO has also promoted a policy of gender mainstreaming, which is distinct from gender balance. This concept is considered to be the process of studying the effects of actions planned through all levels in all places for both men and women. Gender mainstreaming has become a major part of the UN's work in general as well as the FAO's framework, which now includes areas such as policy-making and agricultural science and their relation to gender. For example, the FAO also created the *FAO Policy on Gender Equality: Attaining Food Security Goals in Agriculture and Rural Development*, which specifically focuses on five gender equality objectives, numerous gender mainstreaming standards, mechanisms for women-specific interventions, as well as mechanisms for implementation and oversight. Another way the FAO demonstrates commitment to this principle is the way it focuses on internal gender mainstreaming programs as well. For example, to integrate this concept into its own staff, the FAO has allotted resources to implement internal mainstreaming, practiced sensitizing its employees to issues of gender related to administrative work, and founded mechanisms for accountability.

Given how theoretical gender mainstreaming can appear, concrete work in Costa Rica by the FAO helps demonstrate what a gender mainstreaming project looks like and what makes such a project successful. One prime example of this work occurred in the region of Huetar Atlantica and consisted of three stages. Stage 1 was carried out similarly to the training of the FAO's own staff, including training, motivating, and sensitizing workers to gender issues. Stage 2 was implemented by encouraging grassroots groups to support gender perspectives by asking them to create ways to overcome gender bias. Particular deference was given to rural women and farmers in this regard. Stage 3 incorporated gender policies into sector guidelines through the monitoring, identification, and correction of the policies. Additional actions were also taken to increase women's access to information as well as increase their organizing capabilities to allow women an increased negotiation capacity. The approach was holistic, participatory, gender-responsive, interdisciplinary, and focused on minority population groups. Input was sought from, and given by non-governmental organizations, technicians, stakeholder groups, farmers, senior executives, and officials. The Coast Rican project serves as one example of how the FAO has successfully mainstreamed gender through the creation of agricultural policy-making. It is important to note that, currently, any Member State of the FAO may request assistance in performing its own mainstreaming of gender.

Because of efforts of the FAO through the promotion of gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and gender analysis, several Member States have begun the process of implementing programs to achieve gender equality in agriculture. They have done this because they realize the benefits of understanding the agricultural roles of different sexes, providing opportunities for all sexes, and assessing agricultural efforts between all sexes. However, many other Member States face similar gender problems that need to be addressed. In order to meet the specific goals in the *FAO Policy on Gender Equality: Attaining Food Security Goals in Agriculture and Rural Development* by 2015, 2017, and 2025, the FAO and other UN entities must continue to further develop positive ways to achieve gender equality.

II. Addressing Food Security through the Advancement of Food-Right Policies

- Why is a rights-based approach essential to the Food and Agriculture Organization's goal of successfully addressing food security?
- What roles can non-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations play in the implementation of food-right policies and capacity-development to effectively address food security?

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) report the *State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012*, an estimated 870 million people were considered undernourished between the years 2010 and 2012. That is, one in every eight people is undernourished throughout the global population. Statistics like this demonstrate why the international community agreed to Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger in 2000. In light of this goal, a recent study by the FAO notes that there has been a decline in the number of undernourished people over the past 20 years, which may lead to the quicker achievement of MDG 1. Still, significant work is needed to achieve this goal in a timely manner and one of the most promising ways to do so is through a food security approach. According to the FAO Committee on World Food Security, "[f]ood security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

The concept of food security began in the 1930s when Yugoslavia gave a report on the food position of countries at a meeting of the Health Division of the League of Nations. Since then, the idea of food security has varied from World War I to World War II with specific regards to concerns of the war food supply. In 1960, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly approved a resolution called "the provision of Food Surpluses to Food-Deficit people through the United Nations Systems," essentially forming the World Food Programme (WFP). Later, in the 1950s and 1960s, production increased and the world's food nearly doubled. Soon after, in 1974, the UN World Food Conference agreed that "within a decade nobody would suffer from food insecurity." As a result of this comment, the term "food security" was coined. Since then, in 2000, the eight MDGs were established and the target goal of 2015 was selected to "eradicate extreme poverty and hunger." As time is running short to reach the MDGs, and in the pursuit of a new post-2015 development agenda, different approaches have been suggested to achieve food security for all.

According to the FAO, development has traditionally been addressed through practical measures, such as by trying to prevent or quell civil unrest or to increase the gross domestic product of an area. Another approach often used in development, a humanitarian approach, uses donors to support hungry people without providing a basis for those people to continue feeding themselves. More recently, however, a rights-based approach to development has begun to emerge to successfully reach MDG 1 through food security. Such an approach differs from an aid-based approach in that it focuses on the importance of human rights, specifically the right to food. According to the FAO, it is particularly important because of the link between "civil and political freedom and economic growth" as a result of focusing on human rights. This means that people who are able to operate more freely in society may produce greater economic growth than those who are unable to so freely act. This approach requires that the state guarantee it will do everything in its power to secure access to food for all. One frequent misconception is that this approach means the state must feed the people within its bounds. However, the true interpretation is that the state merely need defend and honor the people's right to access food. An example of this in practice is when the state allows people access to land in order for them to grow their own food.

Several instruments have laid the foundation for general rights-based approaches to development work and, specifically, the rights-based approach to food, which is now being implemented within the FAO's work. Article 55 of the *Charter of the United Nations* calls for the promotion of "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms [...]" while Article 56 requires that all Member States take action in order to achieve the goals stated in the former Article. The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, Article 25, specifically states that "everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food [...]" Additionally, the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, Article 11, asks that States Parties present to the *Covenant* "take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of" the right to adequate food. In further support, all four Geneva Conventions and two of their Additional Protocols and the *Convention of the Rights of the Child* as well as the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* include sections that emphasize this human rights approach. As a result of these documents, the FAO was invited "to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group to develop a set of *Voluntary Guidelines* to support Member States' efforts to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security." In 2004, the *Voluntary Guidelines* were adopted by the FAO Council.

Following these *Voluntary Guidelines*, the report *Right to Food in Practice: Implementation at the National Level* was created by the FAO in 2006. This guide gives an explicit outline of a five-step plan to implement the right to food, while also stressing the importance of other human rights. Several countries, such as Brazil, South Africa,

India, Uganda, Guatemala, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, and Bolivia, are all listed within the document as prime examples of ways to practice the right to food. Part one consists of advocacy and training; for example, Brazil had over 2,000 delegates commit themselves to promoting the right to food. They later confirmed this commitment by having the President draft a letter that 266 institutions in the country signed. Secondly, part two consists of information and assessment; in this topic area, the Philippines used a briefing kit, which assisted in the collection and analysis of data for the assessment process. A third part of the implementation process is legislation and accountability, highlighted by South Africa when it included the right to adequate food in its Bill of Rights. Fourthly, strategy and coordination are an integral part of the right to food process. This was demonstrated when Mozambique used not only the Ministry of Agriculture for food strategies, but also the Ministries of Education and Health. Lastly, benchmarks and monitoring complete the implementation process. In this regard, South Africa was able to use the South African Human Rights Commission to monitor both social and economic rights. Each section provides examples that Member States from all ends of the globe can implement.

In support of this implementation plan, the supplemental *Right to Food Guidelines* includes an additional seven-step approach for execution. The FAO suggests that governments act to enforce these seven steps, while also working in correlation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other civil society organizations to create a way for people to obtain food. The FAO has also placed a particular emphasis on capacity development to properly and efficiently carry out this seven-step plan. Capacity development includes helping people and entities help themselves by assisting them in beginning the management of their affairs. Several benefits that arise from capacity development are increases in knowledge, networking, and training, as well as improvements in skills by both the individual and other entities or organizations. As a result of these benefits, other economic and social changes can be prompted to emphasize the right to food. Involvement by many individuals such as members of each branch of the government, lawyers, and other professionals involved in agriculture and food security is essential for the public to have a proper understanding of its role in promoting the right to food. Encouragement of community participation in both an active comprehension of human rights as a concept, as well as the promotion of decision-making by community members, is likewise important. Together, community and individual actions must serve as efforts to strengthen relationships and promote the creation of programs and other development plans to show society that the right to food is a fundamental part of everyday life.

While there has been a movement towards the human rights-based approach through capacity development and community participation, some issues still remain regarding the usefulness and success of this method. One criticism is that such an approach fails to denote proper ways to redress the privileges associated with human rights, including a failure to delineate clear accountabilities for both state and non-state actors. Without specifying who is responsible for which part of implementing the promotion of human rights, it is likely that the process will fail. Secondly, development practitioners question whether or not all people in one place may properly understand a rights-based approach at the same time. Specifically, there has been criticism that the approach is too theoretical and cannot have concrete ideas applied. Questions such as “why does this affect me?” among others have arisen. Another criticism is that this approach is too broad and that there is a lack of tangible standards that may be reached by countries. To address these issues, the human rights-based approach needs to be perfected in order to be properly implemented.

An additional issue is what kind of approach, human rights or other, should be taken when a divide between North and South NGOs is clear. For instance, NGOs in the area of international trade have obvious differences between their opinions: the North has been known to focus on “market access” reform, while the South has focused on the dissolution of the “end of the export-oriented model.” Further, different NGOs place their focus on power, while others focus on policy. When implementing a rights-based approach to food security, which NGOs should be chosen to assist in enforcing these plans? Why? These questions and others remain to be answered as the rights-based approach is further developed and utilized by states globally.

For now, the FAO will continue to work in conjunction with NGOs, civil society, and any individuals who wish to implement the goals of addressing food security globally. As more and more Member States continue to opt for solving food security issues, a rights-based approach may be the best solution to problems. Until a better, more succinct approach can be envisioned and carried out, this approach may serve as one of the FAO’s main pushes for addressing extreme poverty and hunger.

III. Combating Obesity and Improving Human Nutrition

- How are obesity and human nutrition linked? What combined initiatives can the United Nations and Member States utilize to curtail hunger and combat obesity while minimizing malnutrition and improving economic conditions?
- What role do tradition and culture play in promoting human nutrition? How can the Food and Agriculture Organization encourage local economies to develop agriculturally in an increasingly digital age?
- Can a stable global food supply be attained without compromising the quality and nutritional value of the food?

The international community is facing significant challenges in the discipline of global nutrition. For example, the United Nations (UN) as a whole is working diligently to meet the pending 2015 deadline for Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1, to Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger. However, at the same time, poor nutrition choices are increasing obesity and negatively impacting human health. This means that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in improving human nutrition, seeks to address populations that are underweight, experiencing stunted growth, and facing obesity. These trends are caused by many shifting global dynamics such as an increasing global population, varying levels of food security, and a shift away from a reliance on traditional and local foods to imported foods and goods. Therefore, as agricultural norms and societal traditions change to meet the demand of a growing world population, the need for Member States and the FAO to combat hunger and fight obesity to improve nutrition grows. In order to understand why these issues are so intractable, we must consider the current situations facing Member States in terms of malnutrition and obesity and the increasing relationship between the two. A focus on the work being done by the FAO, the work of the UN in general, and thoughtful evaluations of unique programs can provide the framework to move forward in solving these issues.

There have been great improvements in combating hunger since the establishment of the MDGs. However, millions still suffer malnourishment and hunger. According to the UN MDG Gateway, it is estimated that 15% of the world's people suffer from malnourishment, which is when a person is not receiving the nutrients he or she needs to survive. The World Food Programme defines malnutrition more directly associated with hunger as "a state in which the physical function of an individual is impaired to the point where he or she can no longer maintain natural bodily capacities." There are also still approximately 870 million people suffering from chronic hunger worldwide with progress in this arena becoming stagnant. This burden is placed heavily on those who are the poorest and is directly correlated to economic growth in Member States, both in developed and developing countries.

Simultaneously, Member States are facing increasing rates of obesity, another form of malnourishment. Historically associated with developed countries, obesity has commonly been ascribed to overconsumption of food and lack of exercise. However, urbanism, the increasing liberalization of markets, demographic changes, and decreases in physical activity are all leading to higher levels of obesity in developing countries. As economies transition to meet the needs of a technological world, the workforce moves from rural areas and agricultural professions to urban areas and industries that require an increasingly sedentary lifestyle. In addition, the principle of free trade is changing the way populations consume food, predominately by uprooting traditional diets in favor of often less nutritious food that can be purchased rather than grown. This introduces a new set of challenges for Member States, including increasing healthcare related expenses due to non-communicable diseases associated with obesity, such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.

As obesity becomes a larger problem for the developing world, the FAO hopes that Member States will reevaluate their focus on food policy and human nutrition, taking a preventative approach to obesity, while still combating malnutrition and hunger. According to the 2012 FAO document *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, "good nutrition is key to sustainable economic growth." The report advocates a "pro-poor" approach to addressing human nutritional dilemmas, suggesting that Member States implement "nutrition-sensitive" policies, encouraging diversified diets with increased nutritional value. Further, the FAO hopes to see Member States improve "consumer awareness regarding adequate nutrition and childcare," offer targeted assistant programs as supplements for those with acute micronutrient deficiencies, and encourage active lifestyles in youth.

The challenges of meeting the food and nutritional needs of an ever-increasing population are numerous and largely relate to food security. Member States are now faced with a multifaceted issue: they must find food for the hungry, prevent urban populations from becoming obese, and work to reduce pre-existing obesity. This phenomenon, known as a double-burden in reference to dealing with both hunger and obesity, is exceptionally apparent in Member States

with large populations and transitioning economies, such as India, China, and Brazil. Whether obesity or hunger, food security plays a major role in promoting improved human nutrition. Providing consistent, nutritious food and fostering an environment in all Member States that produces this is essential. Despite unique efforts such as TeleFood to raise money and awareness and the FAO-European Union partnership to eliminate hunger and malnutrition, food insecurity remains precarious for a large majority of the world's citizens. According to the UN, food security is built on three pillars: availability, access, and use. Many factors influence food security in Member States. The exploitation of the environment and natural events such as droughts, weak agricultural infrastructure, and human conflict resulting in displaced persons are several of the most common reasons for hunger and food instability globally.

Additionally, single crop dependency, most heavily noted in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, negatively affects food security. There is little room for the expansion of arable land, and this degradation will result in decreasing crop yields with less nutritional value without proper policies in place. Rural areas that are dependent on agriculture are likely to continue to experience negative externalities affecting their environment and ability to produce the commodity they so depend on. This means that the international community will have to address new ways to intensify crop production. This includes issues that many are divided on, such as genetically modified organisms (GMOs). GMOs have proven to be extremely controversial. While GMO's would increase the amount of food that could be produced, they do not necessarily produce the most nutrition-rich commodities. The FAO groups GMOs in the category of biotechnology and "supports a science-based evaluation system that would objectively determine the benefits and risks of each individual GMO."

Alternatively, the FAO has found that in dealing with hunger and malnutrition and combating obesity, sustainable agriculture has proven to be very effective. Sustainable agriculture is defined by the FAO as a "the management and conservation of the natural resource base, and the orientation of technological and institutional change in such a manner as to ensure the attainment and continued satisfaction of human needs for present and future generations. Such development... conserves land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, is environmentally non-degrading, technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable." The FAO is advocating investing in sustainable agriculture in varying ways to intensify crop production to sustain a growing population. According to the FAO report *Save to Grow*, increasing smallholder crop production in an environmentally sustainable way can be accomplished through the eco-system approach. The "eco-system" approach to sustainable crop production intensification and agricultural management encourages using natural processes to complement plant growth. This includes the minimization of pesticide use, efficient use of water, and improvement of soil quality. By diversifying crop production, and utilizing "well adapted, high-yielding varieties and good quality seeds" the *Save to Grow* report indicates that these techniques will increase crop production, showing a growth of 79% in 57 low-income countries.

The FAO has a strong history of working with Member States and other international organizations and UN bodies to accelerate and enhance mutual efforts. Recent efforts at encouraging sustainable agriculture are particularly demonstrative of the potential of sustainable development to improve nutrition and increase food yield to address hunger. The FAO coordinated a cooperative South-South information sharing and research initiative aimed at improving food security, inviting Chinese experts to assist in developing Nigeria's National Programme for Food Security. This information-sharing program has been so successful in developing and improving agriculture that it is moving into a second phase, which will be completed in 2015. Similarly, concentrated efforts in the Caribbean are aimed at supporting a business approach to farming and encouraging foresight in farmers. This work has changed the dynamic of agribusiness in the Caribbean, strengthening the value of products and increasing the yield of crops in these countries. In the same respect, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the initiative "Growing Greener Cities" is teaching urban dwelling citizens to produce healthy food, free of pesticides to provide for themselves and their families. Further, the FAO is encouraging the use of the nutrient-rich grain quinoa and the utilization and destigmatization of traditional food products that are rich in nutrients, such as insects and other forest products.

To mitigate hunger and prevent obesity, food security and sustainable agriculture will become increasingly important over the next years as the world population grows and the minimization of arable land leads to a change in food production. It is becoming even more essential to address these concerns with vigor as preserving the environment and sustainable development becomes vital. The work of this committee should focus on how to incorporate nutrition sensitive food policies with economic growth and development. Therefore, in working to address the issue of increasing human nutrition and decreasing obesity, the FAO should evaluate how changing

traditional norms and agricultural advances will affect the nutritional value of foods. It should be mindful of the unique challenges that Member States face as traditional norms change and agricultural technology advances, and produce solutions that address the needs of all Member States, both developed and developing.

Annotated Bibliography

History of the Food and Agricultural Organization

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *About FAO*. Retrieved April 28, 2013, from: <http://www.fao.org/about/en/>.

This is the most direct source for information regarding the FAO and its founding. This source summarizes the goals and history of the FAO. It also provides live links to current and past projects, committee discussion, and other pertinent information.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *Sahelian and West African governments avoid surprises thanks to seasonal monitoring*. Retrieved June 12, 2013, from: <http://www.fao.org/in-action/sahelian-and-west-african-governments-avoid-surprises-thanks-to-seasonal-monitoring/en/>.

This source provides in-depth analysis of the work being done in Africa to prevent crop degradation in drought-ridden countries. This is a good example of the FAO at work in the field. It further shows how the FAO interacts with other UN and international organizations. Delegates should also consult this source because the Web site links to other current and recent projects.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Media Center. (2013, April 22). *Director-General outlines reform achievements and presents new Programme of Work and Budget*. Retrieved May 19, 2013, from: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/174943/icode/>.

This news article is a primary line to the work being done currently at the FAO. It also outlines the progress made as the FAO continues to move towards a more decentralized body, increasing its field presence. This source also provides insight into the flexibility of the organization in a changing global climate.

United Nations Development Group. (2013). *About the UNDG*. Retrieved June 12, 2013, from: http://www.undg.org/content/about_the_undg.

This source provides pertinent information about the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). It includes information regarding the role of the UNDG, of which the FAO is a member, in the UN system. It further notes and links to key documents, strategic objectives, and Member States' work plans.

I. Promoting Gender Equality in Agriculture

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2011). *2010-11: The State of Food and Agriculture*. Retrieved April 27, 2013, from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e.pdf>.

This extensive 2010-11 report focuses on gender equality and how allowing women equal access to the development and agricultural production available to men could potentially reduce the hunger of 100-150 million people. An example of this is implementing technologies that focus less on labor and more on the function of rural markets. Key points of the report include facts specifically relating to women's interactions with agriculture such as: statistics showing the amount of women comprising the labor force in developing countries, productivity gains, empirical evidence explaining the productivity gap between male and females, and a possible increase in yields per proper access to resources.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *FAO Policy on Gender Equality: Attaining Food Security Goals in Agriculture and Rural Development*. Retrieved April 27, 2013, from: http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/gender/docs/FAO_FinalGender_Policy_2012.pdf.

The Policy on Gender Equality provides guidance to the FAO to achieve gender equality by specifying the FAO's goals, creating accountability, and stating responsibilities for the enforcement of the policy. It also discusses standards that must be enforced by UN entities as a requirement of the System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. These standards include setting guidelines for

accountability and for those in charge of implementing the plan. This policy works from within the FAO in order to achieve its mandate as well as meet the goals of the UN.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *Gender Mainstreaming in Agricultural Planning*. Retrieved May 20, 2013, from: <http://www.fao.org/knowledge/goodpractices/bp-gender-equity-in-rural/bp-gender-mainstreaming/en/>.

Presenting a clear example for how agricultural planning can solve gender issues, this Web site gives a specific instance in which the FAO was successful in implementing a system that incorporated a gender-based approach. This Costa Rican example exhibits the steps taken to achieve results and how those steps were broken down into local and community levels. Additionally, this source also includes a statement from the FAO of its willingness to implement a similar program in any other FAO Member Country.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *Why Gender*. Retrieved April 27, 2013, from: <http://www.fao.org/gender/gender-home/gender-why/why-gender/en/>.

Here, the FAO breaks down the definitions of many gender-related concepts which may be confusing to some: gender analysis, gender balance, gender discrimination, gender equality, gender equity, gender mainstreaming, gender relations, and gender roles. There is a focus on how these concepts are all interrelated and difficult to separate, while still encouraging the understanding of all as their own unique topic. The comprehension of all such terms is essential to the learning why the FAO places a strong emphasis on gender equality.

United Nations Population Fund. (2013). *Promoting Gender Equality: International and Regional Agreements and Conventions*. Retrieved May 20, 2013, from: <http://www.unfpa.org/gender/rights2.htm>.

On this Web site, a multitude of agreements and conventions can be found in relation to the topic of promoting gender equality. It is important to scrutinize these documents to understand that gender equality is a global effort. A perusal of the regional agreements and conventions also gives examples of ways that other countries and continents have moved to solve problems relating to gender issues and women's empowerment. The regions with specific documents include: Africa, the Arab States and Europe, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin American and the Caribbean.

II. Addressing Food Security through the Advancement of Food-Right Policies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2004). *Voluntary Guidelines*. Retrieved April 27, 2013, from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/009/y9825e/y9825e00.HTM>.

This Voluntary Guidelines document goes into even more depth than many other listed sources as it breaks down the founding of a rights-based approach and finishes with international actions and commitments to be taken. Of particular note is page 37, which discusses partnerships with NGOs/Civil Society Organizations/private sector and the promotion and protection of the right to adequate food. Overall, these guidelines are for governments that are willing to take necessary steps to cooperate with key actors and individuals to implement a rights-based approach to food.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2006). *The Right to Food in Practice: Implementation at the National Level*. Retrieved April 27, 2013, from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/ah189e/ah189e.pdf>.

Published by the FAO, this in-depth document exhibits a five-step plan for implementing the right to food. Each section is broken down into sub-sections to provide clarity for both the overlap and distinction of the steps of the plan. One benefit to this document is that it gives successful examples of implementation in particular Member States across the globe. Scrutinizing this may be useful for implementation of the right to food in practice for areas with regional or economic similarities.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *From Principles to Practice*. Retrieved April 27, 2013, from: <http://www.fao.org/righttofood/about-right-to-food/from-principles-to-practice/en/>.

Here the seven practical steps that governments should take to address right to food policies can be found in short sequence. There is a note stating that civil society and NGOs should also focus on this issue in order to properly and effectively assist in capacity development. Further, information on capacity development as a driver of change can be found near the bottom of this page for more detailed reading.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *The Right to Food*. Retrieved May 22, 2013, from: <http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsummit/english/fsheets/food.pdf>.

This flyer contains key facts and short summaries related to the right to food. A rights-based approach is summarized here, along with quotations from various declarations about the right to food. On the second page is a map, which denotes 22 countries that have in some way incorporated the right to food into their very constitutions. This document can be very helpful for a succinct overview of this topic's basic principles.

Human Rights Based Approach Development Toolkit. (2013). *Limitations of the Toolkit*. Retrieved May 22, 2013, from: http://www.hrbatoolkit.org/?page_id=627.

In this article several main criticisms (such as: too broad, lack of understanding and concrete ideas) of a rights-based approach can be found. One interesting question, however, is whether these criticisms outweigh the benefits Member States may receive from implementing this approach. The article also emphasizes that proper application lies with individuals' or organizations' capacities to understand values and attitudes.

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. (2006). *NGOs and Social Movements: A North/South Divide?* Retrieved May 22, 2013, from: [http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/%28httpAuxPages%29/4F7CC72852DD23EBC12571D1002B45AD/\\$file/Bendana.pdf](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/%28httpAuxPages%29/4F7CC72852DD23EBC12571D1002B45AD/$file/Bendana.pdf).

A very in-depth document, this article focuses on the divide between North and South NGOs. Reading this document, emphasis should be placed on understanding how different the North and South often are in opinion, which may raise problems in regard to NGO relationships involved in a rights-based approach. This document may be helpful for Member States that are skeptical of the approach discussed in Topic II because it may be able to explain why certain perspectives can be weak.

III. Combatting Obesity and Improving Human Nutrition

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2010). *FAO Statement on Biotechnology*. Retrieved June 14, 2013, from: <http://www.fao.org/biotech/fao-statement-on-biotechnology/en/>.

This is a guide to the FAO's position on biotechnology. Specifically, this article addresses the role of genetically modified organisms in food security and human nutrition. Both the positives and negatives as relating to human nutrition and agricultural technology are addressed and analyzed. There are also links on the left hand side that give more intensive information regarding these technologies.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2011). *Save and Grow*. Retrieved June 12, 2013, from: <http://www.fao.org/ag/save-and-grow/en/1/index.html>.

This is the electronic version of a book published that promotes sustainable agriculture development for increased food stability, environmental safety, and human nutrition. This is the source that most directly explains FAO research and findings on the subject of agricultural development. This entire document provides clear insight into the challenges and potential solutions for Member States and the international community concerning the subject of food security in an environment of increasing demand.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2012). *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*. Retrieved June 12, 2013, from: <http://www.fao.org/publications/sofi/en/>.

A report issued by the FAO, The State of Food Insecurity in the World, addresses malnutrition and the role of food security in preventing hunger. This report is an essential resource as one of the fundamental research publications released by the FAO each year. Food security plays a major role in nutrition and obesity and understanding the intricacies of this concept is important to combating these issues. In particular, how food is used and understood makes a salient impact on its effect on human nutrition and health.

Sassi, F., and M. Devaux. (2012). *OECD Obesity Update 2012*. Retrieved June 12, 2013, from: <http://www.oecd.org/health/49716427.pdf>.

A short document, this source is a non-FAO analysis of the obesity epidemic globally. The authors utilize statistical analysis to show increases, stabilization, and decreases in obesity by Member State. Here

readers can see trends in obesity increasing in the developing world, and the impact that it is having on other factors of their public health, economy, and society.

United Nations. (2013). *United Nations Millennium Development Goals*. Retrieved June 12, 2013, from: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/poverty.shtml>.

This Web site summarizes and provides links to detailed information regarding the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG). It provides information about progress on this MDG and challenges Member States are still facing. It also is a way to see the role of the FAO inside the UN, and explore its partnerships and other organizations that are working towards accomplishing this goal.

World Food Programme. (2013). *Fighting Hunger Worldwide*. Retrieved June 14, 2013, from: <http://www.wfp.org/hunger/causes>.

Relying on a partner organization to the FAO, this World Food Programme report explains the causes of widespread hunger and malnutrition. The issue of hunger is outlined and the different causes are divided into sections, making the analysis more accessible by specific cause. It is helpful in finding innovative solutions by providing a guided analysis of individual cause and effect situations. Further, it can be utilized to specify solutions and problems by region and Member State.

World Food Programme. (2013). *Hunger Glossary*. Retrieved June 14, 2013, from: <http://www.wfp.org/hunger/glossary>.

The World Food Programme Hunger Glossary defines words that are commonly used when discussing hunger and other food related topics. It provides UN sanctioned definitions of pertinent terms to the topics above. This resource should be utilized to minimize contradictions and confusion between similar terms. In particular, it is important to focus on terms that are used in a similar context but could mean different things in technical documents, such as malnutrition and malnourishment.