National Model United Nations
Week A

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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Documentation
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Committee Staff

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Agenda

1. Food Security: Agriculture and Trade
2. Concrete measures to promote South-South Cooperation for Development
3. Harnessing Resource Extraction for Further Development Gains

Resolutions adopted by the committee

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Summary Report

After much deliberation, delegations decided to set the agenda in the order of: Topic 3) Food Security: Agriculture and Trade; Topic 1) Concrete Measure to Promote South-South Cooperation for Development; and Topic 2) Harnessing Resources Extraction for Further Development Gains.

The Monday session began by opening debate on the topic of Food Security: Agriculture and Trade. Immediately, groups formed to discuss specific components of the issue education, technology, and micro-financing. Entering the evening session, several regionally-based groups began drafting working papers. Before the day’s final suspension, one group presented a working paper specifically geared toward sustaining agriculture through the practice of organic farming.

Fourteen working papers were developed on the second day of conference. Many of them emphasized the significance of organic farming, advanced infrastructure, and education as a means to attain food security as well as devising strategic methods to combat the matter of food waste. Several groups that shared concerns on the same sub-topics merged and prepared working papers for each sub-topic. During the last session of the day, two groups combined to focus on the sub-topic of small-scale farming while another three groups joined to concentrate on financing. By the day’s end, two new working papers had emerged from the collaborative efforts of delegates.

During the seventh session, groups merged together and eight working papers were formally introduced as draft report segments. Delegates also voted on a motion to close the speaker’s list, and this motion passed. Towards the end of the seventh session, one draft report segment was approved by the dais and five friendly amendments were proposed.

Throughout the eighth session, the body saw a total of eleven draft on the floor for discussion. Delegations acknowledged that little time remained in the committee session. Therefore, delegates passed the motion to close debate, moving committee into voting bloc.

Voting bloc had one Roll Call vote on report segment 1/1 which failed to pass. The following draft report segments were successfully passed to be included into the report: 1/3, 1/5, 1/7, 1/8, 1/9, 1/10 and 1/11. All report segments were combined to form the UNCTAD Report on Food Security: Agriculture and Trade.
I. Introduction

A. PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES

1. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development encourages the establishment of a link between resource sovereignty and the promotion of development. Referencing the 1962 Declaration on Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resource and acknowledging Article 17 paragraph 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UNCTAD stresses that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

2. Natural resources and their utilization are essential to form strong and reliable national economies. They provide employment opportunities, a strong export sector and in the case of agricultural commodities, decreased dependency on external actors. Natural resource endowment can thus serve as the backbone of economic and social growth and development. However, at least as important as their extraction is the manner within which they are extracted. Non-sustainable practices, particularly in the agricultural sector, can lead to short-term improvements and long-term detriments. Further, a high abundancy of resources has been linked to increased corruption, a higher risk of civil war and can serve as a destabilizing factor of nations, thus safeguards, preventing asymmetric economic development are necessary. Additionally, without sound, long-term strategies, economic and social development can be stunted. Sectoral economic strength has been linked to changes in currency rates that negatively impact other sectors.

B. CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND GREEN DEVELOPMENT

3. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development acknowledges the potentially detrimental effects of climate change on the procurement of both local and global food security, while also emphasizing the specific situation of Small Island States and applauding their efforts taken through the Barbados Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation decided upon in 2005. UNCTAD applauds the effort and their cooperation within the inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development and is committed to continued support to the Small Island States.

4. As population is on the rise, food production will have to increase by 70 percent by 2050 to meet rising demand, this Conference bears in mind the potential of Climate Smart Agriculture as formulated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), promoted by the Partnership for Climate Smart Agriculture and further outlined during the Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (AFC) in procuring food security in times of desertification, deforestation,
drought and increased natural disasters as consequences of climate change. UNCTAD also supports the work of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) as stated in A/RES/53/242 and encourages it to continue their environmental assessment research in order to enhance inter-agency coordination in the field of environment in the context of agriculture as to promote future food security. We recognize the importance of training, education and technology-sharing in order to increase overall production efficiency and secure a more inclusive global growth. UNCTAD fully supports on this matter the work done by the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) especially the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

5. UNCTAD has previously worked and continues to address green development, pioneering ways to create frameworks that will promote sustainability on a long-term basis, such as the “Cobra Project” which attempts to improve seed quality and breeding activities. Currently, the Marine Stewardship Council encourages continuing efforts in addressing the ongoing problem of overfished seas and its implications for food security. This creates economic potential in the global community and should be explored further. As stated under the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security (2009), Green Development is a cornerstone in order to foster food security as it guarantees that agricultural procedures also take into consideration domestic concerns. Bearing in mind the affect climate change has on food security and developing nations, this body supports the work done by member states, private investor and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) in the establishment of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF). Acknowledged and highlighted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, these funds—known as the Strategic Technology Fund (CTF) and Strategic Climate Fund (SCF). Also, UNCTAD’s ideals align with those of The Doha Round of Negotiations (DOHA) to integrate farmers into local, regional, and international markets in the context of the Doha Mandate, placing emphasis on Least Developed Countries. By focusing on both domestic concerns paired with the integration of economies on an international level, nations would be able to promote sustainable economies and development through empowerment.

6. UNCTAD has previously supported research into the usage of GMOs with a specific focus on expanding research into the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). This body continues to recognize the need for LDCs to increase internal capacity to combat malnutrition and to expand agricultural production. Not all Member states support the use of GMOs, and this body recognizes the risks posed by their continuing use while acknowledging their prevalence in the global south.

II. Mandate

1. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was created in 1964 by the General Assembly. General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) specified that the Conference should promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic development. In exercising this function, the Conference was tasked to formulate principles and policies on international trade and related problems of economic
development, and to make proposals for putting the said principles and policies into effect, with a special regard to differences in economic systems and stages of development. In addition, the resolution called for UNCTAD to generally review and facilitate the co-ordination of activities of other institutions within the UN System in the field of international trade and related problems of economic development, and in this regard, to co-operate with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with respect to the performance of their responsibilities for co-ordination under the Charter of the United Nations. The Conference was further tasked to initiate action, where appropriate, in cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations for the negotiation and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with due regard to the adequacy of existing organs of negotiation and to be available as a centre for harmonizing the trade and related development policies of Governments and regional economic groupings in pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter.

2. UNCTAD continually adapts its mandate to reflect current global economic conditions. The Thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIII), held in 2012 in Doha, Qatar, called for UNCTAD to continue to play its role in the evolution of a stronger global consensus on issues falling within its mandate, to contribute to discussions within the United Nations system on green economy and other models in the context of sustainable development and resilience to climate change, to continue research and analysis on the prospects of, and impact on, developing countries in matters of trade and development, in light of the global economic and financial crisis, to continue to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective and to continue taking into consideration particularly the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) across all areas of its mandate in accordance with the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as address the special concerns and needs of Africa, including as articulated in the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. The Doha Mandate equally called for further consideration of the special trade, investment and development needs of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), including through continuing its support for effective implementation of the Almaty Ministerial Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries Within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, and its review in 2014. The Doha Mandate also called for UNCTAD to implement and follow up, as appropriate, relevant outcomes from global conferences and summits on development.

III. Conclusions and Recommendations

A. NATURAL RESOURCES AND FOOD SECURITY

1. Recognizing the New International Economic Order, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1974 under A/RES/S-6/3201, the UNCTAD recommends that the international community, through the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, must be entitled to oversee the activities of multinational corporations operating within a Member State's domestic territory. Naturally, in order for this goal to be
accomplished, incentives must be created to ensure developed nations do not ignore the recommendations made by the UNCTAD. In order to ensure that more developed countries yield a positive return on investment, the annual rates least developed countries (LDCs) receive for loans must be structured so LDCs do not default on their payments. The UNCTAD believes foreign direct investment (FDI) improves sovereign debt management, as multinational corporations seek to invest in infrastructure within foreign Member States, resulting in less restricting and distortive trade barriers. The global economy will increase substantially, resulting in a higher level of sustainable development for food security.

2. Aware of the dangers of asymmetric economic development, UNCTAD suggests the creation of international benchmarks concerning the extractive resource sector. Multilateral agreements such as the National Resource Charter can serve as inspiration and guidelines for substantive structural reform of the resource sector of developing countries.

3. To enable smooth transitions into sustainability and disseminate highly efficient farming techniques, the Conference recommends the creation of a database of best practices to facilitate bi- and multilateral cooperation.

4. The Conference further emphasizes the dangers of non-transparent resource policies and highlights the immense economic benefits transparency and public fiscal management initiatives have on national and international trade. Inspiration should be drawn from the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the current projects in place between Australia, New Zealand and the Small Pacific Island Nations, such as Mauritius, Micronesia and the Solomon Islands.

B. CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, GREEN DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

1. UNCTAD advises cooperation between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on organic farming and green development strategies for training, education and technology sharing and sees the Network of Centers of Excellence as an essential element in order to achieve constructive collaboration and procure future food security. In this way nations could employ emissaries to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) predicated on technology sharing and teaching organic farming techniques. UNCTAD applauds the fruitful collaboration with NEPAD and their CAADP and suggests other nations to implement similar South South cooperation initiatives in the context of organic farming, green technology transfers and education pertaining to new sustainable innovations and agricultural practices such as the Global Green Growth Initiative (GGGI), sustainable and effective harvesting methods and counteracting desertification and deforestation.

2. The Member States of UNCTAD advise the General Assembly to thoroughly discuss the relation between agriculture and climate change, particularly on:
a. The promotion of sustainable farming techniques while climate and soil conditions are taken into consideration.

b. The enhancement crop diversification through the usage of natural seed banks in order to coordinate further seed and information exchange with developing nations in projects such as the Tigray Community Seed Bank Project, Ethiopia.

c. The reduction of the dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides in order to decrease environmental derogation and health risks.

   i. A reduction in the use of toxic chemicals in food production will result in a less polluted water supply. Thus, we propose the endorsement of UN Water in order to promote fresh water sanitation and mechanisms to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the use of worldwide water supplies.

   ii. Decreased chemical fertilizer usage will lead to an increased independence of small scale farmers from multinational agricultural companies.

   iii. These recommendations also alleviate further soil erosion in susceptible areas.

e. Support for the efforts of the Marine Stewardship Council, as this body encourages continuing efforts in addressing the ongoing problem of overfished seas and its implications for food security and economic potential in the global community.

   i. Promote awareness of sustainable fishing given the fragile nature of this vital resource as the majority of African, South American and South East Asian nations and especially the Small Island States depend on fish as a primary protein source.

f. The UNCTAD suggests that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council:

   i. Dispersing funds for participatory adoption

   ii. Financing climate resilient infrastructure in developing nations

   iii. Funding climate related projects and programs for specific, strategic support in developing nations, where funds are supported by grants, highly concessional loans, and risk management instruments.

g. Support the development of research and technologies for climate resilient and sustainable agriculture in LDCs, such as the Agricultural Meteorology Programme and its efforts to support food and agricultural production, while encouraging the use of early warning systems.

3. The Conference advises FAO to remain working on a comprehensive framework for Climate Smart Agriculture because of the potential it has in enabling nations to
sustainably increase their food production in the face of increased uncertainty due to climate change. UNCTAD believes the expansion and mainstreaming of Climate Smart Agriculture into policy support initiatives will buttress the sustainable and green development of agriculture and decrease the vulnerabilities of developing economies and commends FAO and the Partnership for Climate Smart Agriculture to deepen and broaden their work on the topic.

4. We encourage further research in the risks and appeal posed by the use GMOs. Realizing an urgent need to prevent the potential harm posed by GMOs in their current state of use, UNCTAD support the creation of knowledge-based institutions aimed at advising LDCs on the uses, risks, and any perceived advantages of GMOs. One exceptional body that has expanded the research on GMOs is the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). This organization has spearheaded much of the current scholarship and development of genetically modified seeds in the context of food security in Africa. We encourage nations to look into NEPAD, as well as the development of new knowledge-based institutions.
I. Introduction

A. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

1. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recognizes that sustainable agriculture is at the cornerstone of food security, making it the most necessary focus in addressing problems of malnutrition and hunger. Thus, it is vital for Member States to focus on organic, sustainable agriculture as an economically pressing issue, as a country cannot develop without a healthy population. By encompassing organic agriculture through strengthening of existing structures, promoting education on sustainability in relation to food security, informing and aiding small-scale farmers, and securing water supply in the poorest nations, UNCTAD can successfully tackle food security in relation to severe hunger. Additionally, the Organic Agriculture and Food Security in Africa Report (2008) and Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in Least Developed Countries Report (2011) by UNCTAD recognize organic farming as the most sustainable solution to addressing food security.

2. As a foundation for success in addressing food security, the UK’s Organic Farming (OFS) provides payments to help farmers with additional costs that occur during the conversion period to organic production. UNCTAD highlights the importance of supporting bodies of UN in encouraging Member States to take into consideration programs like the OFS, which will protect and enhance the rural environment and help producers meet consumer demand for organic produce.

3. UNCTAD acknowledges the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, which is a secure seed bank located off the coast of Norway. This seed vault holds 1,400 different types of seeds. The purpose of this vault is to insure against the loss of seeds during natural disasters. In addition, the vault’s location is ideal as the environment keeps the vault at -18 degrees Celsius. This seed vault is an attempt to insure against the loss of seed and plant life throughout the world. This is a voluntary resource available to countries that decide to participate to help support emergency relief to countries experiencing hardships and/or natural disasters.

4. Absent and inadequate education on organic farming and overall sustainability pose challenges such as a lack of human capital and are detrimental to the implementation of organic practices, as pointed out by the OAFS.

5. This body also emphasizes the 32 Best Practices for Organic Farming, which aims to promote trade in organic agriculture commodities. Through identifying best practices in the developing and developed countries, it seeks to aid governments interested in organic farming through addressing the governmental policies within the state. The practices seek protection of natural resources and improvement of soil, which in turn improves health in the developing countries. The initiative recognizes the potential of organic agriculture to alleviate poverty in developing
states, as they are dependent on agriculture. This report was conducted by UNCTAD in order to aid developing nations in transitioning to organic farming within their country.

6. UNCTAD supports the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) established in 2009 by the G20. This program addresses the underfunding of country and regional agriculture and food security strategic investment plans already being developed by countries in consultation with donors and other stakeholders at the country-level. This makes aid contributions toward the achievement of MDG 1 to cut hunger and poverty by half before 2015 more practical.

7. This body recognizes the Namibian School Food Program, which has evolved into one of the largest food safety net programs in Africa, feeding over 250,000 vulnerable students.

8. Likewise, the Clinical Class in Rwanda ensures food to children who are malnourished and acts as a leading body within country to feed future generations.

9. Furthermore, UNCTAD recognizes the Asian-German Better Rice Initiative, which provides machines to work the agriculture land to get better rice for children in schools and rural populations. This deals specifically with small-scale farmers and future farming generations on the local level, making sure the rural population is healthy and able to succeed.

10. UNCTAD is deeply concerned about the existence of fallow, arable farmland which offers opportunities to both the local population as well as to the world community regarding the cultivation of products, the eradication of hunger worldwide by way of counteracting against price volatility of international food markets and treating the needs of local civilians as a top priority.

11. Recognizing the Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which reduces the use of chemical pesticides and reaches a more efficient and sustainable agriculture environment for small-scale farmers to succeed.

12. UNCTAD realizes that it is pressing for governments to address food security on a domestic level with the help of the international community.

13. As emphasized by the OFS, this body must “encourage and assist farmers to convert to organic farming in order to enhance the rural environment.”

14. UN-Water is a mechanism of the United Nations, endorsed in 2003 for the follow-up process of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. Its purpose is to support states in their water-related efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals. UN-Water strengthens coordination and coherence among UN agencies that work on all aspects of freshwater and sanitation. This includes surface and groundwater resources, the interface between freshwater and seawater and water-related disasters. UN-Water aims at improving the cooperation between relevant governing bodies and development organizations. It is responsible for the annual World Water Day as well as for the UN Water decade.”

15. UNCTAD recognizes the initiatives of the EU Water Framework Directive as well as the
UN Watercourses Convention as a successful way to promote organic agriculture that endorses sanitary water and collaboration with water sources throughout the world. The UN Water Organization is a facet of the UN that supports the success of these programs.

II. Mandate

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III. Conclusions and Recommendations

A. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

4. UNCTAD is convinced that food security can only be effectively addressed in long-term, sustainable initiatives that focus specifically on organic agriculture through small-scale farming, as this is the cornerstone for addressing food security and consequences that arise from it.

5. This body recommends strengthening existing structures to enhance governance and cooperation, in order for leaders to address the specific concerns of their country.

6. UNCTAD recommends long-term solutions to food security through three outlining solutions: increasing awareness of the need for organic agriculture, informing and aiding small-scale farmers and poor communities, providing education on organic and sustainable agriculture to farmers, and ensuring a secure water supply. These three goals can be achieved through programs such as the UK’s Organic Farming Scheme and the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in cases of extreme need for food and aid, in order to make aware the benefits of using organic farming methods. This body recommends the UNDP to promote these programs. These solutions are best in the focus on small-scale farmers and poor communities.

7. UNCTAD advises relevant UN bodies to develop efficient and competent intraregional programs, ranging from grass root institutions to water utilities at the operational level where technical cooperation offers consulting and advisory services on complex change processes.

8. This body recommends the World Bank and IMF, who have existing financing programs to support water security and invest in economic and social infrastructure and to efficiently promote financial systems, agriculture, and resource conservation.

9. UNCTAD recommends UN-Water to cooperate with local authorities and governments to exercise their functions in the field of water management, water supply, water waste and refuses disposal services, contributing in the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goal 8: “Develop a global partnership for development.” In efforts to accomplish this goal, the UN released the UN Watercourses Convention with the objective to supplement, facilitate, and sustain trans-boundary water cooperation at all levels. In collaboration with the UN, the EU introduced the EU Water Framework This directive focuses on the importance of water security. In addition, the UN Water Organization focuses on all facets of water security in the global community.

10. This body supports the Global Organic Research Network (IGORN), which was announced in June 2012 as a platform for increased discussion and communication between all Member States. UNCTAD recommends speeding up the process of this program through implementing it in 2015, rather than the planned date of 2020.
a. This body promotes the awareness and usage of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault voluntarily. Each country has the ability to use this form of seed storage in conjunction with Norway to be able to store and preserve the world seed population.

11. UNCTAD encourages a specific focus on addressing the needs of small-scale farmers and poor communities, which are most vulnerable in the realm of food security.

a. UNCTAD suggests maintaining investments for rural development through ensuring the world economy is stable and small farmers have equal market access by mitigating price volatility and barriers to market entry. This international involvement of stable investments can be done through existing public foreign investments to support organic farming technology and techniques, and reducing rural poverty. This provides incentives and solutions to the private sector to address their problems more domestically and fairly rather than receiving unnecessary amounts and poor quality of aid from other nations. Ultimately, small scale farmers will have the incentive and support to specialize in organic farming techniques.

b. Furthermore, this body encourages supporting bodies of the UN to promote transparency in disbursements of funds provided for aid, as seen in the UK’s International Aid Transparency Initiative and the international Agreement on Agriculture. As stated in the Agreement on Agriculture, this body realizes the need to fully liberalize trade in agriculture products in order for countries to specialize and deal with economic issues on a domestic level.


a. To increase education in organic farming for rural farmers in developing regions, this body suggests that ECOSOC encourage Member States to support existing programs enhancing crop diversification. Through state collaborations with international bodies such as the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), rural farmers will be able to increase crop production through organic agricultural practices which will diversify commodity-based regional trade and increase soil longevity.

b. UNCTAD realizes that Member States within the South do not have adequate funding in place to establish educational systems on organic agriculture. Thus, this body encourages international organizations and supporting NGOs to become involved in established initiatives that specifically deal with education in order to overcome food security. Examples of such programs are The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program established by the G20 and the L’Aquila Food Initiative, which consists of EU donors such as the European Council, France, Germany, and the UK.

13. Highlighting the important role of the World Food Program (WFP) to work closely with Member States and distribute emergency food reserves primarily through government channels,
but also expressing the importance of the private sector and NGOs. Involving these initiatives will aid in the issue of malnutrition, which is a detrimental roadblock to organic agriculture.

a. Encourages the close cooperation between the WFP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in order to predict natural disasters and prepare for food shortages more effectively.

b. Suggests that the WFP promote the further improvement of school feeding programs, such as the Clinical Class in Rwanda, Namibian School Food Program, and the Asian-German Better Rice Initiative as a model in order to nourish future generations.

b-c. In addition, this body further urges the combination of these programs with initiatives for iodized salt, which serves to reduce the effect of malnutrition, as well as the distribution of vitamins among the population.

14. Suggests that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) further develops existing programs to work on grass root levels and provides technical support according to each state’s specific needs.

a. Encourages that the FAO supports closer cooperation on a local, national, and regional basis.

15. UNCTAD encourages the provision of emergency seeds, farming materials, and the necessary training to assist farmers in need.

16. UNCTAD encourages concentration on ensuring accessible water for agricultural use in order to combat malnutrition. International support for these issues is necessary for ensuring proper collaboration in efforts to relieve the survival stresses of developing countries.

a. UNCTAD urges other international bodies to study the ideas of the UN Watercourses Convention to promote cooperation on transboundary issues to promote fair access to water. This will ensure the security of water and equally allocate resources to small-scale farmers who want to shift to organic agriculture.

b. This body recommends the study of the EU Water Framework Directive that works in conjunction with Water for Life and Peace, a facet of the UN Watercourses Convention, to implement a strong security program for water specifically.

17. Furthermore, UNCTAD recommends the UNDP to encourage frameworks concerning foreign fallow farmland acquisition. Thus, UNCTAD wishes that this system be implemented within existing UN organizations. An example of this would be collaborating with the FAO.

18. UNCTAD highlights the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to encourage the use of natural pest control mechanisms to reduce the overall use of chemical pesticides.
a. Integrated pest management (IPM) is a broad based approach that integrates a range of practices for economic control of pests. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN defines IPM as "the careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and the environment. IPM allows for a safer means of controlling pests. IPM emphasizes the growth of a healthy crop with the least possible disruption to agro-ecosystems and encourages natural pest control mechanisms."

19. In like manner, UNCTAD encourages fund such as the Kuwait Fund for Arab Development (KFAED), which assist developing countries in their economies providing loans to finance development projects. The Fund's operations are focused primarily on the sectors of agriculture and irrigation.
I. Introduction

A. DESERTIFICATION

1. The changing agricultural conditions hamper access to food and harm agricultural productivity in many areas across the globe. Desertification, threatens the livelihood of nearly two billion people around the world, thus diminishes the amount of arable land and erodes the basis of agricultural production. In this regard UNCTAD lauds the previous Qatari-led initiative to establish the Global Dry Land Alliance (GDLA), which as a forum and a network fosters the transfer of knowledge projects.

B. BIODIVERSITY

2. UNCTAD acknowledges the potential advantage of agrochemicals, but stresses the importance of agro-ecological food production in order to protect biodiversity and fragile food ecosystems. Research from the World Health Organization demonstrates that nearly 40% of pesticides are absorbed in Western countries. In addition, pesticide and fertilizer use is expensive and ineffective; in the long-term run both types of chemicals destroy soil quality. In this regard, it is necessary to lower dependency on pesticides and fertilizers and instead to promote experimentation and research on organic culture of food production. UNCTAD thus appreciates proven practices of international bodies on organic agriculture such as: the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM), the Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and the Organic Research Centres Alliance (ORCA).

C. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

3. Bearing in mind the problem of the loss of arable land, UNCTAD praises the transfer of knowledge through initiatives that emphasize assisting developing countries to adapt to natural challenges. Accordingly, UNCTAD highlights the benefits of South-South Cooperation and triangulation, and its counterpart of North-South cooperation.

D. WATER

4. UNCTAD strongly emphasizes the integral role of water security in all Member States in improving agriculture and maintaining food security in states; the lack of water can devastate a nation in every aspect, as water scarcity highly affects the availability of food. The United Nations believes that it is critical for industrial, local, and small farming industries to have continued access to water. It is estimated that by 2050, over 40% of the world water resources will be under severe stress. UNCTAD advises Member Nations to
take actions necessary to alleviate the situation. The United Nations understands that alleviating issues of water scarcity will require highly innovative measures and techniques, as well as a global effort to promote conservation. In this regard UNCTAD welcomes research projects, similar to the Climate Proofing Rice Production Systems Based on Nuclear Applications project implemented in Asian Pacific regions, that enhance water resource management in agrarian development by identifying replenishing aquifers for continuous farming practices, which is a vital component in enhancing sustainable agricultural development.

II. Mandate

5. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was created in 1964 by the General Assembly. General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) specified that the Conference should promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic development. In exercising this function, the Conference was tasked to formulate principles and policies on international trade and related problems of economic development, and to make proposals for putting the said principles and policies into effect, with a special regard to differences in economic systems and stages of development. In addition, the resolution called for UNCTAD to generally review and facilitate the co-ordination of activities of other institutions within the UN System in the field of international trade and related problems of economic development, and in this regard, to co-operate with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with respect to the performance of their responsibilities for co-ordination under the Charter of the United Nations. The Conference was further tasked to initiate action, where appropriate, in cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations for the negotiation and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with due regard to the adequacy of existing organs of negotiation and to be available as a centre for harmonizing the trade and related development policies of Governments and regional economic groupings in pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter.

6. UNCTAD continually adapts its mandate to reflect current global economic conditions. The Thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIII), held in 2012 in Doha, Qatar, called for UNCTAD to continue to play its role in the evolution of a stronger global consensus on issues falling within its mandate, to contribute to discussions within the United Nations system on green economy and other models in the context of sustainable development and resilience to change in agricultural conditions, to continue research and analysis on the prospects of, and impact on, developing countries in matters of trade and development, in light of the global economic and financial crisis, to continue to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective and to continue taking into consideration particularly the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) across all areas of its mandate in accordance with the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as address the special concerns and needs of Africa, including as articulated in the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. The Doha Mandate equally called for further consideration of the special trade, investment and development needs of
landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), including through continuing its support for effective implementation of the Almaty Ministerial Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries Within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, and its review in 2014. The Doha Mandate also called for UNCTAD to implement and follow up, as appropriate, relevant outcomes from global conferences and summits on development.

III. Conclusions and Recommendations

A. DESERTIFICATION

7. Bearing in mind increasing desertification and the need of proper food production in arid areas, UNCTAD recommends establishing the Global Dry Land Alliance (GDLA) as a forum for governments in arid areas and a research exchange network that additionally promotes partnerships with other states, regional and international organizations.

   a. The GDLA shall remain in close contact with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), fostering common pilot projects which aim to adapt to desertification through sustainable agricultural production in states most in need. The International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Global Environment Facility would fund these pilot projects.

   b. The GDLA, in cooperation with other organizations, shall provide for comprehensive initiatives and coordinated reactions to food crises by assisting food import-dependent dry-land countries to tackle trade imbalances by working towards stable, independent national economies.

B. BIODIVERSITY

8. UNCTAD recommends the Economic and Social Council to consider a resolution which shall encourage developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to reduce dependency and reliance on pesticides and fertilizers, to below the international standard of 225 kg per hectare, as suggested by UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Olivier de Schutter in 2011, and promotes the work of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which encourages the use of natural pest control mechanisms in order to reduce the overall use of chemical pesticides, in pursuit of achieving agro-ecological farming by:

   a. Continuing with crop monoculture, while simultaneously, dedicating experimental arable land in order to shift towards a more diversified, pest-resistant crop plantation system;

   b. Employing evidence-based agricultural techniques from CGIAR in agricultural development centres, such as:
i. push-pull technique, which consists of using cheap plants to attract and repel pests from food and cash crops;

ii. crop rotation, which involves changing crops on the same plot of land every plantation cycle to assist in renewing soil quality;

iii. nitrogen-fixing plant selection, which involves leguminous plants to regenerate soil nutrients.

c. Drawing on biomasses, rather than crops, as bio-fuel, and as an alternative sustainable energy source. This is to be achieved by promoting and increasing agricultural demonstration centres, which serve as information and training hubs for local communities of small farmers.

C. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

9. Recognizes South-South Cooperation, in tandem with North-South Cooperation, as a tool of choice for developing countries to tackle the issue of food insecurity.

a. In this regard UNCTAD recommends the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to revise and modernize the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU/SSC) mandate.

i. Accordingly, UNCTAD considers proposals of streamlining the work of the several UN agencies and affiliated organizations on South-South Cooperation. UNCTAD recommends that the President of the Bureau of the High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation and the Director of the SU/SSC deliver a report, including a catalogue of concrete recommendations on how to streamline South-South Cooperation institutionally. This catalogue will serve as the first step towards a standard evaluation process of multilateral cooperation projects.

b. Furthermore, UNCTAD recommends appointing a Special Representative for South-South Cooperation and Triangulation to facilitate coherence and synergy effects between UN bodies and international organizations, as well as preventing friction costs.

i. UNCTAD advises that the Special Representative shall attend the meetings of the World Trade Organization’s Director-General’s Advisory Group on Aid for Trade, UNCTAD’s Trade and Development Board, the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, as well as co-chair the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation (HLC).

ii. Moreover, the Special Representative shall stay in close contact with the Director of SU/SSC.
c. UNCTAD applauds initiatives such as the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) highlighting the benefit of a shared community cooperating in all possible areas, including food security. Together, CPLP members have instituted the Food and Nutritional Security Strategy, which was highly lauded by the FAO. The same model could apply to other language blocs, as common language and possibly similar cultures could assist and increase the cooperation among countries in these blocs. UNCTAD welcomes the sharing of CPLP’s Food and Nutritional Security Strategy to other food-insecure countries should states find the said strategy beneficial.

d. UNCTAD underlines the idea of encouraging the implementation of scholarship programs, internship programs, and bilateral agreements, with university student exchange programs for agricultural and food science students. UNCTAD encourages the United Nations Universities (UNU) to offer a greater curriculum of food science and food management in collaboration with the UNU Institute of Water, Environment and Health in order to create a global network among youth interested in agriculture.

D. WATER

10. UNCTAD strongly emphasizes the importance of ensuring water for consumption and agricultural purposes in both developed and developing countries through consistent and increased cooperation on both the regional and international levels. Therefore UNCTAD recommends the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC) and the FAO to consider common initiatives that enhance water management capabilities by:

a. Providing of education and training of officials in water allocation, provision, and distribution of clean water to promote efficiency which shall be achieved through;

i. technology and information sharing, specifically in water conservation and organic farming;

ii. New methods such as re-allocating water to higher-value uses, and the Drip Irrigation method as implemented by Israel, among others.

iii. Applying isotope hydrology within water management initiative for food security efforts modeled after the Climate Proofing Rice Production Systems Based on Nuclear Applications project implemented in Asian Pacific regions.
I. INTRODUCTION

ECONOMICS

1. The United Nations Committee on Trade and Development sees the crucial importance of family and smallholder farms to global agricultural development as there are half a billion-smallholder farms tilling 80% of the farmlands in Africa and Asia. UNCTAD applauds A/RES/66/222, which established 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming emphasizing the importance of family and smallholder farms.

2. As the focal point for trade and development in the UN system, UNCTAD is extremely concerned about the impacts of food insecurity on States’ inherent sovereignty, economic development, and the livelihoods of their people. There are many dimensions to this scourge. Beyond indigenous factors such as resource scarcity, low productivity, and poor management, the conference seeks to stress the impact of exogenous price volatility and market uncertainty. These circumstances often disproportionately affect developing nations.

3. UNCTAD believes in the crucial part of Regional Development Banks (RDBs) are in food security. The role of regional development banks in assisting LDC is of paramount importance, especially in times of financial and fiscal crisis. Such banks continue to provide funds and other financial supports while private banks are discouraged due to their economic interests. RDBs are banks established with the purpose of providing investment capital for developing business, industrial sector, and agricultural sector in a particular region. An important aspect of the RDBs is that they are majority owned by regional Member States. This means that countries in the region have great influence on how the bank’s money would best be spent for the overall benefit of people in the regions. Infrastructure development is the basis for agricultural production, food transportation and storage. Additional financial investments are paramount and should be funded through UN programs aimed at developing technology and farming techniques.

ORGANIZATIONAL

4. Noting that arable land is a vital resource that must be preserved, cultivated, and revitalized, UNCTAD will intensify its efforts to promote more sustainable agricultural practices, techniques, and technology. It is essential to enhance global cooperation on this matter, and continue building upon current movements towards more green and sustainable land use practices.

GLOBAL FOOD LOSS

5. UNCTAD recognizes the important work of the Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Development Programme, Organization of American States in regards to Food loss and
food waste and reducing the 1.3 billion tons of yearly food loss. Preventing food loss globally would result in lower food prices; maximize the local markets products, and decreased hunger each year.

EMERGENCY FOOD CRISIS RESPONSE

6. It is generally acknowledged that the fundamental reasons underlying food emergencies are natural disasters, suspension of normal supply lines due to economic, political, or military reasons and increases in the price of imported food to a degree that makes food accessibility economically impossible.

7. UNCTAD is aware of the regional specificities and the diverging regional needs when it comes to food security. In case of emergency and natural disasters, there have been great positive strides in terms of cooperation and collaboration. Exemplary regional emergency food programs include ASEAN + 3’s stockpiling of rice in order to alleviate regional starvation, and the African Regional Emergency Reserve program. Many regions lack support, due to political or economically reasons, the emergency reserve funds.

II. MANDATE

8. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was created in 1964 by the General Assembly. General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) specified that UNCTAD should promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic development. In exercising this function, UNCTAD was tasked to formulate principles and policies on international trade and related problems of economic development, and to make proposals for putting the said principles and policies into effect, with a special regard to differences in economic systems and stages of development. In addition, the resolution called for UNCTAD to generally review and facilitate the co-ordination of activities of other institutions within the UN System in the field of international trade and related problems of economic development, and in this regard, to co-operate with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with respect to the performance of their responsibilities for co-ordination under the Charter of the United Nations. The Conference was further tasked to initiate action, where appropriate, in cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations for the negotiation and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with due regard to the adequacy of existing organs of negotiation and to be available as a centre for harmonizing the trade and related development policies of s and regional economic groupings in pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter.

9. UNCTAD continually adapts its mandate to reflect current global economic conditions. The Thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIII), held in 2012 in Doha, Qatar, called for UNCTAD to continue to play its role in the evolution of a stronger global consensus on issues falling within its mandate, to contribute to discussions within the United Nations system on green economy and other models in the context of sustainable development and resilience to climate change, to continue research and analysis on the prospects of, and impact on, developing countries in matters of trade and development, in light of the global economic and financial crisis, to continue to monitor and assess the evolution
of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective and to continue
taking into consideration particularly the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) across all
areas of its mandate in accordance with the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as address the
special concerns and needs of Africa, including as articulated in the New Partnership for Africa’s
Development. The Doha Mandate equally called for further consideration of the special trade,
investment and development needs of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), including
through continuing its support for effective implementation of the Almaty Ministerial
Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked
Developing Countries Within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for
Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, and its review in 2014. The Doha Mandate also
called for UNCTAD to implement and follow up, as appropriate, relevant outcomes from global
conferences and summits on development.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ECONOMICS

10. Member States invite foreign investment, however, rather than encouraging free trade alone,
developing countries would gain greater benefits from encouraging bilateral agreements where
respective countries can access goods for considerably lower tariffs. The agreements can bring
bilateral negotiations that will bring stable imports/exports, increase revenue for the state and
allow further development of the infrastructure. The agreements will simultaneously establish
protections for small farmers from price volatility and inflation in markets because there will be
stable movement of goods between the respective Member States.

11. UNCTAD stresses the importance of the development banks such as the Asian Development
Bank, African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, and encourages such banks to
implement their skills in order to provide technical financial assistance during the lifecycle of the
infrastructure building project and small-hold farming modernizations.

   a. The development banks will be able to create a positive relationship with governments,
      NGOs and companies, which will provide comprehensive infrastructure to developing
      Member States, in order to obtain more agricultural logistical advantages.

   b. Furthermore, the development banks will be able to focus on smallholding farmers
      more by extending them loans in order to modernize their farming equipment in an
      sustainable manner.

12. UNCTAD encourages the creation of a World Farming Conference on Green and Sustainable
Agriculture. This conference would provide a forum for members of the farming industry, as
well as all members of the international farming community, to discuss existing programs, with
the goal of improving green and sustainable practices. This forum would include education and
training programs focused on the impact of unsustainable land use practices. These issues could
range from: the effects of agrochemicals on water and air quality, declining crop yields, and the
erosion of ecosystems. This conference could serve as a remedy to many global agricultural
UNCTAD recalls conventions such as Group 77’s (G77) format and organization in collaborating to address global issues.

**ORGANIZATIONAL**

13. UNCTAD applauds the ability of the regional food reserve funds to mitigate and alleviate world hunger during times of crisis such as ASEAN +3 and the African Regional Emergency Reserve Fund. There is a need to encourage the implementation of an emergency strategy for regions, Member States and the international community.

**GLOBAL FOOD LOSS**

14. UNCTAD recognizes the importance of regional cooperation in ensuring food security and access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food.

15. UNCTAD supports more FAO consumer studies being conducted in LCDs and developing states.

16. UNCTAD suggests Member States to promote communication and cooperation between farmers. Providing adequate information and enhancing cooperation among farmers could reduce risk of overproduction by allowing surplus crops from one farm to solve a shortage of crops on another in order to reduce the waste in the beginning of the production process.

17. For the most vulnerable population, the priority is to have access to food products that are nutritious, safe and affordable. Thus, improving the efficiency of the food supply chain could help to bring down the cost of food to the consumer and thus increase access. Given the magnitude of food losses, making profitable investments in reducing losses could be one way of reducing the cost of food.

**EMERGENCY FOOD CRISIS RESPONSE**

18. UNCTAD advise the strengthening of the Central Emergency Response Fund and creation of a subunit, under the supervision of the FAO, beneath this fund to set the focus on food security to serve starving population in times of humanitarian crisis. It would also allow Member States to more efficiently weather external shocks to food prices, but more significantly it would promote transparency and direct multilateral efforts among state and non-state actors in the event of another global food crisis.

19. The Fund would be established under the auspices of the UN and the FAO and would operate by supplementing existing regional food reserve emergency funds such as ASEAN +3 and encourage the purchasing of national surpluses from agricultural producers as a hedge against potential future price swings. At the same time, release reserves into the market if shortages exist in the hopes of eliminating major rises in price and ensuring access to basic agricultural goods for the world’s most needy, in addition the security of a stable price system will foster a greater foundation for worldwide economic development.
20. The Fund and the FAO may also seek to coordinate with other relevant organizations of the international community, such as the UNDP, Oxfam, and World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the Agricultural Market Information System to more accurately predict the conditions leading to shortages, gluts, or other production factors. The information will allow respective Member States and small farmers to plan accordingly. This will additionally aid in timely and appropriate mobilization of resources and humanitarian packages in the case of forecast natural disasters or drastic food insecurity.

21. UNCTAD stresses all countries to further their contribution to emergency food aid to the World Food Programme and advocates commitments such as the Food Aid Convention, guaranteeing concrete amounts of food aid during crises.

22. UNCTAD recommends the creation of Regional Emergency Disaster Relief Plans pursuant to the immediate needs in food security. We suggest collaboration between regional experts, WHO and WFP. Key areas that need to be addressed are emergency refrigeration and storage plan.
I. Introduction

A. MARKET STRATEGIES

1. Regarding trade initiatives, UNCTAD supports exploring how tariffs and subsidies are implemented in ways that best supports a diverse range of nations. During the World Summit on Food Security in 2011, an agreement was created among Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) participant nations. In order to remove food export restrictions or extraordinary taxes for food purchased for noncommercial humanitarian purposes. The World Bank is a major contributor to the development of nations, and it is important to ensure the investments are productive and effective. Many developing nations feel that subsidies serve to hinder food production in order to achieve market stability. At a time when 25,000 people are dying every day from starvation or hunger related afflictions, putting limits on the food supply is detrimental to the advancements of the international community.

B. WOMEN AND AGRICULTURE

2. A 2010 report “The State of Food and Agriculture” from FAO shows that women in Sub-Saharan African, South Eastern Asian, and Latin American countries contribute up to 50-60% of agricultural labor. However, 1.1 billion of these women lack access to the productive resources in agriculture, which has resulted in female farmers achieving yields of 20-30% less than male farmers. In turn this severely limits the overall yields for consumption of men, women, and children in these countries and across the world. An FAO study in Indonesia showed that over one quarter of the most desperately poor households were headed by women farmers. Various factors contributing to these gender-based asymmetries include: illiteracy, access to technological advances and establishing credit, as well as land ownership. UNCTAD recognizes another factor contributing to the gender disparity in agriculture which is the burden of maintenance of the household which falls mainly on the shoulders of women in many developing countries. An effect of the burden of household work is the limits on the ability of women to pursue work in other industries (such as agriculture) in addition to the fact that they are also not compensated for the work they do in the traditional household, which leaves them financially
depleted. This conference gives several recommendations on how to address these constraints on women. Aware that the agricultural sector is often-times hardest hit by natural disasters and conflicts, it is of particular importance to include possible initiatives educating women in these areas, to facilitate a more rapid and smoother economic recovery and security of food supply.

D. DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE

3. Taking into consideration the UNCTAD 2011 report on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), during this session the conference aims to tackle food security through cooperation and fostering technological collaboration using research and development. There are currently existing FAO structures which are working to achieve this, such as the International System for Agricultural Science and Technology (AGRIS) or Technologies and Practices for Small Agricultural Producers (TECA), both of which are internet databases which support information sharing. Additionally, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) currently has partnerships with universities, such as with the University of Nigeria, which has the purpose of conducting research on topics of special interest to the international community. Furthermore, as suggested within the 2010 UNCTAD Technology and Innovation Report, providing developing and developed states with efficient and effective technologies in sustainable agriculture is imperative in increasing food safety. This includes research into nonradioactive nuclear measures. The world’s population growth calls for the need of higher output of agricultural products. This can mainly be achieved through agricultural research aimed on improving the efficiency of agricultural productivity. Previous partnerships on research, such as the African Food Security Initiative brought agricultural scientists together to work on higher yielding seeds. The Seeds Of Life program (SOL), initiated by Australia and the International Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD) is the first bilateral cooperation program that focuses on increasing food crops productivity in order to improve food security.

4. Partnership among Member States is needed in order to achieve food security. There are several interregional projects such as the “German Initiative for Agribusiness and Food Security in Emerging and Developing Economies” (GIAF), which focuses on the promotion and improvement between the German private sector and the public sector of developing countries in order to increase sustainability through agricultural production and food sector in emerging and developing countries; and the ”Asian German Better Rice Initiative” (AGBRI), which goal is to improve the rice production, distribution and nutrition in rice-consuming countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam (the main Southeast Asian rice-producing and consuming countries) should be implemented and expanded to other regions and other countries around the world including African nations.

5. Recognizing the context of globalization, regional integration is imperative for the inclusive development in Africa. The 1980 Lagos Plan of Action has envisaged the African Economic Community (AEC), which categorized the African continent into five main regional areas: North, West, South, East, and Central Africa. The AEC is an organization of the African Union (AU) states establishing grounds for mutual development. Yet the present configuration of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) does not tally with the AEC regions, and many studies have
outlined the problems of multiple and overlapping memberships in RECs throughout Africa, undermining the benefits of total integration. We recognize the 2008 communique of October 22 agreement calling for immediate steps to form one large African Economic Community (AEC), and believes that concrete agreements need further attention, also including other RECs to extend regional cooperation in fast-tracking agricultural innovation.

II. Mandate

6. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was created in 1964 by the General Assembly. General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) specified that the Conference should promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic development. In exercising this function, the Conference was tasked to formulate principles and policies on international trade and related problems of economic development, and to make proposals for putting the said principles and policies into effect, with a special regard to differences in economic systems and stages of development. In addition, the resolution called for UNCTAD to generally review and facilitate the co-ordination of activities of other institutions within the UN System in the field of international trade and related problems of economic development, and in this regard, to co-operate with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with respect to the performance of their responsibilities for co-ordination under the Charter of the United Nations. The Conference was further tasked to initiate action, where appropriate, in cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations for the negotiation and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with due regard to the adequacy of existing organs of negotiation and to be available as a centre for harmonizing the trade and related development policies of Governments and regional economic groupings in pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter.

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III. Conclusions and Recommendations

B. MARKET STRATEGIES

8. National subsidies are often a valuable tool in promoting market stability. UNCTAD suggests the General Assembly (GA) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) that a strong focus should be placed upon subsidy alternatives for the purpose of stabilizing the agricultural market.

   a. Such alternatives would include the implementation of a program in which LDC’s could create contracts to purchase food at set prices for a given time period. For example, an LDC can negotiate with one of their import countries to have a fixed import price for a set amount of time regardless of market conditions. This way, the LDCs will be protected from harmful price influxes and the market would be supplied by the increase of food created due to better price controls.

9. Creating trade partnerships are crucial to ensuring equal food distribution. UNCTAD recommends the unification, expansion, and revision of existing trade programs.

   a. Include more agricultural products into the General System of Preferences (GSP) trade list which is a World Trade Organization (WTO) based system. This system protects LDC’s from tariffs, while at the same time maintaining equal tariffs for more developed countries. Such an inclusion would allow more flexibility to LDC’s in choosing which agricultural resources to develop. In addition, new agricultural market sectors would be opened to these LDC’s allowing more revenue to flow into their countries.

   b. UNCTAD recommends the WTO to carefully monitor the trade in food between states to prevent further occurrences of trade restrictions which increase the price volatility and make trade unpredictable and less transparent.

   c. UNCTAD recommends that the GA and the ECOSOC embrace the policies illustrated in the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) which serves to assist and support African LDC’s in not only the Agricultural Trade Market, but other commodity markets as well.

   d. Follow the example set forth by the European Union through the implementation of the Everything but Arms Act, which assists LDC’s by allowing them immunity from tariffs and quota restrictions. We recommend that all countries adopt this policy.

   e. Furthermore, it is encouraged that UN organs such as the ECOSOC acknowledge the importance of fair trade as well as the transparency of aid by partaking in initiatives such as the United Kingdom’s International Aid Transparency Initiative to help development in ways that promote the most efficient and sustainable use of aid provided by many developed countries.

   f. UNCTAD acknowledges and highlights the job done by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, these funds—known as the Strategic Technology Fund...
(CTF) and Strategic Climate Fund (SCF), and suggests that these programs be used to support afflicted nations by:

i. Dispersing funds for participatory adoption

ii. Financing climate resilient infrastructure

iii. Funding climate related projects and specific programs, where funds are supported by grants, highly concessional loans, and risk management instruments.

g. UNCTAD also recognizes the need for close monitoring of regional climate conditions in agricultural dominant states, and supports the development of research and technologies for climate resilient and sustainable agriculture in LDCs, such as the "Agricultural Meteorology Programme" and its efforts to support food and agricultural production.

C. WOMEN AND AGRICULTURE

10. Women and agriculture are often overlooked in the world of reform. UNCTAD believes that the cooperation between the two is crucial for the development and continuation of food security. UNCTAD recommends a 5 step process to ensure the stability of women and agriculture for future conferences to come.

a. To help solve illiteracy among the female demographic, UNCTAD recommends the ECOSOC to create a programme which works closely with NGO’s such as “Education without Borders” to create educational centers for girls in countries most affected by gender inequality in agriculture. The access to primary education for young girls will prove essential in allowing upward mobility and putting young women in a position to achieve higher levels of wage earning in agriculture and other industries.

b. To address the lack of access to new technology, UNCTAD recommends the ECOSOC setting up a programme in collaboration with an NGO such as MADRE which works with rural female farmers to educate them on effective farming techniques, and provide access to market information and new agricultural technology. An increase in female employment at higher skilled labor position as opposed to the low-skilled position under which they are often employed will occur as an effect of such training and information sharing.

c. Lack of land ownership of women is a large hindrance to gender equality and further output of female farmers. Taken from the UNCTAD Report on LDC’s in May 2011, a recommendation was made to increase female land ownership to facilitate growth in production from female farmers. This conference suggests a solution working with organizations like CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women) and the ILC (International Land Coalition) to promote discussion of women’s role in land ownership and advocacy of gender equality in nations of unfavorable gender climates. In addition, UNCTAD encourages working in unison with UN Women to implement
and raise public awareness of country-specific pilot programs aimed at increasing participation of women in local farm associations and cooperatives. In programs such as these women are introduced to the decision making process alongside men, and positive financial and production results are immediately seen.

d. Lack of access to lines of credit, a natural effect of the inability to hold land, can be established primarily through fixing the problem of land ownership addressed above, and also through establishment of female agricultural unions which can receive financing and credit lines jointly. Additionally, to facilitate financial growth among female subsistence farmers, UNCTAD suggests a similar project to the *Competitive Local Innovations of Small Scale Agriculture* (CLISSA) implemented in Seychelles. A major component of this project involves improving access to agricultural and rural finance through the provision of credit for the financing of agricultural, fisheries and rural micro enterprises.

e. To alleviate the household burdens that women face, UNCTAD recommends a similar initiative to the one established in Bangladesh in 2002 by a nonprofit group, Building Resources Across Communities. It provided women with poultry (easier to raise than pigs, cows, goats and sheep), subsidized legal and health services, and distributed a temporary daily stipend to hold over extremely poor women who were working so as to allow for the women to focus on farming. Ensuring that children are -being enrolled in schools, as mentioned in the first recommendation, will also allow for women to focus more on agriculture and less on the task of caring for the children.

f. To meet the challenges post-conflict and post-disaster areas pose, UNCTAD recommends extending measures on agricultural education into efforts of stabilizing these societies. In collusion with UNESCO, the WHO and the Interagency Network for Emergency Education, a comprehensive program strengthening women's role in agriculture in post-conflict and post-disaster areas would be suggested. This serves to facilitate a quicker economic recovery of the agricultural sector.

**D. TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERCHANGE**

11. Agricultural technology provides an important means to increase production, thus addressing one significant aspect of food insecurity. The benefits of improved agricultural technology need to be spread through regional, triangular, and South-South cooperation, as was advocated for in GA Resolution A/RES/64/222, such as by improved coordination systems and improved data collection. As agricultural technology moves into areas and states suffering from food insecurity, the increased production can alleviate suffering.

12. UNCTAD encourages further cooperation with the FAO in order to enhance research, development, and collection of agricultural technologies, techniques, and practices.
a. UNCTAD recommends using existing FAO programs, such as the Internet platforms, AGRIS and TECA, as a means to increase the flow of information in rural areas. Regional expert groups should be established in order to analyze the information from AGRIS and TECA. The experts would go into rural areas to train members of local communities on how to make efficient use of the Internet resources. In addition, the recommendation focuses on strengthening research and information sharing networks involved in technology transfers and biotechnological improvements, such as the “Seeds of Life” (SOL) program in Timor-Leste that help sustain rural communities during natural disasters.

b. Cooperation of the FAO with universities for the purpose of creating a method to tangibly measure the need of access to technology by each member country and a research and development network devoted to reducing hunger. The universities will be responsible for research in agricultural technology and green development as has already been demonstrated by the successful model in Nigeria with the pairing of UNESCO and the University of Nigeria Nsukka, creating the International Institute of Biotechnology. Such cooperation should be mirrored where possible in the effort against food insecurity.

c. Use existing structures which includes universities and other educational organizations to help develop and provide impartial advice to developing countries. This can be funded by additional investments from Member States that are able to contribute, direct foreign investments, private investments, and company investments. The beneficiaries would receive a multitude of optional supports depending on each country’s domestic need like job creation, and a more educated market.

d. Furthermore, the UNCTAD calls upon the GA and the ECOSOC in improving the strength of research and information sharing networks involved in technology transfers and biotechnological improvements, such as the “Seeds of Life” (SOL) program in Timor-Leste that help sustain rural communities, during natural disasters.

13. Nuclear technologies are an effective tool in enhancing sustainable agriculture to eliminate food insecurity. Utilizing nuclear technologies under the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization-International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Programme will effectively provide a solution that ensure food safety, as addressed in the 5 Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, and will enhance efficient agricultural practices within the international community. UNCTAD recommends the body addressing specific aspects when taking nuclear technology into consideration:

a. Efficiently identifying soil composition will allow Member States to utilize biotechnologies to increase agricultural output for further crop growth, as seen in the Using Fallout Radionuclides and Stable Isotope Techniques to Assess Soil Quality and Dust Production for Enhanced Agricultural Land Productivity project applied in Iraq. Identifying soil composition will enable IAEA research analysts to collaborate alongside programs such as the EU Eco-innovation Action Plan, governments in
14. This forum suggests utilizing microorganisms to biologically fix nitrogen into the ground, as it provides one of the only natural alternatives to chemically based fertilizers. This process will incorporate microorganisms to biologically fix nitrogen within the crop rotation method, which increases amount of nitrogen in ground necessary for crop growth. Applying this process within arable land development projects, such as the Assessing and Improving the Assimilability of Natural Phosphates Composted with Organic Matter in Marginal Soils through the Use of Isotope and Nuclear Techniques for Improved Crop Nutrition applied in the Democratic Republic of Congo, will assist Member States in striving to improve their land usage for farming techniques that enhance food security and safety.

15. UNCTAD promotes the strengthening of the already existing programs which focus on the needs of LDCs, such as the German Initiative for Agribusiness and Food Security in Emerging and Developing Countries and the Asian-German Better Rice Initiative.

16. Through the revitalization of the African Economic Community (AEC) under the African Union (AU). Through the combination of the Common Market for East and Southern African States (COMESA), East Africa Community (EAC), and South African Development Community (SADC) into one large African Tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA), regional coordination can be better directed to fulfill continental concerns such as climate change and market integration, in the midst of overlapping communities and regional blocs.

a. Recommends regional agricultural research centers located in COMESA, EAC, and SADC spread agricultural, weather, and market information through workshops, conferences, and initiatives in one African Economic Community Forum.

b. Advises the harmonization of basic standards and regulations be considered through the AEC, in efforts to increase market incentives for smallholder farmers, supply affordable to consumers, and ease the flow of trade for export-orientated economies.

c. Encourages that COMESA, EAC, and SADC coordinate productive capacities and infrastructure developments based on regional comparative advantage in projects linking transportation, production, and communication systems, connecting isolated, rural communities and landlocked regions.
I. Introduction

A. FOOD SECURITY: AGRICULTURE AND TRADE

1. Maintaining the tenants of national and cultural sovereignty, and promoting a bottom-up approach to education and development solutions, this conference recommends the trans-regional coordination of established institutions for agricultural education, technology sharing, and development.

2. The UNCTAD acknowledges the efforts undertaken by various programs on the issue of technology and information exchange. Exemplary programs include the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS) and other regional coordination groups for proliferating technology and information exchange for development. These programs oversee efforts which are vital to a coordinated approach on food security.

3. Other sources of data which can be valuable regarding coordination issues in the fight for food security include Organizations like the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to enhance a global data base to coordinate emergency relief plans in preparation of natural disasters.

4. The UNCTAD is linking the UNOSSC approach, which includes the SS- Academy, SS- Expo and the SS-Gate with regional initiatives of the UN, mainly funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The South- South- Cooperation (SSC) program concentrates on knowledge exchange and complements other approaches from the UN like the Millennium Acceleration Framework (MAF) and private or public initiatives, including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) like the DAD, AGRIS, TECA and AMP databases to enable individual countries to access data from programs worldwide. The access to such data has not been effective in promoting cooperation between local actors or in transferring lessons learned from previous experiences in the areas of agricultural practices and methods.

5. For funding purposes the Conference acknowledges the work of the World Bank and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) among others to ensure continuous funding for development programs.

6. The UNCTAD also promotes the Conference on Science and Technologies (COSTIS), which promotes technology sharing and transfers within the SSC framework as well as Triangular Cooperation. The combination of such conferences and the generated data on the regional level creates pillars for information exchange and agricultural education. Taking into consideration the fact that education is a very important aspect of food security, UNCTAD has created several
effective measures in the past which includes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Scaling up Nutritional Movement.

7. There has been a bold attempt by United Nations bodies to establish a communication infrastructure connecting even the most rural areas and ensuring access to implement and spread the best practices and methods promoting sustainable policies. Highlighting the importance of rural access points in which UNCTAD welcomes the work of the United Nations Information Centres (UNIC) worldwide. Other initiatives include Communal Multimedia Centers (CMC), funded by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) or the European Commission funded Euro-Solar Programme in Central America.

8. The Members of the Conference furthermore recall the already existing United Nations network, established with the help of the ECOSOC and Programs like the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) A/RES/55/2, specifically the MAF and its data collection and analysis mechanisms, which have created huge amounts of data on the issue of poverty and food security specifically. Furthermore, trade and other cooperation groups, which combine regional interests by promoting training and information on a local basis.

9. UNCTAD knows the importance of diversified production in order to achieve a healthier lifestyle. A good example of this initiative is the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement which encourages national leaders to prioritize efforts to address malnutrition. This movement promotes the fortification of food, micronutrients supplementation, and treatment of severe malnutrition.

10. Considering that only 8% of the people affected by hunger are victims of food emergencies, structural and long term thinking are needed. That is exactly what education, not only to children and student but also to agricultural workers, is providing. The Enhanced food security and improved education are two interlinked and crucial concepts. Due to small famers’ knowledge becoming enlarged, productivity and thus local offer will increase. By doing so, stunting will be reduced, enabling Least Developed Countries and developing countries to thrive thanks to more healthier, smarter and productive citizens.

11. The Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN Movement), and the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) further mentioned are participating to give the right training and knowledge to those who most need it. The Sun movement, created in 2009 attempts to achieve long term reduction in under-nutrition, with a special focus on maternal and child nutrition. The IPM, by implementing not only pest methods control but also monitoring and prevention, try to avoid unacceptable levels of pest damage.

12. As UNCTAD cannot improve education only through good principles and ideas, the funds enabling the recommendations to be implemented should be found in Official Development Aid (ODA), UN Fund for South-South Cooperation, and financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

II. Mandate
13. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was created in 1964 by the General Assembly. General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) specified that the Conference should promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic development. In exercising this function, the Conference was tasked to formulate principles and policies on international trade and related problems of economic development, and to make proposals for putting the said principles and policies into effect, with a special regard to differences in economic systems and stages of development. In addition, the resolution called for UNCTAD to generally review and facilitate the co-ordination of activities of other institutions within the UN System in the field of international trade and related problems of economic development, and in this regard, to co-operate with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with respect to the performance of their responsibilities for co-ordination under the Charter of the United Nations. The Conference was further tasked to initiate action, where appropriate, in cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations for the negotiation and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with due regard to the adequacy of existing organs of negotiation and to be available as a centre for harmonizing the trade and related development policies of Governments and regional economic groupings in pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter.

14. UNCTAD continually adapts its mandate to reflect current global economic conditions. The Thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIII), held in 2012 in Doha, Qatar, called for UNCTAD to continue to play its role in the evolution of a stronger global consensus on issues falling within its mandate, to contribute to discussions within the United Nations system on green economy and other models in the context of sustainable development and resilience to climate change, to continue research and analysis on the prospects of, and impact on, developing countries in matters of trade and development, in light of the global economic and financial crisis, to continue to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective and to continue taking into consideration particularly the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) across all areas of its mandate in accordance with the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as address the special concerns and needs of Africa, including as articulated in the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. The Doha Mandate equally called for further consideration of the special trade, investment and development needs of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), including through continuing its support for effective implementation of the Almaty Ministerial Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries Within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, and its review in 2014. The Doha Mandate also called for UNCTAD to implement and follow up, as appropriate, relevant outcomes from global conferences and summits on development.

III. Conclusions and Recommendations

A. INFORMATION EXCHANGE, KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND INTERNATIONAL DATABASES
15. The UNCTAD strongly recommends to the UNDP the expansion of the SS-Gate mandate, which should be utilized more efficiently and effectively for the purpose of creating trans-regional means for technology and information exchange by coordinating the regional efforts of nongovernmental and governmental organizations related to agricultural development, education and technology sharing, such as the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS).

a. The used and gathered data needs to be understood on an intermediate level, which will be the main task of the SS-Gate initiative to be accomplished by 2020. The outcome should be visible through a final report which summarizes and evaluates the usability of a single platform and a streamlined approach to a complex topic. By the end of the program the countries which have been the most vulnerable to food security will show a decrease in risks towards social and economic instability by being able to combat price volatility within their own means.

16. The UNCTAD encourages the work the United Nations Information Centres (UNIC) worldwide and recommends the program to work together with regional programs on information sharing, run by governments and NGOs for the creation of a uniform, general consensus and understanding of information flow.

a. The approach should strengthen regional groups concerning farmer education and general education to ensure that data which is gathered and communicated is understood and useable to the areas in which it makes the most impacts and progressions.

17. UNCTAD recommends the UNDP to enhance the mutual cooperation between governments of developing countries by creating training centers and specific courses for the farmers.

a. The courses should mainly focus on enhancing farmers’ knowledge of the decision-making process, pesticide use, nutrition facts, and community agenda setting.

b. The funding for this program would come from the UN Fund for South-South Cooperation, the regional financial institutions, and Official Development Aid.

18. The Conference jointly recommends that SS-Gate adapts a diversification employment policy, which includes experts in statistics, data evaluation and socioeconomic analysis. The experts should be provided by the respective local and international bodies concerned with food security, technology and knowledge transfers. The effective number of experts should be proportional to the respective regional populations to guarantee the most accurate evaluation and representation.

19. The UNCTAD encourages further cooperation through respective international bodies in regards to sharing best practices and farming techniques that focus on sustainability and green development in order to provide access to education about the best use of land and property to farmers, on the basis of the collected data of SS-Gate.

B. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

20. This conference suggests further multi and bilateral programs initiated by the IFAD and developing governments in order to create further Seed of Life programs (SOL), which combine
maize storage facilities with higher yielding maize seeds, helping family farms in seasons of distress. According to this the pioneering work of an already existing SOL program in Timor-Leste could serve as a blueprint in increasing food security and productivity.  

21. UNCTAD emphasizes the importance of collaboration between FAO and regional research institutions in discovering ecological sustainable techniques to enhance agricultural production that are more adaptable to climate change in efforts to combat the resurgence of food crises. The conference proposes to the General Assembly the creation of an international Fund for the Advancement of Agro-technology Research and Management (FAARM) within the FAO.

a. The FAARM organization would provide grants to universities, NGOs and other research organizations in order to research, share and implement new technologies regarding agricultural including but not limited to irrigation techniques, agricultural and food storage, packing and cooling, integrated pest management, fertilizers, holistic towards improving soil quality, indoor farming, livestock vaccines, organic agricultural methods, seed banks and water saving.

b. The board of the FAARM would be regionally diverse in order to represent numerous geographic interests. The board would be composed of rotating 3-year memberships to allow for an inclusive body.

c. Once new methods of agricultural technology are developed, aforementioned universities, NGOs, UNCTAD Centres of Excellence, and research organizations would provide seminars and technical assistance for local farmers on implementation of new techniques.

d. FAARM will utilize trust-funds, UNDP, United Nations Programmes, and contributions from Member States on an opt-in basis, UNCTAD recommends that UNDP and UN Regional Commissions be considered potential partners.

e. Utilizing FAARM, partners would disseminate best practices for farming and sustainable agricultural techniques.

f. UNCTAD Evaluation and Monitoring Unit would observe the activities of the FAARM and the publications of the organization’s results in an annual report.

C. EDUCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

22. UNCTAD recommends the ECOSOC to establish a joint framework between World Bank and IFAD in frames of High Level Task Force for Global Agricultural Development to address the infrastructural needs of developing countries by referring to the FAARM and SS-Gate approaches. This will ensure that affected nations will have better access to skills and organization, among others a broad range of financial services, transparent and competitive markets for agricultural inputs and produce, and local and national policy and programming processes.

23. The conference advises the ECOSOC to enhance international students and professionals exchange in the sphere of agricultural between developed and developing Member States to promote further development of farmers skills. Students’ scholarships should be encouraged to enhance the technology and know-how transfer between the host countries. These scholarships would help students of developing countries to enhance their skills in order to increase
effectiveness of agricultural practices in these Member States.

24. UNCTAD also advises the UNDP to enhance the mutual cooperation between governments of least developed and developing countries by creating training centers and specific courses for the farmers in such countries. These courses would mainly focus on enhancing farmers’ knowledge on decision capabilities, pesticide use, nutrition facts, and community agenda setting.

25. UNCTAD reaffirms the importance of diversify production and culture rotation in order to achieve a healthier lifestyle. Therefore, this conference recommends further researches and publicity on the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement which by promoting the fortification of food, micronutrients supplementation, and treatment of severe malnutrition, encourages national leaders to prioritize efforts to address malnutrition.

26. This conference also encourages the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to continue its efforts to encourage the use of natural pest control mechanisms to reduce the overall use of chemical pesticides. This would allow promote sustainable development to all Member States.

27. UNCTAD advises UNESCO to facilitate appropriate access to genetic and genomic data, scholarly publications, and gemplasm collections, and to support the international treaty on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for conservations and sustainable use of plant genetic resources.

28. This conference recommends to use the benefits of social media to promote awareness on food security in order to create a more global and accessible dialogue to all citizens.
I. Introduction

A. TRANSPORTATION

1. As it is outlined in the Kazan Declaration which was recently signed by APEC Member States and taking into consideration the Five Principles of Rome on Food Security, increasing agricultural production and productivity, and facilitating trade and developing food markets are crucial to promoting global food security and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Having these concepts in mind, UNCTAD suggests improvement in three main areas: infrastructure, education and investment.

2. In agreement with Accra Accord 121, private sector investment in developing countries is made more financially appealing by a pre-existing network of transport for goods. The resulting investment in developing and least developed nations industry is mutually beneficial for both economies and along with the encouragement of trade among nations via these routes, is beneficial for neighboring nations as well.

3. UNCTAD’s Liner Shipping Connectivity Index shows that Least Developed Countries (LDCs) average ranking in 2009 was 109, compared to 76 for other developing countries and 68 for developed countries, where a higher ranking relates to a larger number of seaport connections and therefore a more fluid, rapid, flow of trade.

4. Freight expenses via maritime trade routes are cheaper on a cost per pound basis than any other means of transportation. Doha Mandate 47 indicates this is often not true for developing nations, the result of ineffective means of transportation. Expenses grow exponentially the longer goods are in transport or are required to remain in warehouse while awaiting delivery.

5. Established by the World Bank to support the advancement of developing countries, the International Development Association (IDA) seeks to bolster these under-performing countries through loans and grants geared toward the improvement of roads, bridges, and water sanitation. However, no emphasis has been placed on the advancement of the railway systems and seaports, specifically optimizing the train gauge standards. Doing so could further progress the infrastructure of developing countries, especially Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

6. UNCTAD recognizes the need to improve the infrastructure of food storage to assist in survival between years of surplus and scarcity, specifically during times of drought.

7. Bearing in mind the challenges climate creates for underdeveloped regions, infrastructural concerns should be addressed immediately in order to elevate said challenges, such as floods and droughts.

II. Mandate
8. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was created in 1964 by the General Assembly. General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) specified that the Conference should promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic development. In exercising this function, the Conference was tasked to formulate principles and policies on international trade and related problems of economic development, and to make proposals for putting the said principles and policies into effect, with a special regard to differences in economic systems and stages of development. In addition, the resolution called for UNCTAD to generally review and facilitate the co-ordination of activities of other institutions within the UN System in the field of international trade and related problems of economic development, and in this regard, to co-operate with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with respect to the performance of their responsibilities for co-ordination under the Charter of the United Nations. The Conference was further tasked to initiate action, where appropriate, in cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations for the negotiation and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with due regard to the adequacy of existing organs of negotiation and to be available as a centre for harmonizing the trade and related development policies of Governments and regional economic groupings in pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter.

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III. Conclusions and Recommendations

A. TRANSPORTATION
10. To ensure the maximum effectiveness of transportation infrastructure, UNCTAD strongly recommends the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) establish a new organ tailored towards the administration of international transportation. Said organ would be tasked with:

a. The creation of the International Railroad Administration for the objectives of gathering equipment, conducting railroad operations in collaboration with sovereign states that participate with the program, granting financial assistance, promoting engineering qualifications and certifications, and guaranteeing workplace safety.

b. The creation of the International Maritime Administration for the objectives of performing safety control of sea and fluvial ports, assisting financially prospective states willing to develop their maritime trade, ensuring workplace safety, and promote engineering qualifications and certifications.

c. Establishing a permanent collaborative effort with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), i.e. the International Road Federation (IRF). The administration of international transportation would also provide a wide base of expertise on road development strategies and policies. It would also act as a link to external institutions and agencies.

d. The establishment of new trade routes for the creation of quicker, less expensive and safer maritime commerce. The reduction of these obstacles incentivizes sea borne cargo transportation.

e. The integration of transnational information technology for the purpose of providing accessible communication between transportation systems, such as road, rail and ship.

11. UNCTAD suggests that ECOSOC, through its regional commissions, establish an organization for the standardization and coordination of transportation.

a. This organ would administer the allocating of IDA funds for the purpose of standardizing train gauges in developing countries to comply with the universal train gauge standard of 1,400 millimeters (mm) would eliminate the need of having to change train gauges at each border crossing, thus enhance the flow of cargo between all countries.

b. Additionally, said organ would provide ECOSOC yearly reports of the funds channeled through this system, both public and private.

12. The Standardizing the train gauges would lead to a better accessibility in the international trade flows and markets for developing countries, specifically LLDC. This establishes a path for a higher participation in the world market on imports/exports for these countries. Additionally, a better train gauge system could provide an easier flow of emergency goods during food crisis.

13. UNCTAD suggests the use of an international fleet of cargo transports consisting of contributions from the world’s leading merchant navies to provide the means for the
transportation of a growing quantity of developing countries’ goods. This creation of trade via the transportation capability of developed nations enables developing and least developed countries to increase commerce within the continent without investing heavily in their own means of sea borne transportation and solidifying the trade relationships of Member States’ countries with their continental neighbors.

14. UNCTAD calls upon the World Food Program and the FAO to support developing nations and provide them with technical support in advancing their basic infrastructure, such as the proposals put forth by the 2012 Global Infrastructure Initiative. Through development programs that specifically focus on alleviating basic road and transportation conditions through collaborating with local governments in designing road transportation technology and devices and basic transportation systems and provide technical knowledge in food packaging, storage and cooling facilities to prevent food contamination from volatile climatic conditions.

15. Investment in infrastructure and transportation is vital to the achievement of sustainable agricultural practices.

   a. Recommends that the General Assembly and ECOSOC improve the infrastructure via roads, energy, and markets. This would attract more Foreign Direct Investments to carry out infrastructure strategies.

   b. UNCTAD encourages investment with the goal of improving transportation outlet such as roads, railway lines and airports among others to facilitate quicker transportation in order to foster future self-sufficiency.

   c. Better transportation methods would allow for greater global trade avenues for agricultural farmers.

16. International Organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, should provide technical cooperation and assistance in order to develop better methods for storage and maintenance.

   a. Programs such as the “Special Program for Food Security” should be maintained in order to keep the funding to construct food storage facilities in LDCs.
   b. The FAO should continue to educate LDCs on the proper storage of such items as dried foods because they are staples in LDCs.

   c. UNCTAD suggests institutions such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to utilize Regional Food Security Clusters which contribute to the establishment of feeding centers. UNCTAD recommends Regional Food Security Clusters to strengthen efforts to prevent waterborne diseases and improve access to safe water involving chlorination and sanitation campaigns, re-drilling bore holes, and upgrading hand-dug wells and rainwater catchments.
17. UNCTAD recommends the cooperation with Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, specifically with the improvement of road networks, transportation, and communication.

18. To increase aid to climate afflicted regions, UNCTAD supports the use of programs such as the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) to create ad hoc responses when issues arise. These funds, recognized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, can be used in support by:

   a. Dispersing funds with the goal of participatory adaptation.

   b. Financing climate resilient infrastructure in developing nations.

   c. Funding climate related projects and programs for specific, strategic support in developing nations.

   d. These funds are crucial for supporting projects in rural areas that focus on infrastructural issues caused by extreme weather conditions. Excessive flooding and arid lands unsuitable for farming pose significant hindrances towards economic trade and food security. UNCTAD supports these funds, and calls upon all willing and able member states, private investors and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to provide aid when available.