National Model United Nations

Week B

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

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The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held its annual session to consider the following agenda items: Concrete Measures to Promote South-South Cooperation for Development, Harnessing Resource Extraction for Further Development Gains, and Food Security: Agriculture and Trade. The session was attended by representatives of 157 Member States and 2 Observers. The session opened with several statements concerning the adoption of the agenda. At its first meeting, the Conference adopted its provisional agenda in the order of: (3) Food Security: Agriculture and Trade; (1) South-South Cooperation for Development; and (2) Harnessing Resource Extraction for Further Development Gains.

The second day, consisting of two committee sessions, started with the body splitting into Working Groups focusing on the core issue under this important topic. Many of these groups were based on regional blocks. Topical working groups discussed the issues of food waste, agribusiness, transportation, water infrastructure, commodity speculation, food price volatility, triangular cooperation, trade, foreign land acquisitions, and agricultural education. At the end of the day 10 working papers had been submitted to the dais as a first draft and some Working Groups had already started working on their first revisions. During the third day, which consisted of three long committee sessions, the delegates of the committee were able to produce a total of 18 Working Papers. During the day some groups already started merging their Working Papers to work towards more comprehensive report segments.

The seventh session mainly consisted of voting procedures. Out of the 11 draft report segments that were on the floor, 8 were adopted by the body and thereby became part of the report to the General Assembly. The dais received 3 amendments, 3 of which were friendly. No unfriendly amendments were received by the dais.

Draft report segment 1/1 highlighted the implementation of water purification, filtration, and desalination. Draft report segment 1/2 focused on infrastructure improvement to improve trade opportunities. Draft report segment 1/3 emphasized the effects of foreign land acquisitions. Draft report segment 1/4 highlighted ways to improve food security by reducing food waste. Draft report segment 1/5 addressed a broad array of topics including technology, disaster relief and education. Draft report segment 1/6 endorsed multilateral and regional cooperation and the incorporation of technology in local agribusinesses. Draft report segment 1/7 promoted the implementation of the Millennium Villages project. Draft report segment 1/8 stressed the importance of agricultural subsidies and market stability. Draft report segment 1/9 focused on combating food insecurity and price volatility by proposing an international value chain model. Draft report segment 1/10 revolved around cooperation between global financial institutions and development institutions. Draft report 1/11 emphasized institution building and education.

On Wednesday, March 27, 2012 the UNCTAD commenced the voting process and adopted 8 draft report segments.
I. Introduction

A. FOOD SECURITY: AGRICULTURE AND TRADE

1. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) understands that water is an integral part of agriculture, the access to water must be increased for all Member States, as noted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in General Assembly Resolution 64/292 (A/RES/64/292). Through a clean stable water supply, agriculture can improve food security.

2. Food insecurity and water scarcity are directly related. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) report, titled Coping with Water Scarcity: An Action Framework for Agriculture and Food Security, depicts the need for clean water sources for agricultural development and food security.

3. Water sanitation is a very prominent problem to international community, especially to the developing world. The UNCTAD endorses A/RES/64/692, which notes the immense benefits of wetland usage in all its aspects for the purpose of water sanitation, as well as promoting biodiversity, improving air quality within a region, combatting desertification, and creating inexpensive, alternative water purification systems. Water sanitation prevents the contamination of crops, increasing usable yield.

4. The reuse of wastewater is necessary to allow sustainable, cost-effective agricultural growth and production. The UNCTAD highlights the Birzeit University of Ramallah, Palestine report Prospects of Efficient Wastewater Management and Water Reuse in Palestine. This report details the use of artificial wetlands as an environmentally friendly filtration system that increases the volume of grey water for agricultural uses, in states that do not have access to an ample water supply.

5. Eight hundred million people do not have sufficient access to clean water, The UNCTAD strongly agrees with A/RES/64/63, which calls for Member States and the International Organizations to provide financial resources, build capacities and transfer technology, particularly to developing countries, in scaling up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible, and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all.

6. To ensure fair access, cooperation between Member States is key to the uninhibited transfer and access of water across borders to Member States so direly in need, as stated in A/RES/63/124.

7. The UNCTAD stresses the importance of Human Rights Council Resolution 6/3 (A/HRC/6/3), which states that non-discriminatory policies should be implemented by the United Nations and other relevant sectors in relation to access to safe drinking water and sanitation.
8. The report *Transboundary Water: Sharing Benefits, Sharing Responsibilities of 2008* states that the conflict of water scarcity begins with dam construction, water abstraction, chronic and accidental water pollution by industries, and the neglect or non-acceptance of existing treaty provisions. This report also draws attention to the benefits of multilateral cooperation between Member States on the issues of shared waters to increase food production and to control hunger within rural and urban areas.

9. The UNCTAD notices that there is an upward trend in water scarcity due to population growth and irresponsible uses of water, as illustrated in the UN Water Programme report, *Water Issues: Contributing to the Success of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development of 2008*. With more responsible water conservation practices food security can be ensured, poverty can be reduced and ecosystems can be conserved.

10. Responsible uses of water means investing water within sustainable crops. Crops sustainability within areas of inclement weather poses a serious threat to food security. FAO report *Expert Consultation on Environmental Effects of Genetically Modified Crops of June 2003* highlights the benefits of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and GM Seeds (GMS) to create sustainable and resilient means of food production.

### B. TRADE

11. The *Charter of the United Nations*, specifically Articles 1.3 and Article 55 calls for international cooperation on humanitarian issues. This is essential for addressing trade and food security.

12. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) supports the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially MDG 1 to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. UNCTAD notes that trade can be vital in ensuring food security through enabling the more rapid transfer of food goods. Additionally, UNCTAD notes the importance of building agricultural development as a means to increase trade through increasing crop yields so Member States have increased food surpluses which can be traded.

13. The UNCTAD notes the importance of addressing global food security through improving Member State’s capacity to trade and addressing the needs of smallholder farmers. UNCTAD supports the *Comprehensive Framework for Action* from the High-Level Task Force on Global Food Security as a guideline for addressing the issue of Food Security.

14. The UNCTAD recognizes the importance of increasing investment attractiveness as mentioned in the *Accra Declaration* and *Accra Accord*. Increasing the investment attractiveness, especially for agricultural sectors, will increase agricultural production and build the capacity for developing countries to trade.

15. *A/RES/66/220* titled *Agricultural Development and Food Security* links the importance of developing trade-related infrastructure as well as supporting the needs of smallholder farmers. It is important to increasing cooperation between all relevant actors dedicated to increasing food
security such as through UNCTAD, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), World Trade Organization (WTO), regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, and civil society organizations.

16. The Right to Food was established in the Human Rights Council’s Resolution 7/14 as a fundamental human right for all peoples. Trade is vital in ensuring this right is met for all peoples by increasing access to food with improved trade practices and investment in the development of the agricultural sector.

17. Aid effectiveness is important when improving trade relations and food security within Member States. It is necessary that official development assistance (ODA) be directed appropriately within the state, so that ODA and be directed towards agricultural development. The UNCTAD supports the Accra Accord on Aid Effectiveness as established at the UNCTAD XII in Accra, Ghana, which establishes the importance of aid effectiveness for development and increasing the economies of member states.

18. A/RES/66/190 titled Commodities reiterates the importance of economic diversification as a means to strengthen trade within Member States. Through economic diversification, developing Member States can build their economies and reduce vulnerabilities to price volatility. Economic diversification will also improve the capacity of Member States to trade, and therefore increase access to food and food security.

19. A/RES/66/188 titled Addressing Excessive Price Volatility in Food and Related Commodity Markets establishes that there must be efforts directed toward the reduction of excessive market speculation in order to reduce price volatility. It is important to also build the capacity of Member States to adapt to price volatility through strengthening market structures and trade-related infrastructure.

20. The UNCTAD, being deeply worried about excessive food price volatility and its fatal impacts on food security as constituted in A/RES/66/188, red-flags the risks indicated in A/RES/63/235 that emerge from excessive speculation on agricultural markets.

21. The Rome Declaration on Food Security notes the importance of reducing food waste. Food storage facilities will contribute to reduced food waste and contribute to distribution capabilities especially in developing and least developed Member States. The UNCTAD recognizes that the reduction of food waste is important in increasing the supply of food and the attainment of food security.

22. Regional cooperation and coordination is especially vital in ensuring food security. Regional initiatives such as the African Union’s Maputo Declaration on Food Security in Africa are important as these set a framework for developing regional food security.

23. The 2009 Charter of Fair Trade Principles points out the importance of ensuring that all Member States have equal access to trade and international markets. Principle One on Creating Opportunities for the Economically Disadvantaged Producers and Principle Four on Payment of
a Fair Price are especially important in achieving food security through the development of a
more effective international trading system.

24. The L’Aquila Food Security Initiative from 2009 secured a commitment of $20 billion
allocated towards financing agricultural development in developing countries. The initiative had
an outstanding success rate, allocating over $20 billion dollars to agricultural development in
developing countries. UNCTAD recognizes that this is important to attaining food security
through increasing production.

C. COMBATTING PROBLEMS IN FOOD ALLOCATION AND WASTE

25. Cognizant of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and A/RES/66/158, the UNCTAD
stresses to the international community the inalienable right to food.

26. The UNCTAD acknowledges A/RES/66/288 and affirms the urgency to fully realize the
targets of Millennium Development Goal 1 and of the World Food Summits by acting according
to the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, as stated in the Declaration of
the World Summit on Food Security 2009 and recalled, inter alia, in A/RES/66/220.

27. The UNCTAD firmly believes that the considerable amount of squandered food around the
globe is a significant barrier to food security and thus stresses the importance of reducing
imprudent food waste. The conference notes with concern that the estimated annual waste of
food reaches thirty-three percent of global food production – one-point-three billion tons out of
four-point-four billion tons of annually produced food – as revealed in the Global Food Losses
and Food Waste Study conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2011.

28. As stated by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the UNCTAD recognizes
that the sheer quantity of food wasted in developed countries could sustain the annual food needs
of citizens in multiple developing countries and combat the scourge of global starvation.

29. This conference further recognizes that most products sold to consumers are viable beyond
the product’s expiration date as noted by the National Food Lab and the Institute of Food
Technologists.

30. The UNCTAD acknowledges both the European Union’s 2014 initiation for combating waste
– named EU Against Food Waste – and the importance of regional support for ideologies and
goals geared towards a global effect on food waste emissions.

31. This conference recognizes work done by organizations such as the South African
Development Community, the Global Foodbanking Network, and the European Federation of
Food Banks to substantially contribute to food redistribution. Practiced by more than forty
countries worldwide, food banking has proven to alleviate hunger and malnutrition as well as act
as an effective agent of price control. The establishment, expansion, and effective use of national
and international food banks are of high importance to the UNCTAD and can serve in the
endeavor to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals.
32. Stressing the UNCTAD’s Discussion Paper No. 201, referred to as UNCTAD/OSG/DP/2011/1 that discusses urgent questions on food security in developing countries under the challenges of climate change; thereby linking it to the transformation of agriculture in harnessing clean energy and addressing sustainable waste reutilization.

D. Infrastructure: Transportation, Water, and Utilizing Infrastructure to Combat Food Waste

33. The Accra Declaration and the associated Accra Accord, which are the result of the twelfth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), provide guiding vision to the UNCTAD. Article 6 of the Accra Declaration recommitted the UNCTAD to redoubling its efforts to combat poverty and hunger, and, additionally, pledged to take immediate steps to bolster the world’s food security.

34. Article 79 of the Accra Accord identifies some of the long-term challenges faced by the international community in addressing the needs of commodity dependent developing countries, especially in terms of diversification of exports, with regards to food security and the need to address the current reality that increases in consumption are outpacing increases in production and its impact on the long-term food security challenges facing the international community.

35. UNCTAD is further guided by the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security contained in the declaration of the World Summit on Food Security. The principles of investing in country-owned plans to channel resources to programmes and partnerships, fostering strategic coordination to improve governance, and building capacity in developing countries are principles that UNCTAD aims to address to alleviate the issue of food security.

36. The Swedish Institute for Food and Biotechnology under the authority of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) found that over 2.3 billion tons of food was lost or wasted globally every year. This accounts for one third of the world’s food. The UNCTAD has supported immediate measures that would alleviate the symptoms of food insecurity, such as the current situation in the Sahel and Horn of Africa. Many problems related to food security in least developed countries are attributable to the absence of basic infrastructure. Lack of proper infrastructure in many developing countries cripples their ability to realize optimal agricultural and economic productivity, hampers the efficient use of their limited resources, reduces the positive impact of food donations, drives away investment, and encumbers the safe delivery of food products into the world markets.

E. International Cooperation, Trade, and Economic Integration: Impacts on Food Security

37. GA Resolution A/Res/62/209 entitled South-South Cooperation recognizes the need to mobilize additional resources for South-South Cooperation, via South-South funding that supports development, and infrastructure development. Infrastructure plays a key role in increasing the capacity of rural and smallholder farmers.

38. General Assembly Resolution A/Res/67/443 titled Agricultural Development and Food Security stresses the need to address the root causes of excessive volatility of food prices that
cause the impoverished to have limited access to food, sometimes decreasing the number of
meals per day that these vulnerable populations are able to eat.

39. The *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* highlights that transparency in the use of funds
in essential in order to ensure the maximization of official development assistance. A high
percentage of official development assistance is utilized to improve agricultural capacity, and
increased transparency will serve to ensure that such assistance provides maximum benefit. A
core concept of the *Paris Declaration* is that transparency should yield increased development
assistance.

40. The UNCTAD remains cognizant of the recommendations and actions taken by a variety of
international stakeholders regarding the importance of establishing institutions to manage food
security. In particular, the UNCTAD recalls the suggestion by the Group of 20 Action Plan on
Commodities Price Volatility that seeks to increase cooperation and institutional support for food
security, specifically by developing a global system to monitor information on food production
and consumption reserves and price levels and creating a mechanism to better anticipate and
respond faster and in a more coordinated way to food crises. It further discusses coordinating
public and private sector efforts, including supporting the formation of national-level
partnerships to engage the private sector in sustainable agricultural development, and
establishing a global multi-stakeholder forum.

F. Utilizing Education and Technical Assistance to Improve Food Security

41. Education is of utmost importance in enhancing national and global food security. Past
attempts to increase educational opportunities were linked to providing food, clothing, and basic
health services. This was identified in chapter 10 of the *Dakar Framework for Action* that
addresses the linking of basic education to strategies for overcoming poverty and inequality. The
*Dakar Framework for Action* in its goals illustrates the importance of education in the attainment
all of the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs), particularly *MDG2* regarding universal
education and *MDG1* on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. As education has been
linked to the reduction of hunger and the establishment of food security, the UNCTAD believes
it is important to note.

G. Food Security: Technology and Biotechnology

42. The UNCTAD recognizes the importance of the *International Treaty on Plant Genetic
Resources for Food and Agriculture* in its aims to guarantee food security through the
conservation, exchange and sustainable use of the world’s plant genetic resources for food and
agriculture, as well as the fair and equitable benefit sharing arising from its use.

43. The *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety* identifies that developing countries need increased
capacity in order to maximize the benefits of biotechnology and to utilize agricultural intellectual
property rights, and additionally establishes that products from new technologies must be based
on the precautionary principle and allow developing nations to balance public health against
economic benefits. The UNCTAD identifies that coordination is of the utmost importance to
UNCTAD recognizes that the international community preserves biodiversity by protecting and emphasizing the cultivation of native seeds. Progress is embodied by initiatives like the Andean Seeds Project, funded by Spain-FAO, in which Ecuador, Bolivia, and Peru have benefitted significantly. Its success is evident; 84 training events have benefited over 2,000 farmers in the past two years. Unfortunately, small-scale, rural farmers are often unable to afford and access such seeds and the training necessary for their cultivation.

While the UNCTAD recognizes that biofuels represent an opportunity for growth for developing nations, that growth can not come at the cost of food security and environmental sustainability. The UNCTAD recommends that member states balance the opportunities of biofuel production with its potential to encroach on natural environments. We further request that developed countries limit their use of biofuel consumption mandates to increase demand for biofuels, and endorse the usage of biofuels created from inedible plant parts, ensuring that the increased production of biofuels does not increase food insecurity.

H. Increasing Agricultural Resilience to Natural Disasters and Food Crises

The UNCTAD is cognizant of the report of the Secretary General entitled Agriculture Development and Food Security (A/67/294) stating that collaboration should be deepened through resilience based approaches, especially those that mitigate the impact of crises and natural disasters on rural farmers and landholders. Such efforts will increase the agricultural capacity of developing countries.

Food access is further exacerbated by the effects of climate change, an issue the UNCTAD report Assuring Food Security in Developing Countries Under the Challenges of Climate Change: Key Trade And Development Issues of a Fundamental Transformation of Agriculture discussed. From drought to desertification, increased hurricane strength, erratic weather patterns, and disrupted natural ecosystems, the effects of climate change pose a dangerous threat to agricultural production. All these factors make it more difficult to grow crops, raise animals, and catch fish in the same ways that we have in the past. The effects of climate change also need to be considered along with other evolving factors that affect agricultural production, such as changes in farming practices and technology. Preliminary estimates in agricultural production suggest a decline in global agricultural productivity anywhere from 15%-30% by 2080.

I. FOOD SECURITY: TRADE AND AGRICULTURE

Cooperation is a necessity for the development of any Member State. With the aid of other Member States within the region, developing states are able to utilize methodologies that have been successful, into their own practices. Within the Southeast region of Asian ten countries, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, have immensely benefited from the sharing of successful technologies and practices among each other, fostered through the ASEAN Declaration of 1967. The concept of information sharing should be utilized for the transfer of agricultural practices in order to flourish the
agricultural sector of struggling states. A framework should be created in order to facilitate this need.

49. Since their creation in 2000, the Millennium Development Goals have advocated primarily for the eradication of extreme hunger and poverty. There is no greater hurdle to eradicating extreme hunger than the need for food security. The UNCTAD recognizes the value of A/RES/32/51 in supporting the coordination of triangular and South-South cooperation.

50. A/RES/57/263 reminds this body that South-South cooperation for development must act as a complement, not a substitute to North-South cooperation. A/RES/60/212 and A/RES/64/22 stress the importance of triangular cooperation as a means of financing South-South cooperation and allocating funds that would otherwise not exist. The UNCTAD recognizes the significant role triangular cooperation can hold in increasing food security worldwide.

51. Agribusinesses are the largest contributor to employment and income in the world and play an important role in food security. The UNCTAD has recently put forth a report entitled Addressing the Global Food Crisis discussing the importance of food security. Securing access to food plays a vital role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly the first MDG goal of the Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger.

52. Many new technologies exist to benefit Member States in their efforts to grow their agribusiness sector, one such technology is Geographical Information Systems (GIS). GIS has had a positive impact on the agricultural sector as it has provided information vital to specific agro-ecological zones in respective Member States. GIS determines the land productivity, length of growing period, irrigation requirements, and land sustainability among other things. This in turn helps Member States understand the terrain inside their borders to place crops in the most beneficial location to increase crop yields.

53. Many agribusinesses and Member States experience difficulty obtaining financing options when trying to create or maintain agribusinesses, particularly in developing states. Without alternative financing options such as rural financing, agricultural financing, and value chain financing, many Member States lack the ability to expand their agribusiness industry. Furthermore, the discussion of tariffs and tariff barriers, which is vital to trade, is ongoing and an integral part of agribusiness and trade. Tariff barriers can hinder further development of trade between states as they restrict imports and thus result in decreased capital.

54. Many least developed countries (LDCs) experience various obstacles when integrating agribusiness into their agricultural industries. As such, LDCs are left isolated and unprepared for further development their agribusiness industry. More specifically, LDCs lack the proper training of how to integrate agribusiness into their economy to create an effective foundation for the industry to flourish.

55. The use of Information Technology Systems (ITS) has helped increase communications amongst farmers and agribusiness stakeholders in developing countries. ITS non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as Vodafone, have provided cell phones for many agribusiness
farmers to help facilitate better communication to increase business partnerships. As such, ITS NGOs are used in rural areas to help local farmers communicate with each other.

56. The respect of every human being is vital. All people should live in an equitable world, free of poverty and hunger where development is all inclusive and sustainable to deliver basic services to the most vulnerable and marginalized population. Access to food is a necessity to decrease poverty and allow for people to live healthy fulfilling lives.

57. Science and technology has led to large improvements in food security. Advancements in science and technology allows for higher production and safety of food while decreasing prices and losses from pest and disease. This approach has shown success in Israel with its recent locust swarm that caused the least damage to crops ever.

58. Science and technology have also allowed for the development of such techniques as drip irrigation methods and Techno-agriculture Innovation for Poverty Alleviation (TIPA), which allow for the most efficient use of scarce resources while maximizing yields, and System of Rice (roots) method that uses transplanting procedures from a pot as a seedling to the ground for an adult plant, this allows for the more cost effective use of seeds and minerals. SRI has been integrated into the agribusiness sector of Mali, Vietnam, and India. It reduces the amount of plants used, increases the quality of soil, and utilizes modern irrigation techniques. SRI has increased yields by 50 to 100 per cent, seen a 90 per cent reduction in seeds, and up to 50 per cent of water savings.

59. In an effort to encourage the development of other industries, UNCTAD wishes to support the diversification of exports in developing and least developed countries. Slovakia revolutionized their economy by increasing the variety of trade industries, which is instrumental in fostering valuable human capital and new technology leading to sustainable development.

60. Recognizing the harm caused to economies suffering from brain drain, UNCTAD desires to pursue incentivizing the retention of talent. In order to support the growth of technology, highly educated individuals must remain in their homelands to utilize increasing capital.

J. SUSTAINABILITY

61. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recognizes that the Millennium Development Goals, since their promulgation in the year 2000, have become the forefront of development policy for the United Nations. Among the most important of the MDGs is the eradication of extreme hunger as illustrated in the first enumerated MDG, to cut the number of food insecure persons by half no later than 2015. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights established in 1946 declares that all people have the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and wellbeing, including the right to food. This right to food faces no greater challenges than current roadblocks to food security.

62. The UNCTAD recognize the effectiveness of Millennium Villages as envisioned during the Sixty-forth session of the UN General Assembly (A/64/665). Millennium Villages were created to alleviate poverty within developing rural communities through affordable and sustainable
practices. The UNCTAD recalls the work being done by the Millennium Villages Project in regions like Sub-Saharan Africa, especially regarding the economically and environmentally beneficial sustainable agricultural practices such as agro-forestry.

63. The distinct characteristic of each respective Member State presents difficulties in creating comprehensive solutions to the universal problem of food accessibility and agricultural sustainable development and stable infrastructure. The difficulty of crop diversification is magnified in the context of rural communities, furthering the need for a Distinctive Development Initiative working through the International Fund for Agricultural Development’s (IFAD) Result-Based Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (RB-COSOP) to address country-specific and community-contextual difficulties.

64. Established in 1977 as a unique financial institution under the United Nations, IFAD has pursued results-based country specific opportunities programmes (RB-COSOP) implemented in 2003 to combat rural and agricultural incapacity and poverty and have been successfully carried out in over 50 countries through technical assistance, context-structured IFAD programmes and a network of partners for funding of rural development. Assessments through this programme are translated into the IFAD’s efforts, programmes, financing for rural development.

65. Biotechnology has the ability to revolutionize farming in rural communities facing extreme poverty. Farmers typically purchase seeds to plant and harvest crops. After harvesting, the farmers must again purchase seeds for the next season of planting. However, the biotechnology process *apomixis* causes seeds to reproduce asexually, meaning they do not need to pollinate to create more seeds. Therefore, farmers would not need to purchase seeds annually but would have extra seeds after *apomixis*. Such seeds are instrumental in countries and farms that wish to use such seeds, however *apomixis* will be given to the farmers upon their request, and will not be mandatory.

66. The Food Security Collaborative Network, in its April 2012 findings entitled: “Building Institutional Capacity to Increase Food Security in Africa” cites the need for institutional capacity building in food security practices in developing regions. Millennium Villages allow for capacity building in developing regions which will allow future self-sufficiency.

67. Furthermore, the UNCTAD acknowledges each Member State’s right to sovereignty in respect to the organizations they support and the funding mechanisms in which they contribute, allowing that such measures be voluntary.

68. Agriculture has changed dramatically since the ending of the Second World War gave way to innovations in new farming technologies. Although these innovations have had numerous positive effects and have significantly reduced farming costs throughout much of the world, the UNCTAD draws attention to the subsequent negative effects that large-scale, industrial farming has had on both developed and developing states, including: topsoil depletion, groundwater contamination, declining success of smallholder farms and increased costs of production in developing states. The UNCTAD recognizes the need for implementing more sustainable techniques into agriculture practices contained in Resolution 66/220, which promotes sustained, inclusive, and equitable agricultural development for all Member States. Furthermore, the
UNCTAD reiterates A/RES/63/235, highlights the need for organic and sustainable agricultural practices that are neither subject to market fluctuation nor the volatile prices of fossil fuels used in the production of environmentally harmful agrochemicals.

69. The High-Level Conference on World Food Security notes that the effects of climate change, such as the increased intensity of storms, rising sea levels, and drought, will ultimately have adverse effects on the production of food, water supply, and agricultural trade in all Member States. According to the Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change’s report, “Achieving food security in the face of climate change,” 1.3 billion tons of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted annually; therefore, the UNCTAD believes this is an issue that must be tackled when addressing sustainable agriculture techniques.

70. Farmer cooperatives play an important role in the empowerment of smallholder farmers as a pivotal element of agricultural production, in order to eradicate poverty and hunger, as espoused in the UN General Assembly’s promotion of the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives. Since smallholder farmers are spread over large territories, unifying them in clusters, or cooperatives, provides them with increased leverage and capital in order to purchase improved agricultural inputs and advanced farming implements, market their agricultural products, and attain access to the latest market information and agricultural technologies.

K. FOOD SECURITY: AGRICULTURE AND TRADE

71. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), established in 1964, works towards progressive sustainable development of United Nations Member States, and promotes the integration of developing States in the World Economy. UNCTAD has expressed regular concern regarding food security and how price volatility contributes to the international food crises.

72. Recognizing freedom from hunger and malnutrition as a human right as per the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and restated in the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition.

73. UNCTAD reaffirms the importance of the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security as adopted by Member States gathered at the World Summit on Food Security held in 2009.

74. Upholding the Doha Declaration which identifies food security and price volatility as fundamental issues.

75. UNCTAD is cognizant of the 2008 food crises and therefore urges the need to address the issue of food price volatility as reaffirmed by A/RES/66/220.

76. According to the Food Commodities Speculation and Food Price Crises 2010 report the food crisis of 2008 was largely caused by speculation of international financial institutions. UNCTAD, being deeply worried about excessive food price volatility and its fatal impacts on
food security as constituted in A/RES/66/188, red-flags the risks indicated in A/RES/63/235 that emerge from speculation.

### L. INSTITUTION BUILDING

77. The UNCTAD remains cognizant of the recommendations and actions taken by a variety of international stakeholders regarding the importance of establishing institutions to manage food security. In particular, the UNCTAD recalls the suggestion by the G20 Action Plan on Food Security to increase cooperation and institutional support for food security, specifically:

a. Developing a global system to monitor information on food production and consumption reserves and price levels” suggesting that though databases exist, they remain largely isolated from one another and without a coordinating agency.

b. Creating “a mechanism to better anticipate and respond faster and in a more coordinated way to food crises”. This recommendation indicates that the speed of response is also an issue. Although agencies and programs may possess ample information and resources, they often lack the authority and strategic awareness necessary to affect policy on a timely basis.

c. Coordinating “public and private sector efforts, including supporting the formation of national-level partnerships”, allowing the harnessing of market and public energies and an integrated approach to food security.

d. “Establishing a global multistakeholder forum” in order to combat the at times insular nature of international action and to embrace the perspectives, experiences and resources of all member states.

78. Repeated suggestions by the relevant stakeholders for the institutionalization of the Food security issue, specifically:

a. UNCTAD Release TAD/2058’s recommendation that “development strategies should be based on an integrated and holistic approach, if the desired policy options were to emerge” which emphasizes the importance of the establishment of an Intergovernmental Panel.

b. The Co-Conveners RIO+20 recommendation that food security by addressing the issue “in the context of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change”, suggesting that the issue of food security be given a similar institutional backing.

79. The UNCTAD acknowledges the new commitment period under the Kyoto protocol established by the Conference of Parties (COP) 18 to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015. The intention of this new agreement is to scale up climate change efforts by 2020. These increased measures will seek to curb emissions to a level that would ensure that world temperatures will stay below the agreed maximum rise of two degrees centigrade, set at the 2010 Cancun Agreements.
M. EDUCATION

80. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) supports the Accra Accord and strives to foster global food security for future generations through the implementation and understanding of educational measures, economic strategies, and technological advances.

81. The United Nations Development Program’s Organic Agriculture and Food Security in Africa Report emphasizes the negative impact that agrochemicals have on the populations of Member States and the importance of combating price volatility, and enhancing environmental sustainability.

82. In addition, the UNCTAD reaffirms the use of organic farming methods including the use of natural pesticides and small-scale, second and third-generation biofuel production as an effective means of substituting the unsustainable and environmentally harmful effects of fossil fuels and traditional agricultural techniques.

83. To complement, the UNCTAD recognizes the Rio+20’s Report of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that discusses the importance of environmental impact not only upon resource availability, but also as a main factor for food security. As Global climate change, such as rising temperatures and decreased annual rainfall decrease food production, Member States that implement climate resilience programs see increased food security, as demonstrated by Bolivia’s Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR), which is funded by the World Bank’s Strategic Climate Fund. Empowering farmers on the local level through regionally specific advancements in technology and education is critical.

84. The UNCTAD acknowledges the empowerment of local communities by involving them in the creation, implementation, and assessment of programs, which also aid in creating a sustainable environment by ensuring that all relevant stakeholders have a hand in contributing to good governance, as laid out in Section 6 of the Accra Accord [UNCTAD/IAOS/2008/2].

85. The UNCTAD supports actions by states and relevant United Nations bodies to work towards development of higher-yield and more resilient seeds with improved nutritional value. Incorporating the results of these efforts into agricultural production processes would reduce a Member State’s dependence upon imported food, which would, in turn, enable agricultural self-sustainability.

86. The UNCTAD values the opinions of local community members with profound knowledge of on-the-ground conditions in order to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are involved in the creation and implementation of programs designed to fight food insecurity.

II. Mandate

87. 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 center for harmonizing the trade and related development policies of Governments and regional economic groupings in pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter.

88. 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. FOOD SECURITY: AGRICULTURE AND TRADE

89. Member States within different geographical regions experience climates and environmental issues that inhibit agricultural growth. Water is an integral part in the agricultural process and thus needs in-depth focus in order to increase food security. The UNCTAD suggests that artificial wetlands, such as sub-surface flow wetlands and anaerobic lagoons, be created and implemented as a sustainable filtration system for wastewater within able Member States and regions, especially those within water deficit areas and landlocked states. Alternate methods of
water purification should also be utilized such as desalinization, rapid and slow sand filters, or large scale boiling facilities. The water purified from such mechanisms will increase the availability of water for agricultural uses to better combat the problem of food security.

90. Water contamination from chemical run off and pesticides affects agriculture and fishing communities. The agricultural aspect can be solved through the creation of water reserves within states, where possible, to ensure a clean source of water. If water reserves are not possible, the beneficial effects of wetlands can aid in the removal of harmful chemicals. Furthermore, testing of chemical levels in water through monitoring systems within agricultural lands is essential to reduce dangerous chemical run off, which will be beneficial to both agriculture and fishing communities. The UNCTAD suggests that the General Assembly support the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) in their efforts to oversee the use of chemicals and pesticides within farmlands. Although UNCTAD recognizes that developing states often need pesticides for farming, if possible, pesticide-free methods of farming should be promoted to decrease the presence of harmful chemicals within crops.

91. The UNCTAD acknowledges that gaining access to water in rural and urban, underprivileged areas is difficult, costly, and time consuming. Access to water is often far from communities causing difficulties for farmers. The UNCTAD supports increased investments in water supply infrastructure such as wells, irrigation systems, and other innovative water collection methods.

92. The implementation of water supply infrastructure should include further investment in the development of water collection sources such as desalinization and fog collection. Fog collection is the use of large mesh in high altitudes to collect water droplets in containers for agriculture. Furthermore, building underground pipelines is an efficient method of transportation because it increases water conservation by reducing evaporation and non-revenue water. Other methods of water conservation include drip/micro irrigation, rain/moister freeze and wind sensors, which interrupt irrigation during unfavorable weather conditions. Also recommended are specialized hoses and demand based irrigation controls for all areas suitable for such technology. These irrigation methods reduce excess use of water within irrigation systems.

93. Natural water resources often cross borders, which may cause uneven access and sometimes conflict over distribution. The UNCTAD encourages the implementation of bilateral and multilateral legal frameworks for integrated water resource management. Examples of this include the Nile Basin Agreement, which includes cooperation between Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Orontes Agreement, between Syria, Lebanon and Turkey, and article 6 of the Israel-Jordan Treaty of Peace, which ensures the efficient sharing of resources. These frameworks foster regional cooperation to share large bodies of water within an area. The UNCTAD encourages broader participation in existing frameworks.

93. In recognizing the importance of education in developing sustainable water and agricultural practices, the UNCTAD suggests that the General Assembly support the expansion of the FAO’s Natural Resources and Environmental Department’s units on Water Development and Management and AQUASTAT. The recommended expansion should include educational initiatives for farmers through local meetings and ground projects on methods of sustainable
water resource management. This organization ensures that farmers understand the importance and benefits of clean water supplies in an agricultural system.

94. The costliness of sustainable water supplies for agriculture affects the ability of developing Member States to expand their agricultural sector. The UNCTAD suggests that the United Nations Water Programme and the official development aid fund of the UNCTAD provide funding for the implementation of the sustainable water supplies and practices as outlined in this report for food security and agricultural development. This body also welcomes any voluntary contributions from development banks and organizations, such as The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) sponsored program, The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), NGOs, and any other Member States.

B. TRADE

95. The UNCTAD believes that the World Trade Organization’s Aid for Trade Initiative should be expanded to more developing countries to increase the effectiveness for developing countries to build trade-related infrastructure that will increase their ability to trade. This is vital for utilizing national resources to construct more efficient trade routes within a country and between neighboring countries. Once this trade-related infrastructure is in place, it is intended to increase Member States’ capacities to trade, allowing for their economies to expand and agriculture to flourish, as noted in the 2009 Declaration on the World Summit on Food Security. Also, in humanitarian emergency situations where food shortages may arise, this will allow for a more rapid response in transferring food aid.

96. The UNCTAD strongly upholds the TrainforTrade initiative to train finance ministers in trade-related practices to more effectively build their capacity to become competitors in the global market and increase their position in international trading systems. Therefore, the UNCTAD advises the General Assembly to increase funding for the TrainforTrade initiative through increased financial assistance from Member States and voluntary donors such as the African Development Bank to more effectively implement this programme. With the TrainforTrade initiative implemented in Member States, governments will be able to participate more effectively in agricultural markets and sell their agricultural goods when prices are at the most profitable.

97. The UNCTAD supports regional initiatives such as Pillar 2 of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development’s (NEPAD’s) Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme, which addresses market access by improving local infrastructure and frameworks that facilitate the access for individuals into the market through attracting foreign and direct investment. Through this NEPAD initiative, developing states will be able to build their markets along established guidelines that will enhance their ability to participate in the agricultural markets. With increased participation in agricultural markets, agricultural sectors will grow and therefore improve food security.

98. Economic diversification is vital in reducing the impacts of food price volatility in developing countries. The UNCTAD advises the General Assembly to work towards procuring increased financial assistance to the UNCTAD’s Special Unit on Commodities and the
Commodity Development Fund so that it can more effectively assist developing countries to diversify their economies. Additionally, UNCTAD advises the General Assembly to work towards improving cooperation between Member States and the Special Unit on Commodities so that all Member States can benefit from this programme through economic diversification. The International Fund for Agricultural Development’s Results-Based Strategic Opportunities Programme should be utilized to facilitate dissemination of information on global agricultural development to ensure all Member States are adequately developing their agricultural sectors.

99. The UNCTAD believes South-South and regional cooperation is key to increasing trade, especially agricultural trade, since this is a primary sector of many developing countries’ economies. Improving trade relations will increase income and will improve countries’ abilities to manage food security. The creation of existing free trade agreements and strengthening of trade relations between Member States is vital. As many developing and least developed countries are low-income food-deficit countries and also net-importers of food, improving trade is vital to attaining food security.

a. Implementing regional trade agreements such as the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Agreement will assist Member States in increasing trade among neighboring countries. The UNCTAD believes regional and cross regional trade is vital in ensuring the creation of more efficient markets. With more efficient markets, developing countries can ensure the success of the agricultural sector through increasing agricultural exports. By strengthening the agricultural sector, global food security can be attained.

b. The UNCTAD supports multilateral programmes that focus on coordinating production levels through a cooperative framework such as the Agadir Initiative.

c. The UNCTAD believes that free trade agreements should be established with increased cooperation with international agencies such as the World Bank, IFAD, FAO, and UNCTAD in order to create effective bilateral and multilateral agreements.

d. UNCTAD advises the increased cooperation between Member States and international organizations through South-South Cooperation and regional cooperation. This should include information and knowledge sharing and technology transfer.

100. The UNCTAD supports the creation of additional national actions such as South Sudan’s National Assembly’s Agricultural Bank Act which facilitates smallholder farmers to access government revenues and loans to build the agricultural sectors. With the access to financial aid, farmers can increase crop yields through improving inputs and therefore create food surpluses which will increase exports of food goods. The UNCTAD acknowledges regional development banks can contribute to the establishment of such national initiatives dedicated to improving trade and food security.

101. The UNCTAD recognizes the potentially devastating impact of economic sanctions on developing countries and criticizes the use of economic sanctions as a political tool. Economic sanctions in some instances limit countries’ abilities to import food which poses a problem to food security as many developing and least developed countries are net-importers of food. The
UNCTAD strongly encourages the consideration of the negative impacts of economic sanctions on agricultural subsidies for food security.

102. The UNCTAD recognizes the importance of increasing investment attractiveness in developing countries to increase the development of agricultural and rural sectors. The UNCTAD believes there should be increased utilization of the World Bank’s Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency to reduce the risks that naturally result from foreign direct investment and increase investment attractiveness in developing Member States. The UNCTAD also requests increased cooperation with the World Bank and the FAO, UNCTAD, and other relevant actors in terms of food security and trade.

103. The UNCTAD recognizes that transparency and accountability are vital in ensuring food security through agriculture and trade. It is vital to reduce corruption through measures that increase transparency and accountability of governments. Enhancing good governance will improve transparency in trade and allow for government revenues to be directed towards investment in the agricultural sector.

a. The UNCTAD supports regional mechanisms such as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) that takes a regional approach to ensuring that governments are accountable to their citizens and that governments are utilizing financial assistance and revenues in a transparent manner. The APRM holds Member States accountable to each other to ensure that good governance is being followed.

b. The UNCTAD supports initiatives such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) that supports transparency of government revenues from domestic production. This ensures that the funds are distributed in a sustainable manner and contribute to sustainable development. The UNCTAD advises the expansion of EITI to other industries than mining to allow for increased transparency in the international system.

c. The UNCTAD advises all Member States to work towards incentivizing international programmes that promote accountability and transparency as this will lead to increased investments in the agricultural sector and improve trade relations between developing countries.

104. The UNCTAD notes that virtual future option transactions like Calls and Puts do not achieve a country’s self-sufficiency for they are subject to the future market prices. Acknowledging that future and forward covers are meant to hedge the current market price of staple food, UNCTAD notes the purpose of allowing buyers to settle future deals with predetermined prices. This will ensure that there is a defined amount of food at the price of the forward rate available to cover the country’s needs.

105. The UNCTAD supports mitigation of excessive speculation in agricultural markets through coordination with the World Trade Organization. The UNCTAD advises increased research on excessive speculation in agricultural markets and the creation of policies and binding mechanisms that work to reduce extreme price volatility. Price volatility has been cited as a main
cause of the 2008 food crisis and focus on reducing excessive speculation on agricultural and commodity markets will attempt to prevent future food crises.

106. The UNCTAD supports the World Fair Trade Organization's ten principles, especially the first and the fourth principles, namely Creating Opportunities for Economically Disadvantaged Producers and Payment of a Fair Price. It is necessary to ensure that traders are paid at a fair minimum price regarding the work they invest. This body considers fair trade a method to combat price volatility.

107. The UNCTAD recognizes the importance of increasing access to agricultural market information for smallholder farmers to increase their ability to be competitors in the global agricultural markets. The Group of 20 and Food and Agricultural Organization’s Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) is effective at compiling information but its information is only distributed to a small number of countries. The UNCTAD recommends that AMIS expand its information network to developing countries to access this information and build their capacity to utilize international markets.

108. The UNCTAD supports the Food Import Financing Facility (IFF) that operates as a lending facility for high-risk Member States as decided by the IFF. This will assist to alleviate financial constraints as well as international grain options and futures to ensure the availability of food imports. This will also reduce exporting risks when supplies are low.

109. The UNCTAD advises the General Assembly to acknowledge the effect of domestic agricultural subsidies, particularly those which distort agricultural markets and reduces the ability of developing countries to compete in the international market. The UNCTAD also supports preferential treatment for developing and least developed countries.

110. The UNCTAD advises the General Assembly to note that Member States who are unable, or would prefer not, to reduce domestic agricultural subsidies should consider renewing or establishing commitment to the L’Aquila Food Security Initiative, or contribute in other ways to assist to agricultural development. The L’Aquila Food Security Initiative was agreed upon by the Group of 8, OECD, the Commission of the African Union, and many other Member States and international organizations. Parties to this initiative agreed to allocate $20 billion towards agricultural development assistance through a variety of means and initiatives, as established in the L’Aquila Declaration. The UNCTAD also advises the review and possible revision of the L’Aquila Food Security Initiative to enhance its effectiveness based on results from its previous implementation.

111. The UNCTAD supports the United Nations Industrial Development Organizations Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Programme to allow for the dissemination of information and strategy approaches to chemical management, in order to ensure that products being traded are environmentally safe and sustainable.

112. The UNCTAD advises the General Assembly to utilize existing international frameworks, if present, or create and implement a new international comprehensive framework led by the World Bank, FAO, IFAD, and the UNCTAD in order to monitor public and private investments that are
entrusted to states focused on agricultural production. The UNCTAD requests that this framework be tailored to every country’s needs and include areas such as stockpiling, installations, irrigation, institutions for research and popularization, capacity building and public and private partnerships.

C. COMBATTING PROBLEMS IN FOOD ALLOCATION AND WASTE

113. The UNCTAD firmly believes that the repurposing of food waste would significantly contribute to global food security. Therefore, this conference encourages the implementation of policies that target the reduction and effective utilization of waste.

114. To reduce the wastage of edible food in the global community, the UNCTAD considers the innovative Online Food Sharing Initiative as a great prototype for programs designed to reallocate food and prevent spoilage. Therefore the UNCTAD:

a. recommends the creation of platforms similar to the World Food Programme that bring together private persons or households, distributors, and producers in order to share food surpluses on a local level and the eventual extension of this program to national levels;

b. supports the expansion and implementation of the Food Sharing network on a regional level between neighboring countries to allow for the more efficient use of food surpluses through trade among both developed and developing countries.

115. In reference to research conducted by the FAO on food labeling and expiration dates, the UNCTAD further recommends:

a. introducing a date for optimal use (Best-Before-Date) for certain products rather than the conventional expiration date, to prevent dumping of still edible foods past the expiry date;

b. dual-labeling of food with two expiration dates, one for the marketing (Sell-by-Date) and the other for consumption (Use-by-Date);

c. additional engagement of relevant UN bodies in raising awareness in consumers of the meanings behind the various expiration dates.

116. Encompassing FAO’s Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, the UNCTAD supports the approach to raise awareness, and compose collaboration among Member States to supply reports to target specific demographics.

117. To lower the amount of food wasted during transport the UNCTAD suggests:

a. encouraging projects and programs that enhance the grade level of nation states’ transportation infrastructure by the General Assembly, following the example of the Algerian five-year public investment plan aiming to develop public infrastructure;
b. the further development of transportation technology to ensure maximum retention of food when being transported to consumers who are heavily dependent on that resource.

118. The UNCTAD highlights the necessity of constructing more effective and efficient food storage facilities to avoid food dissemination due to overproduction and lower demand. Therefore, this conference calls for:

a. the support of programs that assist developing countries to implement mechanisms that address food storage and waste, such as the Asian Development’s Bank Commodity Exchange for Rice Programme’s Options for Addressing Price Risk;

b. the further promotion of warehousing infrastructure by development banks such as Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), private enterprises to educate individual farmers on proper management, acquiring and utilizing capital to its maximum efficiency.

119. The UNCTAD suggests the investigation of opportunities leading to increased investments into food waste management and the utilization of a nation’s waste for the purpose of effective fertilization and progressive eco-friendly modifications. Waste contains a variety of minerals and natural vitamins that are valuable to agricultural growth and can be converted into economic assets such as clean energy. Thus, this conference would encourage increased reporting relating to the matter of waste involvement with fertilization effect on soil and where waste is invested in member states. Therefore, the UNCTAD recommends:

a. discussions of investment specified toward clean energy. This conference further proposes global access to view updated reports and valuable data worksheets that involve waste and clean energy relations including those that discuss mineral composition of agricultural products, crop yield data, agronomic production relations, and data examples. Furthermore, these reports should include informative data on how waste can be utilized to generate environmental-friendly energy;

b. collaboration among the United Nations Environmental Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund in an effort to devote more resources to the initiation of accessible in-depth reports to pursue the following:

i. initial discussions for reports written on climate change regarding the global environment and educational field targeting of independent agriculturalists in environmentally sustainable measures to mitigate certain techniques that are harmful to the environment and detrimental to agricultural productivity.

ii. research conducted on the relationship between organic pesticides (herbicides) and environmental changes. Agrochemicals are more toxic and have detrimental effects on both the environment and on the people using them, as discussed in the UNCTAD’s policy briefing on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in LDCs. Furthermore, the misuse of pesticides can lead to immunity of harmful organisms and the subsequent use of stronger chemical deterrents. Solutions
include research and investigation on more efficient, eco-friendly, and cost-effective methods.

iii. collection of numerical data clean energy facilities within Member States and the methods of clean energy implemented. One possible method consists of capturing the methane produced by of cows to use as a natural gas source.

iv. discussions addressing possible methods that encourage the scientific investigation of rainfall patterns and the collection of samples that determine the acidity of rainwater.

120. The UNCTAD encourages the promotion of biodiversity by enhancing eco-friendly changes and sustainable environmental procedures, as discussed in Rio+20. Within this context, the UNCTAD also promotes the idea of enhanced communication systems between southern and northern states, providing the efficient facilitation and distribution of environmentally safe procedures and tactics throughout the globe.

121. Recognizing the European Federation of Food Banks as an organization using best practices to manage food surpluses, the UNCTAD seeks to replicate the successes in food management and distribution achieved by such programs. Thus, the UNCTAD:

a. recommends the use of food banking, a process used by more than forty countries worldwide, in order to alleviate hunger, malnutrition, and place a level of controls on the price of food. Food can be acquired through donation of food from farms, manufacturers, distributors, and other sources where it would otherwise go to waste, and make it available to the hungry through various community organizations. Food banks can also work to create grass-root organizations and networks that make it possible for the dissemination of information on food waste and nutrition, as well as encouraging greater solidarity between participating peoples;

b. supports funding operational costs through partnerships with preexisting governments, private or philanthropic organizations, and NGOs through the provision of funds by Member States or UN bodies as well as through grants and loans from organizations – namely the World Bank or the European Development Fund.

D. Infrastructure: Transportation, Water, and Utilizing Infrastructure to Combat Food Waste

122. Increased transportation infrastructure will allow farmers currently engaged in subsistence farming to have access to markets and increased production capacities. The UNCTAD highlights that increased utilization of regional development banks for infrastructure development projects can provide a stimulating effect for rural farming economies by providing funding and financing for rural developmental projects. The UNCTAD further seeks to enhance the effectiveness and rapidity of infrastructure development by:
a. Increasingly utilizing the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), as a coordinating body, to bring together all stakeholders for infrastructure development projects in order to maximize their effectiveness. Increased collaboration between developmentally focused organizations will ensure that aid is utilized with maximum effectiveness and that organizations with similar goals can combine resources in order to maximize the positive benefits. Many developing countries suffer from an extreme lack of infrastructure that limits their development and production capacities.

b. Increasing access to energy and electrical infrastructure. Such infrastructure is paramount to promoting the sharing of agricultural practices and the use of agricultural technology that can increase food production. The UN Secretary General’s Sustainable Energy for All Initiative is a global initiative focusing on assisting Small Island Developing States and many Least Developed Countries by implementing sustainable electrical systems, including solar, wind, and hydropower, inter alia. The New Partnership for Africa’s Development hosts an Energy Programme that, if it were supported by industrialized countries with available technology, especially sustainable electricity-generating technology, would increase its impact across the African continent. Increased access to electricity and affordable energy will allow developing Member States to increase their utilization of information and communication technologies, especially in rural areas, and therefore give rural and smallholder farmers increased access to information.

c. Encouraging cooperation with regional programmes that seek to provide government officials with technical assistance for developing road infrastructure, including the Asian Development Bank’s Regulating and Sustaining Road Transport Programme that works with governmental authorities in regulating where roads go to maximize the effectiveness of regional infrastructure projects and national investment in physical infrastructure. Additionally, regional cooperation in transportation infrastructure between neighboring countries should be strengthened though bilateral and multilateral agreements on road and rail systems that should link marginalized regions to the global food markets, thereby facilitating the integration of agricultural countries into the world economy. The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) and the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) are examples of organizations already in existence.

d. Expanding access to harbors, including those on all major waterways and oceans, which represent an opportunity for Member States to trade food and related commodities on the global market and import food when needed. The GA should suggest that developing countries partner with regional economic communities, such as the Economic Community of West African States, the Caribbean Community, and Association of Southeast Asian Nations, inter alia, to develop roads that connect landlocked countries to harbors in collaboration with coastal countries for mutual benefit, and support increased international and regional cooperation to promote regional integration in terms of physical infrastructure. Such physical infrastructure will increase access to transshipment points and deepwater ports, especially for landlocked developing countries.
e. Encouraging international cooperation in implementation of intermodal transport systems, including harmonization of policies regarding air travel and the establishing trade ports, especially on small island developing states, with a view to facilitate food trade. Some regional organizations, including the European Union in their treaty outlining Trans-European Networks, have established effective frameworks for such implementation and harmonization, and the UNCTAD recognizes that further work by regional organizations in establishing such frameworks would be beneficial.

f. Encouraging further research and development in the agricultural sector, the UNCTAD recommends that non-governmental organizations such as Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) assist developing countries in improving their agricultural sectors. By providing developing countries with the technical knowledge to establish a more efficient method of food preservation as well as integrating improved storage systems into their transportation systems, developing countries can make strides towards a more sustainable trading and agricultural system. Further, greater research is necessary to develop effective and more efficient organic/sustainable farming methods to prevent land erosion and ground contamination by fertilizers.

g. Enhancing mechanisms that promote research and innovation in transportation of food. Given the paramount importance attached by the UNCTAD to research and analysis, and the GA resolution A/Res/66/220 that emphasizes using research systems to promote research and innovation, the GA should consider the potential increased role of the WFP’s Operations Research Division in field of food transportation. The UNCTAD has identified that establishing a reward for scholars and university students that come up with innovative projects aiming at improving food transportation would encourage increased innovation in this field and that implementation of such a reward within the WFP should be considered.

h. Assisting developing countries in creating food storage facilities when implementing infrastructure development projects in order to limit the loss of food due to spoilage. The GA should consider encouraging Member States and regional organizations to partner with the Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction of the FAO that provides frameworks to Member States on reducing food waste and loss, including guidelines for the utilization of food storage facilities. The Think, Eat, Save programme of the UN Environment Programme and FAO, in its promotion of food savings for countries with limited infrastructure, should also be considered for such partnerships.

123. Water is inextricably tied to agricultural productivity. It is essential when discussing infrastructure to ensure that Member States, especially developing Member States, have access to water such that they can establish irrigation systems, sanitation systems, and other necessary water infrastructure. The UNCTAD would highlight that water infrastructure can be improved by:

a. Expanding water infrastructure that allows for irrigation, including through partnership with the World Bank’s Irrigation and Drainage Sector which provides financing for
developing countries, in line with their specific development plans, to build irrigation and water infrastructure to increase their crop production. Enhanced crop production will increase local food availability and decrease net food imports at the national level. Subterranean irrigation techniques should increasingly be considered as they deliver water directly to plants roots and increase the efficient use of water.

b. Encouraging further assistance from the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development such that it can increasingly enhance capacity building in developing countries. Access to water for countries which currently lack adequate access, in addition to providing expert advise for such countries, should be a top priority for this programme. Without access to water of any kind, countries will be entirely unable to develop their agriculture.

c. Supporting the first pillar of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) that focuses on Land and Water Management in the African region. Current land ownership issues, unsustainable use of water, and desertification threaten the ability of Africa not only to establish adequate land for farming, but also to have water in order to grow crops. CAADP should be strengthened with support from donor countries with financial, technical, and logistical support so that it can improve its efforts in this category. The TerrAfrica Sustainable Land and Water Management Initiative is an example of collaboration between CAADP and other bodies, in this case the Global Environment Facility, and such collaborations should be promoted and increasingly utilized.

d. Advocating for the cautious use of agrochemicals within the agricultural sector and examining the possibilities organic farming methods. The UNCTAD agrees that by reducing the loss of arable land due to soil erosion caused directly by extensive use of these chemicals, lowering the contamination of land and water which is contaminated by agrochemicals, and improving the overall quality of agricultural products around the world will further the points towards sustainable agriculture.

e. Promoting the maintenance of natural ecosystems, provide adequate food to residents and create a sustainable system of food production, and sustainable agricultural practices. The UNCTAD suggests that the GA consider creation of local initiatives and projects such as the Vietnamese Production System and other initiatives like Agricultural Market Information System which disseminates information to Member States.

f. Increasing UN partnership with non-governmental organizations in order to drive sustainable water initiatives in support of Millennium Development Goal 7. Non-governmental organizations that actively promote access to water in developing countries should be encouraged to do so and should increasingly coordinate with UN programmes, including UN-Water’s Task Force on Water Resources Management, in order to maximize the results of their efforts.

g. Enhancing water sanitation to not only to ensure the longer term health of rural people and agricultural workers, but also helps to ensure that contaminated water does not enter
crops which will later be consumed. The UN Water, Sanitation and Hygiene programme, hosted by the UN Children’s Fund, should be utilized by Member States to specifically assist rural and smallholder farmers in gaining access to adequate sanitation, thus ensuring healthy crops and workers.

E. International Cooperation, Trade, and Economic Integration: Impacts on Food Security

124. The GA should consider methods by which Member States, especially developing countries, can cooperate increasingly in order to maximize their agriculture productivity. Regional programs and programs can protect and improve livelihoods and allow for increased collaboration, resilience, and sharing of best practices. International cooperation should be promoted by:

a. Increasing South-South efforts that will allow developing countries to improve their food security through cooperation. South-South driven efforts, including the Purchase from Africans for Africa initiative which is currently implemented in five African countries and seeks to coordinate rural agricultural producers in Africa with consumers, should be expanded across the African continent and replicated in order to promote Southern efforts to enhance food security.

b. Expanding the WFP’s Purchase for Progress Initiative, which is currently in the pilot phase, and allowing it to continue it is effort to promote coordination amongst Member States and to purchase from smallholder farmers such that they have cash flows to fund increased agricultural production. This effort should be solidified and expanded out of the pilot phase to expand its positive work.

c. Increasingly utilizing and supporting at all levels the work of the Food and Agricultural Organization’s (FAO) Special Programme on Food Security which focuses on providing technical and material assistance to farmers to improve sustainable agricultural practices. The FAO as an organization is paramount to enhancing global food security. UNCTAD advocates for increasing support to the FAO and partnerships between the FAO and other bodies.

d. Enhancing the relationship between the North and South which is integral to the permanent advancement of developing states. Cooperation between the North and the South, including through triangular cooperation. UNCTAD encourages all donor countries to meet their commitments made in the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development. In the Monterrey Consensus, the industrialized world committed to contributing 0.7% of their gross national income to official development assistance, including assistance that contributes to food security. While the UNCTAD recognizes that some donor countries may face challenges in meeting this level of official development assistance, it encourages Member States to be conscious of their prior commitments.

125. The UNCTAD recommends the creation of regional funds for infrastructure development in areas that do not already have one. These funds should be organized between intergovernmental
organizations, non-governmental organizations, and private companies, including collaboration
with the Association for Sustainable Human Development, the Global Policy Forum, Good
These regional funds should work on organizing cross country and regional rail systems to
improve food trade and promote South-South cooperation and should additionally fund projects
relating to refrigerated vehicles for food transportation and organization of road systems. The
GA should also continue to encourage bilateral investment treaties between states in order to
improve infrastructure in line with the Nairobi Outcome Document.

126. Becoming aware of the current state of global economic integration and seeking increased
cooperation within the international community to further economic integration. In line with the
Accra Accord and the Doha Manar, UNCTAD should become a more effective mechanism for
negotiation and discussion. Completion of the Doha Development Agenda would be ideal, but
other forums for trade discussion would allow the international community to come together at a
faster pace. Discussions regarding tariffs and subsidies, when necessary, may be encouraged
under the auspices of UNCTAD. Any trade barriers should align with the World Trade
Organization Principles, including the most favored nation principle, but should also consider the
needs of developing countries.

127. Replicating the efforts of the US-India-Africa Triangular Partnership in other regions. This
partnership focuses on increasing agricultural production by supporting research in sustainable
agricultural techniques and sharing of technology. This partnership provides an excellent
example of triangular cooperation and can stand as a model for other triangular initiatives.

128. Assessing the impact of multinational corporations and ensuring that the role of
multinational corporations continues to grow in the developing world. Public private
partnerships between national governments and large corporations can allow for mutual benefit
in terms of infrastructure, agricultural capacity, and trade, as many corporations require new
infrastructure in order to operate and such infrastructure would also benefit the host nation. The
UNCTAD therefore encourages Member States to collaborate with the UNCTAD’s Business
Facilitation Unit, which has conceived of and begun to implement a web-based e-government
system to help developing countries and countries in transition work towards business facilitation
through transparency, simplification and automation of rules and procedures relating to
enterprise creation and operation. This system can contribute to greater transparency and
efficiency in the public service, improved governance and cost reductions.

129. Increasing transparency in agricultural markets to allow Member States better predict and
prepare for increases in food and related commodity prices. The UNCTAD’s Infocomm provides
transparency in commodities markets by compiling information about imports and exports and
making it available to Member States. Additionally, the UNCTAD’s InfoShare programme
provides a web resource for producers such that they can verify current commodity prices and
ensure that they are selling to intermediaries at a fair price. The GA should consider spreading
information regarding these to programs to Member States, especially developing countries, to
utilize these transparency initiatives and further encourage Member States to contribute to these
programs by sharing information.
130. Increasing transparency at the international level through increased cooperation with the Trade Barrier Reporter. The Trade Barrier report seeks to gain voluntary information from corporations regarding how they are impacted by non-tariff barriers to trade that are often difficult to track at the international level. This will allow Member States to consider the impact of non-tariff barriers during trade negotiations. Trade negotiations that are linked to transportation between Member States should also be transparent and fair and be reported to the United Nations Treaty collection.

F. Utilizing Education and Technical Assistance to Improve Food Security

131. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) through its Education for Rural People Initiative, enhances rural education in a number of developing countries. Expansion of this program, especially such that it increasingly provides education for women and children such that they can transition into productive economic roles, would allow for increased capacity and production of agricultural producers, and the UNCTAD would endorse the UNESCO expanding this initiative into additional countries. The UNCTAD has identified that education and technical assistance for agricultural producers and rural populations is a necessity for addressing the needs of low-income food deficit countries and further promotes:

a. Recognizing the importance of agricultural education to increase productivity, promote efficiency, implement technological innovations, and reduce food waste. The UNCTAD suggests that the General Assembly take steps towards educating small-scale farmers in proper harvesting and storage techniques. The UNCTAD believes that the E-Africa Programme should be strengthened to further deliver information and communication technologies to rural farmers throughout Africa and that when considering such programmes the possibility of expanding the programmes to other regions should be considered.

b. Promoting the first principle of the Five Rome Principles that highlights the importance of country ownership. The UNCTAD encourages the creation of agricultural programs at free or low cost to their agricultural sector including small farmers with programs such as Denmark Agricultural and Rural Development Sector (DARDS) Programme. While the UNESCO program is similar, the DARDS has a more focus on making sure that farmers are learning agricultural techniques that help towards nutritional and healthy agriculture.

c. Addressing the needs of rural farmers, which are wide and varied. In addition to the UNESCO’s efforts, the International Fund for Agricultural Development’s (IFAD) Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme specifically works to enable smallholder farmers to move from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture by focusing on adapting their agricultural techniques and knowledge to more modern standards, including proper tilling, soil management, and seed distribution. The UNCTAD would further highlight such educational efforts should focus on long-term sustainable agriculture.
d. Examining the impact of microfinance and how it can be utilized as a positive force. It is important to recognize that microfinance has allowed rural and smallholder farmers to increase their agricultural capacity by increasing their access to financial services. The UNCTAD is aware that microfinance has many positive affects, but also that some rural people have been negatively affected by debt. The GA should consider the focus of the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the largest microfinance initiative within the UN system, and the possibility of providing education to rural people regarding the use of microfinance such that they can utilize it when it will be beneficial but also understand the risks associated with debt. While initial microfinance initiatives, including the Grameen Bank, had return on investment of over 98%, more recent initiatives, especially in countries where there is not a culture for repaying debt, have had a far lower success rate.

e. Promoting technical and vocational and agronomical education and training (TVET) for agricultural producers. Education will become increasingly important as agricultural techniques improve. Such education and training will be required in order to maximize the benefits of any educational and agricultural advancement efforts. Additionally, in order to minimize the reliance of developing countries on industrialized partners, improvements in tertiary education that focuses on bioengineering and other agricultural efforts, will be vital. The GA should consider encouraging the UNESCO to provide frameworks for developing countries to establish TVET and tertiary education systems.

f. Expansion of the WFP’s School Meals Programme which would allow for children to increasingly attend school, have access to nutritious food, and improve their quality of life in the long term. By providing meals to children, the WFP lessens the burden on households and improves local food security. Expansion of this programme across the developing world would be beneficial.

g. Ensuring that proper nutrition and broad health and nutrition education can address the lack of nutrient dense foods, especially for children, as this lack of nutrition often leads to growth stunting, mental impairment, lessened immunity, and long-term negative health effects. The UNCTAD highlights the WFP’s Nutrition Programmes as a method by which states can address these issues as they provide women and children at risk of malnutrition with complementary and fortified foods.

h. Highlighting the education of women and promotion of support, technical assistance, knowledge sharing, and opportunities for female farmers. National institutions supported by non-governmental organizations, as has been demonstrated by the Jordan River Community Empowerment Programme that aims to support he most vulnerable populations through skill improvement outreach programs, should be encouraged to continue in their work.

i. Recognizing the impact of HIV/AIDS as one of the major factors increasing food insecurity and malnutrition. As stated by the WFP, a poor nutritional status and HIV can reinforce each other in a vicious cycle. As recognized by WFP, WHO and UNAIDS, HIV infection undermines food security by reducing work capacity and jeopardizing
household livelihoods. Thus worsening the food security status combined with malnutrition, the immune system of the individual is severely weakened, which increases susceptibility to coinfections and accelerates progression of HIV-related diseases. This combination can result in poverty, malnutrition and further health risks. Therefore, measures taken by EducAIDs, the comprehensive Global Initiative on Education regarding HIV & AIDS, should be included in the educational program to prevent malnutrition and food-insecurity.

j. Establishing regulations concerning health and food safety. These should include but are not limited to bacteria testing for E. coli and other types of bacteria, as well as setting fresh food safety standards with appropriate dates based on when the food spoils. Equally important is the focus on minimizing delays and inefficiencies in food transportation. Regulations should be tailor-made to each type of food and system of food preservation. They also should be designed to keep food fresh during food inspection.

k. Utilizing space-based technologies, among other methods, in order to monitor and promote sustainable efforts. The UN Space-Based Platform for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) utilizes satellite mapping technology in a wide variety of ways, including for mapping the results of natural disasters, deforestation, desertification, and other phenomena visible from space. The GA should consider utilizing this programme, when requests to by Member States, to identify hotspots for biodiversity, ensure that areas that require conservation are maintained, and encourage sustainable land management techniques, including those techniques outlined by the Division of Sustainable Development of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

l. Considering the implementation of additional forums through which knowledge transfer can occur. While there are some existing bodies, including within the FAO and regional organization, a truly multilateral discussion including all Member States regarding the issues of food security would improve the global food security situation. This forum should include exchange of expert knowledge and best practices in policy-making.

G. Food Security: Technology and Biotechnology

132. Technology, especially agricultural farming technology and biotechnology, can transform traditional subsistence farmers into large scale producers. However, there are many challenges facing the developing world in having sufficient access to and utilization of such technologies. UNCTAD therefore suggests:

a. Expansion of the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange to focus increasingly on sharing technology, including basic irrigation and harvesting equipment, and best practices related to agriculture and farming that would enable Member States, especially developing countries, to increase their agricultural capacity. Bilateral technology transfer, in a North-South fashion, would also increase the capacity of
developing states to produce food for both internal consumption and for export.

b. Examining the use of genetically modified organisms and seeds. Developing countries may benefit from increased access to resilient seeds protected by intellectual property rights. Such genetically modified crops often increase crop yields and therefore overall food security, but also bring with them unique challenges for the developing world, including their cost and unforeseen spreading of genetically modified seeds. The UNCTAD recommends the World Intellectual Property Organization consider facilitating the sharing of intellectual property rights and should increasingly work to share such intellectual property rights with developing countries. Resilient seeds that are not restricted by intellectual property rights, including quinoa, should also be increasingly made available to developing countries. The needs of vulnerable smallholder farmers should be considered when dealing with intellectual property owned by large multinational corporations, in order to protect such farmers and promote agricultural development. Member States should be encouraged to exercise caution in utilizing genetically modified seeds, especially seeds that contain single-germination or self-annihilating mechanisms. Organizations that work to research seeds and make them available to developing countries, such as the CGIAR, should be consulted prior to utilizing seeds that contain such mechanisms.

c. The GA considers expanding the role of the FAO in researching the potential positive and negative impacts of genetically modified crops to ensure that developing countries are maximizing the effectiveness of such crops and minimizing the adverse effects in a sustainable and safe manner. Such research should be completed before utilization of new strains of genetically modified crops in developing countries. Both developing and developed countries should use caution in utilizing genetically modified crops, should utilize them only in accordance with national priorities and development plans, and should also examine organic options, including cross-breeding of crop species. FAO should therefore additionally increase research funding for organic options. The UNCTAD also expresses support for the work done by the Organic Agriculture Programme and Action Taken by the FAO and recommends more research initiatives to be taken on the issue of organic agriculture.

d. Supporting the creation of state-owned seed banks that conserve native seeds and provide them to small-scale farmers at low or no cost. This will simultaneously aid in the preservation of native biodiversity. Moreover, storing seeds limits the effects of natural and manmade disasters by serving as both preparation and protection against food crises. The UNCTAD will work in cooperation with the FAO to provide technical assistance in the creation of state-owned seed banks. The UNCTAD further encourages the establishment of more regional seed projects that work in tandem with Agricultural Field Schools to improve access to quality, natural seeds for small-scale farmers.

e. Utilizing the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC), emerging Southern donors, and funds from donor countries. The UNCTAD suggests that finances should be invested into vocational skills training across developing and provide them with technical
assistance as well as agricultural infrastructure.

f. Encouraging multiple bodies to examine the potential concerns regarding health and agriculture. The World Health Assembly previously passed World Health Organization resolution WHA/53/15, which has been highlighted as requiring strengthening such that it can increase strengthen its capacity to assists Member States in ensuring the transparency, excellence, and independence in utilization of genetically modified seeds. Regional organizations that seek to ensure positive uses of biotechnology should be expanded, including the African Biosafety Network of Expertise.

g. Addressing the needs of developing countries with regards to agrochemicals, especially fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides which all allow for massive increases in agricultural productions and crop yields. Allowing developing countries and smallholder farmers to gain increased access to these agrochemicals is a difficult proposition as they are often expensive and have detrimental effects, when misused in the long term, on agricultural land. Regional initiatives, including the African Development Bank’s African Fertilizer Financing Mechanism, which seek to provide mechanisms by which such farmers can gain access to agrochemicals, are encouraged, as is education of farmers such that they do not overuse such chemicals. Additionally, CGIAR should be increasingly utilized as a partner to support research in lowering the costs of agrochemicals and providing guidance to Member States on implementing national legislation to ensure sustainable use of agrochemicals.

h. Increasingly studying and sharing the positive benefits of traditional knowledge. While agrochemicals represent a potential growth area for developing countries, price fluctuations in agrochemicals often lead to food price volatility. Therefore, traditional techniques which lead to increased crop yields should be increasingly studied and shared via the UN Industrial Development Organization’s Centres for South-South Cooperation which are currently implemented in over thirty developing countries. These centres should be implemented in additional developing countries to maximize the effectiveness and sharing of traditional knowledge. While agricultural development represents a positive force of growth for traditionally subsistent farmers, there are also cultural barriers which should be addressed. Therefore, Member states should proceed with cultural sensitivity, integrating traditional methods with modern techniques.

i. Examination of the impact of biofuels mandates from developed nations that may divert production of food crops into non-consumption crops, thereby increasing food insecurity and encroachment upon natural forests. The UNCTAD does understand that biofuels are important as a major source of energy for Member States but the committee further suggests that developed countries lower the current percentage of biofuels mandates and endorse the usage of second and third generation crops to effectively combat hunger.

j. Promoting the procurement of agricultural technologies in the global South. Technology can often be difficult to procure, especially for small villages and groups. UNCTAD recognizes that the advent of agricultural cooperatives can allow rural populations in developing countries to increase their access to agricultural technologies
and increase their agricultural productivity. Member States, in coordination with UN Regional Commissions for technical support, would benefit from seeking to promote agricultural cooperatives at the national level.

H. Increasing Agricultural Resilience to Natural Disasters and Food Crises

133. Natural disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, droughts, tornadoes, and a variety of others can have an immediate and dramatic negative impact on the availability of food to local populations. Some of the recurring ones, such as recurring droughts, can also have long-term negative impacts on the agricultural production, not only in developing countries but also in developed countries. Additionally, it can cause countries to temporarily have limited access to trading in global markets, both for exporting and importing food products. Member States must consider, however, that disasters also come in the form of food crises, which are often difficult to anticipate and mitigate the impact of. Therefore, the UNCTAD, noting the following actions to increase the resilience of Member States, especially developing countries, recommends:

a. Encouraging regional organizations and economic cooperations to increasingly seek to provide resilience to natural disasters, especially in limiting the negative impacts of disasters on food security. Regional bodies should consider focusing their food security efforts on establishing food reserves at the local and regional levels, as has been demonstrated by partnerships between the WFP and the Economic Community of West African States in Their Pre-Positioning for Predictable Access and Resilience test pilot initiative and the ASEAN Emergency Rice Reserve.

b. Adopting, at the international level, a commitment to support the actions outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action especially its fourth priority order that calls for Member States to work towards increased resilience to natural disasters. By damaging agricultural infrastructure, natural disasters have an extremely negative impact on countries’ ability to participate in international trade.

c. Utilizing the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, which is the premiere organization within the UN system for addressing the impacts of natural disasters, and allowing it to increasingly focus on the detrimental impacts of natural disasters on food security. Increasing awareness of natural disasters and access to early warning systems for rural and smallholder farmers would allow them to mitigate the local impact of natural disasters.

d. Providing Member States, especially low-income food deficit countries, with information about a looming food crisis, which can prove essential in mitigating their impact. FAO’s Global Information and Early Warning System information utilizes statistical methods for predicting food and water crises, but this information is not made readily available to all Member States. The FAO should consider improving the technical support to the global South and assist officials in developing countries in understanding the information that they receive.
134. Additionally encouraging regional collaboration between Member States and inter-organizational cooperation in order to share and transfer knowledge related to drought management, such as the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), a project of World Meteorological Organization.

135. Increasing assistance, in terms of food, to states that host refugees, through a partnership between the UN Refugees Works Agency and the WFP. Refugees often greatly increase the burden on Member States and therefore states which host refugees will often require increased assistance in order to ensure that the Right to Food of the refugees is maintained. Increasing the speed with which humanitarian food aid is received for refugee hosting countries would greatly decrease the burden on these countries.

136. The involvement of civil society, private sector, relevant UN agencies, and NGOs is recommended for collaboration in preparing for natural and man-made disasters. Furthermore working with neighboring countries to develop plans to provide food during disasters and also relevant regional organizations is necessary to protect vulnerable populations. UN Country Teams are an excellent resource for collaboration between these organizations. In accordance with the statement, UNCTAD recommends that an international forum for the exchange of best practices in disaster preparation and a creation of plans be created in order to challenge these problems, and such a forum should be hosted by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

137. Emphasizing the importance of agricultural sectors to those economies currently or formerly affected by war of inter-state conflict, as outlined in the Dili Declaration of the g7+. Specifically, the UNCTAD recommends that traditional peace and security bodies, including United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, inter alia, remain cognizant of the detrimental effects of conflict on the availability of arable land.

I. MULTILATERAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

138. The UNCTAD acknowledges that a lack of cooperation and communication prevents the spread of necessary resources to agricultural development and food security, such as technological and policy exchange, and a framework is needed to stimulate the sharing of successful technologies and information for desiring Member States. The UNCTAD recommends enhancing the cooperation of Member States, through the creation of a regional and international, voluntary, knowledge sharing framework titled, Regional Efforts for Development Declaration (REDD). The UNCTAD will oversee the cooperation and sharing of information through the framework illustrated by REDD. The REDD will promote regional sharing of successful agricultural technologies and information with Members States in need. Member States within similar climates and geographical environments should evaluate regionally, their agricultural strengths and weaknesses to better understand existing barriers to agricultural success. By sharing information from region to region through informational databases in correlation with the FAO, REDD will improve the multilateral relations between Members States of different regions. The General Assembly is advised to ensure that this framework is versatile, so that all regions may have the capability to participate. Technological information shared through the REDD should work in correlation with and expand the FAO’s AQUASTAT database
of statistics to include useful and beneficial agricultural technology. The UNCTAD understands that financial contributions to promote cooperation may be difficult for developing Member States to obtain. Therefore, we pledge to allocate funds from our Official Development Aid Fund to help increase the accessibility of this framework to developing Member States. Also, this body requests that the FAO contribute financial and technical assistance so that this framework may become a beneficial possibility for all Member States wishing to participate. The UNCTAD also welcomes other contributions from any entity willing and able to donate.

139. Information Communication Technology is a crucial topic that must be addressed on a multilateral basis to expand the scope of participation by Member States. Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) include technologies such as the Internet, computers, rural radio networks, and other telecommunication devices. These ICTs should be implemented in agricultural communities to provide rural agricultural villages and their inhabitants access to valuable market information concerning farming methods, crop yield information, weather reports and predictions, and information concerning expected prices in the future. ICTs not only improve the standards of living for individuals granted access, but also present opportunities for economic development as farmers will be more informed and connected to the global agricultural trade market.

a. Measures that promote the development of ICTs assist in providing food security by enabling Member States to increase the efficacy of agricultural exports and connect developing Member States with developed states.

b. The expansion of ICTs is crucial because it leads to increased research and development that provides greater food security.

140. The UNCTAD continues to affirm A/RES/60/212 and A/RES/64/222 highlighting the importance of triangular trade as it relates to South-South cooperation for development. Utilizing the triangular cooperation framework as an approach to development projects related to food security will allow beneficiary South-South partners to receive financial aid and assistance. In doing so, triangular cooperation respects state sovereignty and strengthens regional bonds between South-South partners. The UNCTAD encourages the use of the triangular cooperation framework to implement ICTs in agricultural communities as well as educate farmers with the knowledge of how to use ICTs to access market data and strengthen food security.

141. The UNCTAD recommends to the GA the implementation the Institute for North-South Integration and the Development of Economies (INSIDE) in order to strengthen existing mechanisms for partnership to the eminent issue of food security.

a. INSIDE will serve as an open-source platform to achieve food security and will ensure better access to markets for farmers, more efficient cooperation, and effective financing due to the nature of these partnerships.

b. INSIDE’s responsibilities will include the coordination of development projects between donor and recipient states through the auspices of triangular cooperation.
c. This would consolidate research from the diverse Millennium Development Goals from the FAO, WTO, and other international organizations into one central database. This research, and all information pertaining to INSIDE initiatives will be made publicly available in order to allow for participation by non-governmental organizations and public-private partnership collaboration between MNCs, state governments and small & medium businesses, such as labor exchange programs that will benefit all parties involved in this arrangements in the hopes of achieving greater transparency in agricultural production and trade.

d. These projects would be based upon needs of Member States. Projects would prioritize the needs of states needing the most progress in the Millennium Development Goals.

e. INSIDE will strengthen existing initiatives to achieve food security and will be under jurisdiction of the United Nations Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU/SSC). The mandate of the SU/SSC was strengthened in 1978 by A/RES/33/134 during the Buenos Aires Plan of Action to include the promotion, coordination, and support of South-South and triangular cooperation globally within the United Nations.

f. This designation will avoid transaction costs, which normally occur with the implementation of new initiatives as the SU1/SSC is already funded by the existing United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, as established in A/RES/60/212. Furthermore, the UNCTAD recommends that the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation be utilized to fund the costs of establishing INSIDE and carrying out INSIDEs food security development projects.

g. The UNCTAD suggests that INSIDE conduct annual reports to review the status of ongoing INSIDE food security development projects carried out and established through INSIDEs triangular cooperation framework.

J. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

142. The General Assembly must continue to encourage Member States to discuss the development of technology in relation to agricultural practices. Funding should be continually increased for production and food security by raising yields, preventing food loss, and creating pathways of international cooperation to spread agricultural knowledge to nations suffering from a lack of food security.

143. UNCTAD recommends that the General Assembly encourages Member States with the means to establish international cooperation organizations to make education programs which assists developing States with their agricultural sectors.

144. Realizing that it is people who make new technology and acquire new knowledge, the international community should empower the citizens of the world by offering incentives and aid to enhance the realization of human potentials.
Likewise, the international community should encourage entrepreneurship by pursuing the elimination of trade barriers bilaterally with emphasis on regional cooperation. This will facilitate small holder farmers in becoming a global competitor and contributor to international food security. UNCTAD recommends that the General Assembly organize a conference to discuss these eminent issues.

UNCTAD together with its member states should exert efforts in full cooperation to address issues and welcomes the needs to innovate agrotechnology in terms of research to discuss and develop more holistic measures. This will ensure efficient production in processing safe and quality products to render more efficient use of natural resources and arable land, to reduce cost of production that will lead to greater productivity and quality.

The UNCTAD suggests that the General Assembly provide a platform for discussion and engagement regarding ways to give incentives to talent belonging to developing and LDCs in effort to reduce brain drain. In order to support the growth of technology, the UNCTAD requests that the UNDP entertain the oversight of scholarship provision contingent upon action in an individual’s homeland. Additionally, scholarships should be given with special emphasis on education concerning agricultural development and sustainable technology. Finally, UNCTAD wishes to invite members of the international community with similar development experience to partner with developing and LDCs to help guide the effort in a knowledge-sharing initiative.

In efforts to promote sustainable development and limit our damage to the environment the applications of science and technology would be most beneficial if targeted towards organic and clean uses. In addition to not harming the environment, organic agriculture is often cheaper. As such, developments that favor the use of organics should be applied over those that do not. The UNCTAD recommends the GA entertain discussion about creating an incentive structure for the use of green agriculture.

Realizing the importance of technology in forming more efficient international communication measures for knowledge transfer, technological developments in communication will increase the degree of cooperative building between States by making knowledge transfer easier. Therefore, communication developments and network developments will benefit cooperative building efforts to assist developing nations and should be promoted by the GA. We further endorse that Member states with strong ITS capabilities assist developing countries in building a network system that helps connect farmers, marketers, and other stakeholders in agribusiness, which drives investment and education to foster a stronger market structure for developing countries.

Furthering technology can be used to create a database of methods along with instructional videos or webinars to increase the ease of which employing efficient agricultural practices in the international community can be applied. This database should be composed of submissions from states that have originally developed the methods and are currently sharing them in educational programs internationally.

Furthermore the UNCTAD suggests a conglomeration between itself, the FAO, and the UNDP in the formation of an international panel composed of representatives from the
respective committees to gauge and monitor the current development status of every member state in terms of food security, science and technology, and international commerce. With this information at hand, along with efficient communication, international cooperation efforts can be better targeted to regions that need the assistance the most, and/or could benefit from a specific agricultural technique.

152. The UNCTAD further encourages broader utilization of Geographical Information Systems to provide feedback on the terrain in the respective borders of Member States to help inform them on the most beneficial way to integrate specific crops.

K. AGRIBUSINESS

153. The UNCTAD encourages mutually beneficial cooperation between states, NGOs, UN bodies, and other organizations. Communication and the formation of partnerships with a diverse group is vital to enhancing the agribusiness industry.

154. Implemented through the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the UNCTAD seeks to foster more efficient agricultural methods. The UNCTAD advises the adoption of an integrated agro-ecological methodology in agricultural systems, such as the SRI, by imitating their approach and using it for other crops such as wheat, sugarcane, and teff (a type of grain).

155. The UNCTAD further recommends the exploration of alternative finance mechanisms such as rural financing, agriculture financing, and value chain financing. Additionally, the UNCTAD supports efforts to lower tariff levels. Lowering or removing tariff barriers can help Member States increase their capital flows.

156. UNCTAD endorses Member states to become involved with aid facilities and companies active in Agribusiness to subsidize their activities in LDCs. We believe this would serve as incentive to such companies. Additionally, the inclusion of a training program to teach Member States how to develop agribusinesses into their local economy would be beneficial. Member States can cooperate with UN bodies, such as the Food and Agricultural Organization, to learn best practices on training programs.

157. We request Member States, UN development agencies, and donors to integrate local populations, especially marginalized groups such as women and indigenous groups, into decision making mechanisms to respect the rights and active citizenship. We believe development programs must be directly anchored to the on-the-ground operations in order to reflect the real needs and struggles of the local population. Member States need to integrate a bottom-up approach where local populations are integrated into development and planning projects. Working with a UN agency, such as the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, can help with logistics and improve communication. Additionally, working with Humanitarian and Communication based NGOs can also prove to be vital in this process.
158. The UNCTAD suggests the implementation of assessment mechanisms to all development programs and projects relevant to agribusiness. The assessment mechanisms would evaluate agribusinesses and provide feedback on best practices, effectiveness, issues, and economic benefits to the agribusiness thus allowing Member States to provide food security for their citizens by their increase in capital.

L. SUSTAINABILITY

159. The UNCTAD has found that the most effective way to approach hunger through direct action, in the context of food security, is to implement and support the Millennium Villages project in a more expansive manner in order to gain higher international support through voluntary funding. By highlighting this programme to the General Assembly and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a primary method to combat hunger in the most impoverished areas in the world.

a. By recommending the increase of voluntary funding going towards the Millennium Villages project by individual Member States, this will work towards benefiting the lives of the population inhabiting the regions where the project is implemented.

b. The UNCTAD also advises the expansion of financial support for the Millennium Villages programme through the integration of the FARMS fund into the existing funding mechanism, which incorporates all relevant stakeholders.

c. The UNCTAD is fully aware of the threats that price volatility poses to LDC’s and especially its exponentially large effect on small farming communities. Millennium Villages should be required to keep a stock of food and emergency food funds. These measures are the best local solutions in combating food price volatility in a reserve will exist in the event of any emergency.

160. The UNCTAD is cognizant of the gathering current and accurate data, and promotes programme such as the Asian Development Bank’s Improving Economic and Social Statistics. Programme such as this provide an accurate picture of the status of rural villages in a variety of developing countries. With the help of such statistics, Millennium Villages will be implemented at the places in most need, thus making them more efficient.

161. The UNCTAD recognizes that a subjective approach with regard to a State’s strengths and weaknesses in agricultural capacity is imperative to food security. Application of the IFAD’s RB-COSOP or variations of it would be the contextual method in which problems with capacity building for rural development would most progress. The RB-COSOP is a balance of funding-oriented and technical assistance strategies structured to aid rural, agriculturally dependent sectors. The RB-COSOP is also a system for strategic assessment of the agricultural capacity-building strengths and weaknesses of a country. Supplementing a comprehensive country development would be support for grassroots communities and rural sectors and would entail the application of RB-COSOP and IFAD programmes through the Distinctive Development Initiative.
a. The Distinctive Development Initiative makes use of RB-COSOP and IFAD assessment tools (poverty situation, policy context, other donor activities and lessons learned from previous projects) and applied to Millennium Villages.


c. Through this programme, the international community can engage in better technologies and education surrounding organic agriculture in order to yield higher quality foods, while simultaneously improving quality of life. The implementation of increased agricultural capacities will subsequently encourage farming in areas currently not conducive to agriculture due to social, cultural, and geographical limitations.

d. Education and technology innovation are encouraged to further agricultural initiatives in these communities.

e. Due to the unsustainable nature of non-organic agricultural production, organic processes are strongly encouraged through the use of sustainable and organic methods. The organic approach minimizes the costs of farming because it does not use agrochemicals. The decrease in costs will improve overall the quality of living for farmers and families because the profits from agricultural production will be higher. Organic production is also more beneficial for the environment because it decreases negative impacts on soil, increases water retention, and results in an environment in homeostasis overall.

f. Traditional methods of farming conducive to indigenous populations are also encouraged due to the inherent benefits of agricultural production within a specific geographical region.

162. The UNCTAD understands that the issue of food waste is unique for all Member States and the importance of mitigating food waste in order to reach a food-secure, sustainable world. Solely improving agricultural production will not solve the issue of food insecurity. The UNCTAD feels that in order to effectively solve the issue of food waste, all of its facets, beginning with the producer and continuing to the consumer, must be addressed not only on the international level, but also on the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

a. Understanding that connecting remote areas to the market increases transportation efficiency and speed, and by extension, reduces food loss, the UNCTAD recognize the immediate need for increasing access to affordable transportation infrastructure, specifically roads and railways by:

b. Expanding and implementing of the UNDP initiatives to support the development of national and regional transportation networks, such as the Developing Rural Transport and Infrastructure programme.
c. Working to decrease time-consuming trade and transportation barriers by promoting the creation of Transnational Railway Agreements and Treaties, such as the proposed Economic Commission of Western African States rail network.

d. Recognizing the effect that the lack of suitable capacities to deal with agriculture surplus has on food waste, namely that a lack of storage facilities and contingency plans lead to the degradation and loss of agricultural commodities, the UNCTAD calls for increased financial, technical, and logistical support to regional food banks in order to establish new food banks under the auspices of regional organizations as well as strengthen existing ones, such as the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve. The UNCTAD also believes that producers should consider contributing their surplus agricultural production in times of plenty, in order to have sufficient resources in times of need.

e. Cognizant that smallholder farmers comprise the main source of food production in developing countries and the world as a whole, the UNCTAD supports initiatives to promote the expansion of domestic agriculture production through addressing the needs of smallholder farmers.

163. The UNCTAD wishes to highlight the impact of improved factors of production on agricultural production. The UNCTAD would therefore like to encourage regional organizations to utilize programmes such as CGIAR (previously known as the Comprehensive Group on International Agricultural Research), which focus on the development of new and innovative agricultural factors and techniques.

164. The UNCTAD is also aware of the FAO position that by addressing the needs of women farmers, agricultural production can be more effectively and efficiently increased, and recommends that all relevant stakeholders focus on the promotion and empowerment of women farmers.

165. In order to combat hunger and malnutrition, it is essential to introduce a successful process that can be adapted, not just by one Member State, but by all. Although, the UNCTAD recognizes that there is no “one-size-fits all” solution to collectively help all Member States, agriculture is based on one fundamental component: the seed. The Triple-A initiative, proposed by the World Health Organization would provide developing states with an opportunity to flourish agriculturally and economically through Availability, Affordability, and Apomixis.

166. The UNCTAD recognizes ‘capacity building’ as a necessity in order to make biotechnology available to all member-states. The UNCTAD strongly recommends the General Assembly utilize the UNDP in promoting capacity building techniques, in order to help make biotechnology available by expanding education and skills according to member-states level of knowledge.

167. The UNCTAD promotes IFAD’s continue to support developing states that have benefited from rural funding leading to agricultural innovations in crop quality, technology, and training. Increased productivity in harvests means they can feed their families and take the surplus to market.
168. In order to help the Millennium Villages and farmers in general to produce crops that will create and promote sustainability in agriculture, UNCTAD encourages the promotion of engineering in the form of apomixis as an optional component in the Millennium Villages and other programmes. This is a naturally occurring process in plants that solely requires education for farmers to learn the conditions required for plants to undergo this process. The result of the implementation of this technique is the ability of farmers to reuse advanced seeds each growing season with no loss of efficacy.

169. Fully aware of the importance that education plays in food security within individual Member States the UNCTAD encourages:

a. increased realization of the positive impact that farmer field schools have on local education of farmers on sustainable agricultural techniques and suggests that:

b. access and availability of farmer field schools be increased on a national level by increasing programmes such as the FAO’s Education for Rural Peoples Initiative.

c. a platform for competitive applications for grants and scholarships for farmer field school initiatives overseen by the UNCTAD.

d. using the International Food Policy Research Institute to create a free information-sharing platform for developing countries to gain knowledge through the sharing of best practices with knowhow.

e. the UNCTAD also suggests the UN General Assembly support and promote the empowerment of women farmers through the expansion of programmes and initiatives, such as the Jordan River Community Empowerment Programme, that educate rural women about sustainable farming practices, assist in establishing women-lead micro, small and medium enterprises and promote fair wages for women farmers.

170. The UNCTAD is cognizant of the ever-evolving role of information communication technologies (ICTs) in sustainable agricultural development and overall food security and further recognizes the importance of increased access to these ICTs in development. The UNCTAD therefore suggests:

a. the further expansion and implementation of the Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS) to include information on additional crops and other food-related commodities, such as vegetable oils, and to involve more relevant stakeholders.

b. expansion of GPS and satellite technologies that give farmers access to imperative information on climate and land-use, such as the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), which collects information from various stakeholders, including UN bodies and national and regional space agencies, on global weather trends and natural disasters, and relays this information in one comprehensive document available to Member State governments and the public.
171. Cognizant of the negative consequences of the use of agrochemicals and excessive exploitation of soil, the UNCTAD emphasizes the importance of organic agriculture. By promoting organic agriculture and reducing the use of synthetic agrochemicals, many negative impacts of agriculture, such as groundwater pollution, land degradation and environmental damage can be prevented. The UNCTAD also believes that organic agriculture will improve the overall quality of peoples’ lives.

172. The UNCTAD in order to utilize the benefits of improved inputs while maintaining a commitment to organic agriculture, encourages the FAO Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) initiative to work in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, including the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), to develop and disseminate organic agrochemical and pest-control technologies, such as pesticides derived from fruits and flowers, predation, and crop cycling, as these mitigate the negative consequences of synthetic agrochemical use and provide for more economically, nutritionally, and logistically beneficial agricultural production improvements especially to smallholder and women farmers.

173. In order to implement the expanded protocols of the SARD initiative, the UNCTAD recommends the establishment of a Fund for Agricultural Reform and Market Security (FARMS) under the auspices of the UNCTAD, which would utilize the budget of the UNCTAD, as well as voluntary contributions from Member States and other relevant stakeholders. This fund would be managed as a International Monetary Fund trust fund, and would be utilized in programmes and initiatives targeted toward agricultural development, especially the creation of small-scale food storage facilities; small-scale, community-based irrigation systems; sanitation systems; organic agrochemicals; natural predation; the promotion and incorporation of indigenous and traditional crops and farming techniques, such as the use of high-nutrition, climate-hardy crops like quinoa, and transportation infrastructure. Funds will be awarded to Member States based on application and approval.

174. The UNCTAD recognizes the need for strengthening the capacity and management of water sanitation and efficiency systems through encouraging and promoting the use of DRIP (rain-fed water) irrigation systems.

   a. Use the resources from the FARMS to build human capacity through training and implementation by means of farmer field schools.

   b. FARMS will further provide education on the importance of refraining from using harmful environmental substances, such as agro-chemicals, in order to ensure soil longevity, biodiversity and improved crop yields.

   c. Understanding the use of agro-chemicals is often linked with pest control; FARMS will work to provide further education and funding for organic pesticides, as well as other organic methods of pest management, such as crop coverings.
d. Recognizing that even forms of organic pesticides have overarching effects that reach into communities, the UNCTAD supports FARMS in their mission to work towards obtaining overall responsible use of organic pesticides.

e. Further, FARMS will assist in facilitating foreign investments between Member States in order to increase development, especially in regards to fostering indigenous development and self-sufficiency.

175. Understanding the need for food security for developed and developing countries without access to farmlands and their dependence on foreign imported food, the UNCTAD suggests the implementation of bilateral agreements pertaining to foreign farm investments. In order to provide extra support in the case of natural disasters and bans on exports in food producing countries that are relied on, foreign farm investments will allow countries to take control of their own supply of food without the interference of others. These investments will help countries take control of their own food security based on their own individual needs. We encourage countries with a surplus of land to offer what they don’t need to other states that require assistance in food supply.

a. Investments in foreign farms will strictly be based on the output of crops being produced. Ownership by governments and private companies of the investor is strictly discouraged for both sides.

b. Farmland workers that are working on invested land will be determined by the countries in the agreement for this land to be used, whether domestic or foreign.

c. Forums for this to possibly be discussed could include but aren’t limited to trade fairs and future conferences dealing on international trade. All agreements made this way would be completely voluntary without interference from outside parties.

d. Agreements between countries would be overseen be the UNDP in order to protect both parties.

176. The UNCTAD supports and recommends the creation and expansion of cooperative programmes within regional organizations, such as the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (2009-2013), in order to help smallholder farmers be more productive and increase the sustainability of agriculture. These new and existing regional cooperative programmes could then work in tandem with the UN Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives, which provides a forum for these and other programmes to facilitate the sharing of best practices and attain access to information and other resources.

M. FOOD PRICE VOLATILITY

177. Due to the significant unanticipated spikes in food prices, food price volatility causes food inaccessibility which in turn leads to food security crises. This is especially detrimental to developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Food price volatility makes it very risky for
individual consumers, producers and agricultural traders, as well as governments to take part in producing, buying or selling any agricultural products.

178. UNCTAD recognizes that volatility disproportionately affects the most vulnerable and poor. When food prices increase, low income households are unable to afford basic nutritional necessities. This often jeopardizes nutrition status, in addition to social factors. These factors include impacts on education, especially when families pull their children out of school since they need to work. Funds that used to be invested in health care or education are now going towards the food budget. Additional social impacts include negative effects on gender equality, employment access, among others. Ultimately all of these factors greatly impact food security.

179. This body is aware that during the 2008 food crisis many organizations worked to combat food insecurity, however there was a lack of policy coordination and collaboration among Member States. UNCTAD believes that cooperation between Member States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and governmental agencies is needed, in order to mitigate and eliminate excessive food price volatility.

180. Without increases in agriculture production and improvement in food distribution, the global community will have trouble feeding a growing population in the coming decades. Unless price volatility is rectified, several countries will see the attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals as an impossible future.

181. Developing Member States have been increasingly affected by crop price volatility. Increased price volatility has been augmented by food policies, particularly by developed States. In addition to trade and WTO reform, the integration of small-scale farmers, particularly among indigenous populations, into the existing international value chain will increase the food supply and help stabilize commodity prices by increasing the number of producers in the market, which will yield higher crop output and the growth of local and indigenous crops.

182. The UNCTAD, as a member of the Secretariat of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), recommends extending the AMIS mandate to include additional Member States. This would allow Member States to coordinate policy and strategies in the Rapid Response Unit and would allow for access to the Global Food Information Group that monitors the supply and demand of the different crops, as well the current commodity prices. This policy cooperation between Member States will greatly help mitigate the negative impacts of price volatility, and work towards preventing spikes in food prices as it allows countries to coordinate policies when initial indications of price spikes are received as indicated by the lack of cooperation during the 2008 Food Crisis. Through the use of AMIS experts from different regions of the World, the Rapid Response Unit creates and recommends policies for AMIS participants that help mitigate the negative effects of price volatility. The success of this system becomes evident in the First Year Progress report delivered on October 2012. AMIS, during its first year of existence, was able to recommend successful policies regarding the Black Sea region weather conditions affecting crops that reduced food supply. The Market Monitoring Group is able to provide timely, reliable and accurate information on supply and demand. Additionally, it collects and disseminates data on Member States policy developments which potentially can impact the market. By having access to AMIS, more developing countries can receive necessary
information on how to reduce and stabilize food prices, and will be included in the early warning
capacity, and as a result strengthen their food security.

183. The UNCTAD recognizes that an essential component to combatting food insecurity is the
integration of small-scale indigenous farmers into the existing international value chain. To
facilitate this integration, UNCTAD recommends that the General Assembly encourage Member
States to incorporate small-scale indigenous farmers into regional and international market value
chains, as demonstrated by Bolivia in their Integration of Indigenous Andean producers into new
national and international value chains (MDGF-2093-D-BOL). Incorporation of indigenous
producers as funded by the MDG Achievement Fund, works to strengthen national and regional
State capacities by incorporating indigenous crops and farming techniques into international
markets which strengthens the ability of rural, indigenous farmers to realize consistent crop
yields and to mitigate the effects of crop price volatility.16. UNCTAD strongly recommends that
the General Assembly makes a policy recommendation and asks that Member States invest in
their agricultural sectors, focusing especially on increasing productivity in ways such as
improving infrastructure, modern farming technology and improving seed development in order
to increase their resilience to global spikes in prices. This also greatly increases food supply that
helps stabilize volatile prices in local and regional levels.

184. The UNCTAD further recommends that the GA Plenary discusses the issue of regulatory
action to prevent private institutions from pushing up food prices and restrict access to the
commodities market during their next meeting.

185. The UNCTAD further recommends the creation of a communication organization with the
sole purpose of coordinating efforts and facilitating communication between organizations such
as UNCTAD, FAO, the United Nations Institution for Training and Research, and other
independent organizations, such as the Center for Development Research and International Food
Policy Research Institute. The Communication Organization will be known as Sustainable
Environmental Economic Development Success (SEEDS). Many UN agencies, NGOs, and
independent organizations provide reports on food price volatility; however fail to adequately
communicate with like-minded organizations working on similar initiatives. SEEDS would
fulfill a void in the international system, as many organizations produce similar reports but do
not communicate with each other and thus can be inefficient. This leads to greater efficiency
among the report producing entities on the issues of price volatility.

186. Keeping in mind the over encompassing goal of providing food security to developing
Member States, this Conference further supports the mobilization and use of information and
communication technologies (ICTs) by Member States so as to improve food market
transparency and help governments make informed responses to global food price spikes
complementary to the monitoring by AMIS and the research provided by the Consultative Group
on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR).

N. INSTITUTION BUILDING

187. Recommends the creation a scientific independent intergovernmental body, The United
Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Food Security (UNIPFS) which researches, disseminates,
and maintains comprehensive assessments of current agricultural information and key variables pertaining to food security. This information would be used to help evaluate potential consequences stemming from future decisions of Member States or the international community. These characteristics and procedures would allow UNIPFS to serve as a multilateral and internationally accepted authority on food security, allowing it to provide authoritative recommendations. The UNIPFS would:

a. operate according to the governing principles established by the UNCTAD to:
   i. mitigate the effects of food scarcity on populations,
   ii. determine and assess the impact of food scarcity on international populaces,
   iii. provide the UNCTAD, Member States, and other relevant stakeholders with the information and analysis needed to craft effective policy.

b. be composed of the Report Bureau, the UNIPFS Panel, the Secretariat, working groups established by the UNIPFS Panel, and the Chairperson.

c. vest the Report Bureau with the power to aggregate, verify, and disseminate reports concerning the impact of economic, political, environmental, and technological forces on international food security, *inter alia*:
   i. macroeconomic fluctuations,
   ii. bilateral trade policies,
   iii. drought and other natural disasters,
   iv. warfare and other conflicts,
   v. the empowerment of women and minority populations,

d. charge the Report Bureau with the production of the aforementioned reports by volunteer experts and scientists, who are in turn drawn from Member States. The Report Bureau will create and disseminate an annual summary for policy makers, the passage of which would require unanimous approval by all states party to the Panel.

e. facilitate the workings of the UNIPFS Panel, drawn from the academic and scientific community. Representatives should be appointed directly from their home governments, however, intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental non-governmental organizations are encouraged to participate as observers.

f. task the UNIPFS Panel with the maintenance and modification of the UNIPFS’s structural arrangements, rules of procedures, and membership requirements.
g. create a dedicated UNIPFS Secretariat to interface and cooperate with existing relevant international bodies, *inter alia;*

i. the United Nations Environmental Program,

ii. the UNCTAD

iii. the Food and Agriculture Organization’s Committee on World Food Security

iv. the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

v. the Human Development Report Office,

vi. the World Food Program

188. Instruct the UNIPFS Secretariat to carry out the day-to-day affairs of the body. It would serve to administer those programs and initiatives developed by both the UNIPFS Panel and Working Groups, provide staff and resources for the promulgation of Report Bureau Materials, and assist the Chair in the facilitation of meetings and events.

a. establish Working Groups at the behest of the UNIPFS Panel. These Groups would be tasked with furthering the objectives established in the governing principles.

b. be responsible for the selection of its Chairperson by the running of biennial elections. This chair would be assisted by a similarly elected body of Working Groups and facilitated by the secretariat.

c. ensure that Member States are actively engaged in all levels of the body’s activities, and ensure that all agreements reached by the body are voluntary and in full recognition of each Member’s sovereign rights.

189. Recommends a renewed focus be placed upon the role of small and medium sized enterprises on agricultural development and productions. The UNCTAD supports:

a. increasing the availability and access to capital for small landholders, urban communities, and enterprises by providing microloans to the aforementioned groups, easing terms of credit requirements, and securitizing loan instruments for development purposes

b. the importance of agricultural sectors to those economies currently or formerly wracked by war of inter-state conflict.

c. cooperation with domestic and international corporations to increase awareness of overfishing in the national waters and the exhaustion of natural resources in order to ultimately achieve compliance with existing international protocols, standards, and agreements.
190. Discourage the hoarding and withholding of food commodities from agricultural markets which artificially creates scarcity, increases foodstuff prices, and injects unnecessary volatility into international markets.

191

192. Recommends that the future actions of the UNCTAD and the UNIPFS remain cognizant of the inexorable link between climate stability and food security. Having recognized this relationship, the UNCTAD recommends the inclusion of initiatives to:

   a. reduce and mitigate emissions stemming from the consumption and production of hydrocarbons through the incorporation of sustainable energy projects, *inter alia*, wind, hydropower, and solar generation. UNCTAD further recommends that while these projects can be funded by aid and disbursements from the international community, capital funding should be market-led.

   b. create non-binding spending targets and outcome goals designed to spur efforts designed to mitigate the impact of climate change on agricultural productivity. These goals and targets would help to motivate and promote Member State initiatives to pursue sustainable practices.

192. To achieve food security, agricultural production plays a crucial role. This sector is most strongly affected by climate change. It is important to increase understanding of how to better adapt to climate change and attempt to hinder its affects in the future. For this purpose we recommend the FAO and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) collaborate to further research the specific effects that climate change has on agricultural production in order to educate farmers. The UNCTAD suggests increased education in the following areas:

   a. The potential impact of rising temperatures on agricultural pests and diseases, and increased desertification.

   b. How increased biodiversity and diversification of crops can lead to increased soil quality thus decreasing vulnerability to the harmful effects of climate change such as unpredictable levels of rainfall.

   c. Changing rainfall patterns require farmers to increase their effectiveness in the use of artificial irrigation such as the use of aqueducts.

   d. The effects of change in sunshine levels on crop production and the specific characteristics of seeds.

   e. The impact of the rise in the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide on agricultural operations and productivity and the range of products offered by the agricultural sector.

   f. Changes in grassland species composition including deep rooting or draught tolerant species.
O. EDUCATION

193. The UNCTAD proposes primary goals that encourage fair trade, which involve technological advancements that enhance food processing capabilities, along with methods and structures that will provide advancements in food production in areas where there is high potential but low investment, thus ensuring equitable development. Member States can draw inspiration from Saudi Arabia’s Initiative for Saudi Agricultural Investment Abroad in Ethiopia.

194. Preserving the natural stocks of arid land is an important issue that numerous countries currently face. To alleviate this problem, the UNCTAD supports programs designed to educate farmers on which crops are most suited to be efficiently grown in their specific climate. This education would be supported by efforts to modernize the techniques used by smallholder farmers, including education in crop rotation, over-grazing, and programs aimed at raising awareness of environmentally sustainable practices.

195. The UNCTAD encourages the creation of programs such as S.E.A.L. (Sustainable Environmental and Agricultural Learning), which would encourage developing countries to invest in sustainable, economic, and organic agricultural products. Using natural resources would foster the application of eco-friendly practices and edible, pollutant-free products, to aid in combating commodity price volatility, as reiterated by A/RES/66/221, which declares 2013 as the international year of quinoa. It would also aid a transition to biofuels. In order to facilitate this transition, the UNCTAD would recommend to the General Assembly to create a plan of action for the proper management of agricultural procedures and environmental concerns. Additionally, programs should incorporate input from other relevant stakeholders including local communities and vulnerable populations.

196. To address water shortages, farmers can be taught techniques to maximize the effectiveness of their water usage and communities can be taught water sanitation techniques that increase the amount of usable water. The UNCTAD further recommends the negotiation of memorandums of understanding between countries and regions sharing water sources to ensure their sustainable use. The UNCTAD looks forward to the gains made by the creation of sustainable irrigation systems in Africa and other developing regions that are increasingly vulnerable to drought due to climate change and natural disasters.

197. Innovations in seed resilience, nutrition, and yields will go a long way in addressing food shortages and will allow smallholder farmers to increase their participation in global markets by allowing them to grow food beyond a subsistence level. An example of an agricultural method that increases crop yields is the System of Rice (Roots) Intensification. Growing specific crops, like wheat, potatoes, and rice above the ground using hydroponic technology while they are young and then transplanting them into the ground in a grid pattern has led to a 30 to 45 per cent crop yield increase with no extra cost to the producer because there are no additional seeds that need to be procured. Assessment mechanisms to determine which naturally enhanced crops provide the best yields would allow states to share information on the most successful crops. The UNCTAD calls for up-to-date reports and data simulations that encompass naturally enhanced crops, put together by each Member State and then reported to the body for evaluation.
Furthermore, this Conference suggests that the reports include the annual crop yield statistics when utilizing these crops in response towards any difference in the environment.

198. The UNCTAD emphasizes the role that women and marginalized populations play in the local economy and subsistence agriculture. A/RES/66/220 illustrates the inequality that smallholder farmers, including marginalized populations, face in obtaining access to critical agricultural utilities. Encouraging education for those marginalized peoples is critical in order to achieve a more productive labor force in the agricultural sector. The UNCTAD recognizes the difference in cultural views and promotes the advancement role of the role of women with respect to a state’s sovereignty and social norms.

199. The UNCTAD understands that farmers without the knowledge to properly participate in the global economy cannot efficiently distribute and market their products to a world that increasingly demands food. Global markets require individuals who practice and understand proper marketing and economic methods. In order to do so, the UNCTAD suggests providing schooling to educate the farming communities through the FAO’s Farmer Field Schools.

200. In order to achieve and maintain agricultural independence, this body recommends making advances in agricultural education and technology. Local farmers who engage in ecological agriculture, organic farming, agro-ecology, and regenerative agriculture will see rises in their annual crop yields and decreases in their environmental footprints, as stated in the UNCTAD’s report, *Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in LDCs*.

201. This body highly suggests coordination with existing organizations that specifically address agricultural education. Developing Member States are highly encouraged to participate as their population benefits most from agricultural education. The UNCTAD promotes the use of local organizations to ensure an on-the-ground approach to food security. We strongly promote the empowerment of organizations that address the issue regionally in order to successfully tackle food scarcity in the world, especially in LDCs, because regional bodies possess more knowledge about the needs and available resources of local communities.