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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS BACKGROUND GUIDE 2015

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS





THE 2015 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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Dear Delegates,

We are pleased to welcome you to the 2015 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)! The staff for FAO are: Directors Julius Adebayo (Conference A) and Christopher Mckenna (Conference B), and Assistant Directors Jeffrey Thorpe (Conference A) and Maya Kazamel (Conference B). Julius is currently pursuing an M.A. in applied math and public policy with an emphasis on data science, machine learning, and applications to public policy. This is his third year on staff at NMUN•NY. Christopher received his M.P.H. in International Health from Boston University and is currently pursuing further education. This is his third year on staff at NMUN•NY. Jeffrey completed his M.P.A. at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia. Currently, he works as a Cost Allocation Specialist at Veraction, an audit and logistics firm on Saint Simons Island, Georgia. He is excited to return back for his second year at NMUN•NY. Maya is currently pursuing a B.Sc. in Architectural Engineering from the American University in Cairo. This is her first year on NMUN•NY staff.

The topics under discussion for FAO are:

- I. Protecting and Securing Fisheries in Small Island Developing States
- II. Reducing Rural Poverty
- III. Investing in Agriculture for Food Security and Economic Growth

FAO is the primary United Nations entity tasked with developing solutions and actionable policies to tackle issues related to hunger and malnutrition around the world. In order to address hunger and malnutrition, FAO can facilitate dissemination of technical expertise to states as well as practitioners, bring about public and private collaboration at various levels of engagement, call international conferences around specific thematic issues, and make recommendations to Member States or other UN organs regarding hunger and malnutrition. FAO also works with other agencies and UN entities to develop solutions that address hunger and malnutrition.

At NMUN•NY 2015, we are simulating the Executive Board of FAO in terms of composition and size; however, delegates are not limited to the strict mandate of the Executive Board, as a budgetary and administrative body, during the conference. On the contrary, for the purposes of NMUN•NY 2015, and in line with the educational mission of the conference, the committee has the ability to make programmatic and policy decisions on issues within the mandate of FAO in line with the overall function of the organization.

This background guide is not meant to replace further research and we highly encourage you to consider the background guide, Bibliography, and Annotated Bibliography as starting points as you explore in-depth your countries' policies regarding these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a [position paper](#). Please take note of all [NMUN policies](#) on the website and in the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#), particularly those regarding plagiarism, conduct, dress code, sexual harassment, and evaluation method. Adherence to all guidelines is mandatory.

The [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) are available to download from the NMUN website. This document includes the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure. It is thus an essential instrument in preparing for the conference, and a reference during committee.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the Committee or the Conference itself, feel free to contact the Under-Secretaries-General for Development, Sonia Patel (Conference A) and Patrick Parsons (Conference B). You can reach either USG by contacting them at: usg.development@nmun.org.

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

Sincerely,

Conference A

Julius Adebayo, *Director*
Jeffrey Thorpe, *Assistant Director*

Conference B

Christopher Mckenna, *Director*
Maya Kazamel, *Assistant Director*



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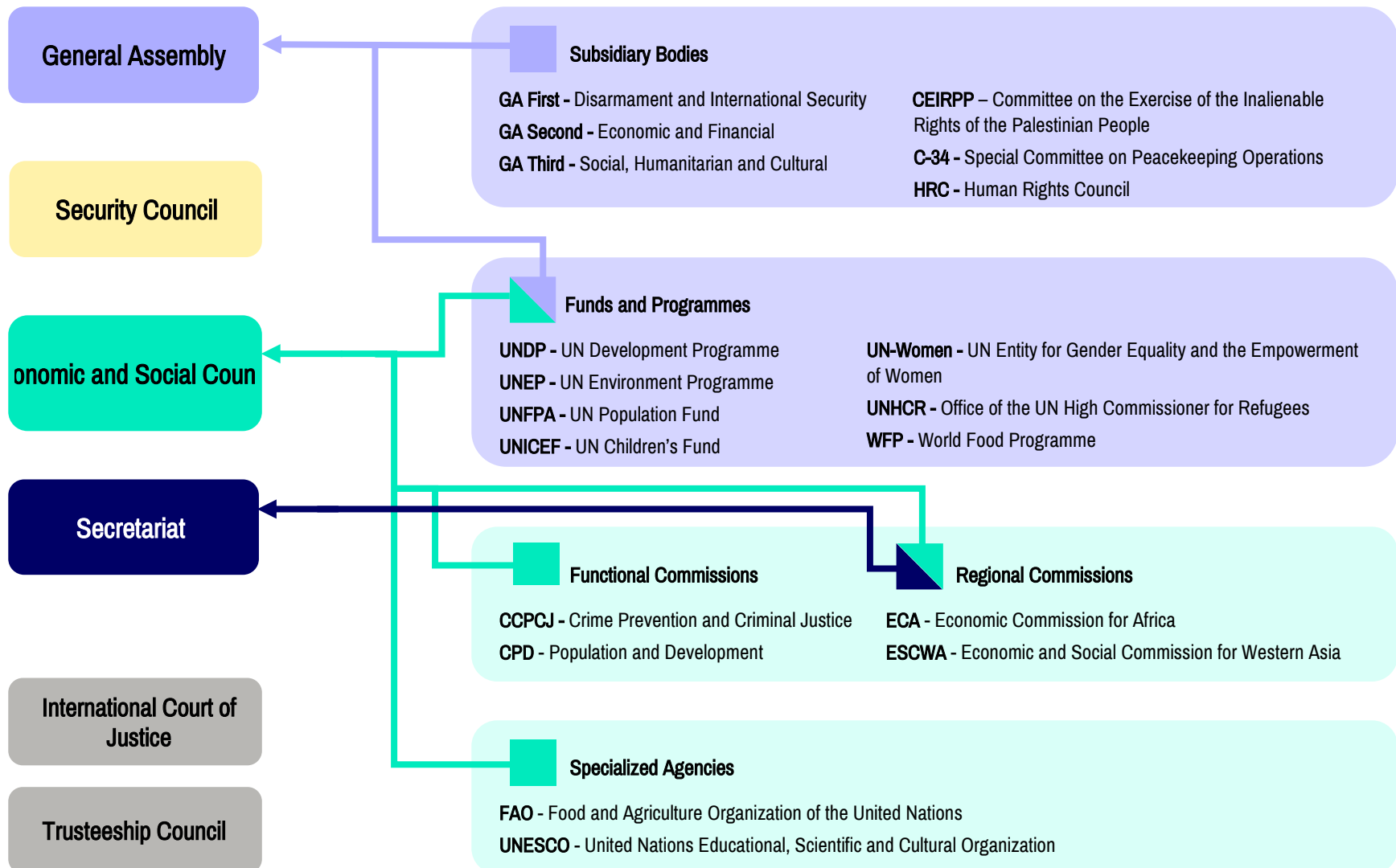
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Abbreviations

AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
AU	African Union
BPOA	Barbados Programme of Action
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAPSA	Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific
CFS	Committee World Food Security
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CSM	Civil Society Mechanism
CSO	Civil society organizations
EAC	East African Community
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone
FAME	Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems
FSC	Food Security Cluster
GDP	Gross domestic product
HLC	High-level consultation
IEE	Independent External Evaluation
IFAD	International Fund Agricultural Development
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IGO	Intergovernmental organizations
IIA	International Institute of Agriculture
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPA	Immediate Plan of Action
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUU	Illegal, unreported, and unregulated
LAS	League of Arab States
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MSI	Mauritius Strategy of Implementation
MYPOW	Multi-Year Programme of Work
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OWG	Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals
PGA	President of the General Assembly
PRAI	Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment that Respects Rights, Livelihoods and Resources
RBA	Rome Based Agencies
RFB	Regional Fishery Bodies
RFMO	Regional Fishery Management Organizations
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SRFC	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
SSF	Small-Scale Fisheries
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference of Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WFP	World Food Programme
WTO	World Trade Organization

United Nations System at NMUN·NY

This diagram illustrates the UN System simulated at NMUN·NY. It shows where each committee “sits” within the system, to help understand the reportage and relationships between the entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose and powers within the UN System.



Committee Overview

“FAO will bring the findings of science to the workers in food and agriculture, forestry and fisheries, everywhere; and it will bring the practical problems of these workers everywhere to the attention of the scientists. It will assemble, digest, and interpret information to serve as a basis for the formulation of policy, national and international. It can suggest action, but only through the activities of governments themselves can the objectives be finally won.”¹

Introduction

While the overall nutrition of the worldwide population increases as a whole, there is still a large proportion of the world that fails to get the appropriate amount of food to maintain their lifestyles.² The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was founded with the aim of achieving worldwide food security.³

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

Through the variety of functions that FAO performs, it works to reduce hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity; increase the sustainability and productiveness of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; reduce rural poverty; enable inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems; and improve the resilience of livelihoods to disasters.⁴

At NMUN•NY 2015, we are simulating the **Executive Board of FAO** in terms of composition and size; however, delegates are not limited to the strict mandate of the Executive Board, as a budgetary and administrative body, during the conference. On the contrary, for the purposes of NMUN•NY 2015, and in line with the educational mission of the conference, the committee has the ability to make programmatic and policy decisions on issues within the mandate of FAO in line with the overall function of the organization.

History

The idea of an organization that would address food and agricultural needs can be traced to the early 1900’s when David Lubin, a merchant and agriculturalist, advocated for the creation an organization addressing agriculture.⁵ With the support of the King of Italy, the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA) was founded in 1905 and established in Rome, Italy.⁶ The IIA served primarily as an organization that collected and distributed agricultural statistics. The idea of an agricultural organization further evolved in 1943, when United States of America president Franklin Delano Roosevelt convened the representatives from 44 governments to discuss the creation, and committed to the founding, of a permanent agricultural organization.⁷ From this meeting, the Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture was established in Washington, DC.⁸ Shortly after the end of the Second World War, the founding conference of FAO was held in Quebec, Canada, with the signing of the constitution of FAO and its entry into force on 16 October 1945.⁹ FAO was initially based in Washington, DC, but later relocated to Rome, Italy, in 1951.¹⁰ FAO inherited the statistical functions of the IIA that remain one of the core functions of the organization today.¹¹

¹ FAO, *Letter to governments transmitting the report of the first session of the conference of the food and agriculture organization of the United Nations*, 1946.

² FAO, *State of Food Insecurity*, 2013.

³ FAO, *About FAO |FAO| Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*.

⁴ FAO, *Our Priorities: FAO Strategic Objectives*, 2013.

⁵ FAO, *FAO- its origins, formation and evolution 1945-1981*.

⁶ FAO, *About FAO |FAO| Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ FAO, *FAO- its origins, formation and evolution 1945-1981*.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

Mandate

FAO's primary responsibilities are outlined in the *Basic Texts* of FAO.¹² These basic texts include FAO's *Constitution* and the applicable *Rules of Procedure*.¹³ The mandate of FAO, as outlined in the preamble of the constitution, is to address the following:

- Raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of the peoples under their respective jurisdictions;
- Securing improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products;
- Bettering the condition of rural populations; and
- Contributing towards an expanding world economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger.¹⁴

FAO is primarily responsible for increasing the level of nutrition but is not responsible for the direct provision of food.¹⁵ FAO works closely with the World Food Programme (WFP) and other agencies to facilitate the provision of food, particularly in times of emergency.

Governance, Structure and Membership

As a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN), FAO reports to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).¹⁶ FAO currently consists of 194 members, two associate members (Faroe Islands and Tokelau), and one member organization (European Union).¹⁷ The primary body of FAO is the Conference of Member Nations, which meets every two years.¹⁸ From this overall membership, a body of 49 Member Nations is elected to serve three-year terms on the Governing Council.¹⁹ The Council serves as the executive body of the Organization and meets between the biannual FAO Conference, during which time the council acts on current food and agricultural activities and situations, and current and future activities of the organization of the whole, including the development of the Programme of Work.²⁰ FAO is led by the Director-General, who is appointed by the Conference for an initial four-year term that is renewable for a further four years.²¹ The current Director-General is José Graziano da Silva.²² The Organization is composed of six main departments: Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Economic and Social Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Forestry.²³ These departments are divided further into specialized divisions.²⁴

Based in Rome, Italy, FAO is one of the Rome Based Agencies (RBA), including the WFP and the International Fund for Agriculture and Development.²⁵ These organizations work together to develop sets of targets and indications related to food security, sustainable agriculture, and nutrition.²⁶ With the Millennium Development Goals deadline approaching, the RBA identified five targets for activities moving forward.²⁷ These targets are as follow: access to adequate food all year round for all people; end malnutrition in all its forms with special attention to stunting; make all food production systems more productive, sustainable, resilient, and efficient; secure access for all small food producers, especially women, to adequate inputs, knowledge, productive resources and services; and develop more efficient post-production food systems that reduce the global rate of food loss and waste by 50%.²⁸

¹² FAO, *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Volumes I and II*, 2013.

¹³ Ibid.

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

¹⁵ UNEP, *United Nations Specialised Agencies versus United Nations Programmes*, 2010.

¹⁶ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2013-14*, 2013.

¹⁷ FAO, *Legal Office: FAO Members*.

¹⁸ FAO, *Governing and Statutory Bodies: Council*.

¹⁹ FAO, *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Volumes I and II*, 2013.

²⁰ FAO, *Governing and Statutory Bodies: Council*.

²¹ FAO, *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Volumes I and II*, 2013.

²² FAO, *Director-General | FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*.

²³ FAO, *Departments | FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ WFP, *Rome-Based UN Agencies | WFP | United Nations World Food Programme*.

²⁶ WFP, *UN Rome-Based Agencies Reveal Food Security and Nutrition Targets For Post-2015 Agenda*, 2014.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

Funding for FAO is derived from various sources, with the majority of the funding coming from obligatory, assessed contributions by Member States, as well as voluntary contributions by Member States.²⁹ The current 2014-2015 FAO budget is \$2.5B with 41% (\$1.1B) of current funding comes from assessed contributions, with 59% (\$1.4B) coming from voluntary contributions.³⁰ The amounts Member States are assessed are determined at FAO Conference.³¹ Further funding is provided specifically for programs and including contributions from Member States, other UN Agencies, international financial institutions, and the private sector, with funding often directed towards specific programs.³² FAO utilizes some unique funding mechanisms, including FAO Multi-donor Mechanism, which utilizes the funds as part of the general budget as opposed to being tied to a specific program.³³

Powers and Functions

The core functions of FAO are outlined in FAO constitution and are mirrored in the current priorities of the Organization. The core functions of FAO are:

- The collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of information related to nutrition, food and agriculture;
- The promotion of and, where appropriate, recommendation for national and international action with respect to: scientific, technological, social, and economic research relating to nutrition and agriculture, improvement of education and administration relating to nutrition, food and agriculture and the spread of public knowledge of nutritional and agricultural science and practice, conservation of natural resources and the adoption of improved methods of agricultural production, improvement of the processing marketing and distribution of food and agricultural products, adoption of policies for the provision of adequate agricultural credit, national and international, the adoption of international policies with respect to agricultural commodity arrangements;
- The provision of technical assistance as requested by Member States;
- The organization of, in cooperation with the governments concerned, such missions as may be needed to assist them to fulfill the obligations arising from their acceptance of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture and the Constitution;
- Generally, the taking of all necessary and appropriate action to implement the purposes of the Organization as set forth in the Preamble.³⁴

In addition to its core functions, FAO also provides assistance in emergencies.³⁵ FAO is involved in Disaster Risk Reduction activities to increase the resilience of communities to disasters.³⁶ Due to the relation between food insecurity and disasters, and the further relation to decreased levels of nutrition, FAO has implemented programs in multiple regions to reduce the risk of food insecurity through a multi-sector approach with four broad thematic pillars: Enabling the Environment, Watch to Safeguard, Apply Risk and Vulnerability Reduction Measures, and Prepare and Respond.³⁷ Additionally, FAO is involved in the response to disasters by conducting needs assessments such as Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions and the Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification Scheme.³⁸ Other actions taken in emergencies include analyzing existing food security responses and maintaining the Crisis Management Center – Animal Health to respond appropriately to animal disease emergencies.³⁹ FAO co-leads the Food Security cluster with the WFP.⁴⁰ The Food Security Cluster works to ensure that adequate nutrition and food are provided in humanitarian emergencies through the coordination of multiple

²⁹ FAO, *Technical Cooperation Department*.

³⁰ FAO, *Strategic Planning*.

³¹ Ibid.

³² FAO, *Technical Cooperation Department*; FAO, *Strategic Planning*.

³³ FAO, *FAO-News Article: New FAO Funding mechanism makes its debut*, 2010.

³⁴ FAO, *FAO Attributes, Core Functions, and Comparative Advantages*.

³⁵ FAO, *FAO in Emergencies*.

³⁶ FAO, *FAO in Emergencies: Resilience*.

³⁷ FAO, *Resilient Livelihoods: Disaster Risk Reduction for Food and Nutrition Security*, 2013; FAO, *A Field Guide to Disaster Risk Reduction in Southern Africa*, 2014.

³⁸ FAO, *FAO in Emergencies: Needs assessment*.

³⁹ FAO, *FAO in Emergencies: CMC-Animal Health*; FAO, *FAO in Emergencies: Response analysis*.

⁴⁰ Humanitarian Response, *Humanitarian Response: About*.

partner agencies including WFP, FAO, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and other international non-governmental organizations.⁴¹

FAO has also, in conjunction with the World Health Organization, created the Codex Alimentarius, which is a repository of best practices and is a way to ensure the health of consumers is protected through uniform international food standards, guidelines, and codes of practice.⁴² This repository fulfills the first two core functions of FAO and provides the information in an easy to access database. The Codex Alimentarius has been used by the World Trade Organization (WTO) to settle Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) disputes such as *European Communities - Trade Description of Sardines*, a dispute over the trade description of sardines between Peru and the European Commission.⁴³ The WTO determined that the standards agreed upon in the Codex Alimentarius are a relevant international standard as per the TBT Agreement and in applying them held that any sardine of a species listed in Codex Standard 94-1981 can be labeled as such.⁴⁴

Current Priorities

Current priorities are outlined in FAO Strategic Framework 2010-19.⁴⁵ These priorities are the reduction of hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity; increasing the sustainability and productiveness of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; the reduction of rural poverty; enabling inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems; and improving the resilience of livelihood in disasters.⁴⁶ While there has been a decline in the amount of people suffering from chronic hunger, there are still approximately 800 million people not getting enough food to sustain an active life on a regular basis.⁴⁷ The World Food Summit set a goal in 1996 to halve the amount of people suffering from hunger from 1 billion to 500 million by 2015; similarly, in 2001 Millennium Development Goal (MDG) was set to halve the proportion of people suffering from hunger in the world population by 2015.⁴⁸ With the end date for both of these goals rapidly approaching, and the metrics for each being measured differently, future action by FAO and other organizations must be considered to help achieve these goals.⁴⁹ FAO was heavily involved in the development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is a member of the Open Working Group that developed a draft of seventeen goals that were presented to the UN General Assembly in September 2014.⁵⁰ FAO co-led the groups that worked on Goal 2 (food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture), Goal 14 (marine resources and oceans), and Goal 15 (ecosystems, biodiversity, forests, land/soils, mountains).⁵¹

Recent Sessions

The 38th Session of FAO Conference was held in Rome, Italy, in June 2013. *The 2014-2017 Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work* was laid out, and its implementation planned.⁵² This plan outlines the transformational change of the organization to more appropriately address the needs seen in the field.⁵³ The transformation emphasizes the need to decentralize FAO to place more authority with field offices to allow FAO to more appropriately support Member States.⁵⁴ This document also outlines the standards that will be utilized for monitoring the transformation and general activities within the organization.⁵⁵ The 149th Session of the Governing Council was held in June 2014. The Council outlined their *2014-2017 Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW)*, which shares core ideas with the *2014-2017 Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work* outlined at the 38th Session of FAO Conference.⁵⁶ The Conference recommended that the MYPOW be a standing item on the agenda to ensure the document and ideas

⁴¹ Food Security Cluster, *About FSC*.

⁴² FAO and World Health Organization, *Codex Alimentarius*.

⁴³ WTO, *DS321 European Communities – Trade Description of Sardines*, 2010.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*; FAO and World Health Organization, *Codex Alimentarius Standard 94-1981*, 1981.

⁴⁵ FAO, *Reviewed Strategic Framework*, 2013.

⁴⁶ FAO, *Our Priorities: FAO Strategic Objectives*, 2013.

⁴⁷ FAO, *State of Food Insecurity*, 2013.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ FAO, *Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁵² FAO, *Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget*, 2013.

⁵³ *Ibid.*

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ FAO, *Council Multi-Year Programme of Work*, 2014.

presented are utilized as a planning tool.⁵⁷ The 115th Meeting of the Programme Committee was held in May 2014, with updates provided on FAO programs. The 115th Meeting also covered progress of the *2014-2017 Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work* and evaluation of current programmatic efforts.⁵⁸

Conclusion

FAO and the UN system must continue their efforts to ensure that achievable development goals are met while continuing efforts to chart the Post-2015 Development Agenda. FAO, along with its partner organizations, are in a position to further reduce the burden of hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity on future generations and have provided significant input for the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs to address these issues.⁵⁹ Through organization-wide activities and the proposed transformational change, FAO will further enhance its position to appropriately respond to situations while still meeting the outlined goals to expand the world economy and ensure humanity's freedom from hunger.⁶⁰

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ FAO, *Report of the 115th Session of the Programme Committee*, 2014.

⁵⁹ FAO, *Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014.

⁶⁰ FAO, *Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget*, 2013.

Annotated Bibliography

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2008). *Adoption of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO Renewal (2009-2011)*. Retrieved 10 July 2014 from: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/014/k3644e.pdf>
Following the 2007 Independent External Evaluation (IEE) and the need for reform, FAO set forward an Immediate Plan of Action (IPA). Outlined in this plan of action are areas to be addressed and improved upon. The reform of FAO was outlined in this document, with aspects being implemented over the past six years. Delegates should be familiar with the substance of the document and be cognizant of the progress made towards FAO reform. Understanding of this document will allow delegates to think critically about possible future activities.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Volumes I and II*. Retrieved 10 July 2014 from:

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/022/k8024e.pdf>

The Basic Texts of FAO include the mandate, the constitution, and an overview of the governing bodies. Delegates should use these documents as a base for further research and ensure actions recommended fit within the mandate of the organization. This document also provides insight into actions being taken in accordance with the Immediate Plan of Action and actions being taken on the reform of the Committee on World Food Security.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *Our Priorities: FAO Strategic Objectives* [Report]. Retrieved 10 August 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/mi317e/mi317e.pdf>

This report outlines the current FAO strategic objectives and provides context for each objective. Delegates should be familiar with the entire document, as it will provide a basis for future action that can be taken by the organization. It is important for delegates to understand the objectives of the organization and can be used as a base for further research into Member State specific programs that can support FAO objectives.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *State of Food and Agriculture* [Report]. Retrieved 10 July 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3300e/i3300e.pdf>

Each year, FAO issues a report titled the “State of Food and Agriculture.” This document provides a comprehensive overview of the current areas that FAO focuses on, with particular attention on using food systems to improve nutrition. The systems highlighted vary from report to report, but the broad concepts provide a framework for further development. This document should be utilized by delegates to gain familiarity with the type of materials produced by FAO and to gain insight to the current organizational priorities.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2014). *State of Food Insecurity* [Report]. Retrieved 8 October 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4030e.pdf>

Similar to FAO report “State of Food and Agriculture,” FAO issues “State of Food Insecurity” annually to evaluate and present the current state of food insecurity globally. The report provides an overview of the global situation while providing context with the current FAO strategic objectives. Delegates should be familiar with the themes outlined in this; the information within this document is valuable both for general preparation as well as Member State specific.

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I. Protecting and Securing Fisheries in Small Island Developing States

Introduction

The main goal of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is to achieve food security by eradicating hunger and poverty and increasing the sustainable use of natural resources.⁶¹ With the world's population projected to reach 9 billion by 2050, the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) fast approaching, and the establishment of a post-2015 development agenda currently being negotiated there is increasing pressure to not only identify, but also reach adequate means of sustenance.⁶² Protecting and securing fisheries in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), is key to addressing these challenges, as SIDS face unique structural obstacles to the achievement of these food security goals.⁶³

SIDS are small island and low-lying coastal states with common development challenges.⁶⁴ There is no single organization that encompasses all SIDS; the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) identifies 52 SIDS, of which only 38 are United Nations (UN) Member States, and 44 are members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).⁶⁵ Thus, sufficient coordination between these groups is essential. SIDS can also be further divided into three groups based on their geographic location: the Caribbean; the Pacific; and the Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, and South China Sea.⁶⁶ Most suffer from fragile economies and high dependence on tourism and foreign aid.⁶⁷

Fish is a primary food source representing about 16% of global animal protein consumption.⁶⁸ It is important to distinguish between fishing, which is the capturing of organisms in marine, coastal, or inland areas, and aquaculture, which is the farming of these organisms with human intervention in the growth process.⁶⁹ Fishing may be further divided based on how and why it is carried out. For instance, small-scale fisheries are distinguished as being labor-intensive and family-based; fisheries may also be based on commercial activity, for the purpose of sale or consumption.⁷⁰ Fisheries are a source of income to 820 million people worldwide, 90% of which work in small-scale fisheries and 65% from low-income countries.⁷¹ In the Pacific SIDS, fisheries contribute up to 10% of gross domestic product (GDP), and fish consumption may be 3 to 4 times the global average as fish provides 50-90% of animal protein in the locals' diets.⁷² Building on the work of previous SIDS conferences in 1994 and 2005, the recognition of 2014 as the International Year of the SIDS demonstrates an increasing recognition of the unique problems that SIDS face.⁷³ Additionally, small-scale fisheries are among the most important issues on the SIDS agenda as these often form the backbone of many SIDS economies.⁷⁴ As the international community negotiates the sustainable development goals (SDGs), the role of SIDS and the extent to which the post-2015 development agenda encompasses issues related to oceans, is an important component of the discussion.⁷⁵ In this context, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) proposed a stand-alone goal focused on conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, which includes specific reference to supporting SIDS and fisheries, improving

⁶¹ FAO, *About FAO*.

⁶² World Bank et al., *Fish to 2030: Prospects for Fisheries and Aquaculture (83177-GLB)*, 2013; IISD, *UNGA General Debate 2014 Continues Focus on MDGs, Post-2015 Agenda, SIDS*, 29 September 2014.

⁶³ UNEP, *SIDS Booklet New – UNEP*, 2004, pp. 3-4; IISD, *Small Island Developing States Policy & Practice*; IISD, *Water Policy & Practice*.

⁶⁴ Alliance of Small Island States, *About AOSIS*.

⁶⁵ Ibid.; UNEP, *SIDS Factsheet – UNEP*.

⁶⁶ UNEP, *SIDS Factsheet – UNEP*; UNDP and GEF, *Island Innovations: UNDP and GEF – Leveraging the Environment for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*, 2014.

⁶⁷ Schmidt, *Keeping Afloat: A Strategy for Small Island Nations*, 2005, A606.

⁶⁸ World Bank et al., *Fish to 2030: Prospects for Fisheries and Aquaculture (83177-GLB)*, 2013.

⁶⁹ FAO, *Fisheries*; FAO, *Aquaculture*.

⁷⁰ FAO, *Types of Fisheries*.

⁷¹ FAO, *Fisheries: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*.

⁷² UNEP et al., *SIDS-focused Green Economy: An Analysis of Challenges and Opportunities*, 2012, p. 8.

⁷³ UN Department of Public Information, *International Year of Small Island Developing States 2014*; IISD, *GEF CEO Announces Largest-Ever Financing for SIDS*, 4 September 2014.

⁷⁴ UNEP et al., *SIDS-Focused Green Economy: An Analysis of Challenges and Opportunities*, 2012.

⁷⁵ IISD, *Urgency of Healthy Oceans Stressed by Experts, Officials*, 26 September 2014; Global Ocean Commission, *A Sustainable Development Goal for the global ocean*, 2013; Muir, *UN includes Comprehensive Oceans Goal in the [Proposed] Sustainable Development Goals*, 13 June 2014.

access to small-scale fisheries, and ending fisheries subsidies.⁷⁶ Supporters have advocated to maintain this goal, emphasizing that small-scale fisheries hold great potential in guaranteeing food security worldwide, especially in many developing countries where hunger remains a major problem.⁷⁷

International and Regional Framework

Legal Framework Governing Fishing

The world's seas and oceans are shared resources, and it is, therefore, essential for the international community to put in place international agreements to govern their safe and sustainable use.⁷⁸ These agreements are in constant flux as new information and technologies require the creation of new points of agreement and conventions. The current international agreement concerned with the management of the resources of the seas is the 1982 *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS), which replaced previous treaties and agreements adopted at the 1958 and 1960 Conferences on the Law of the Sea that did not sufficiently address the issue of governance over territorial and international waters.⁷⁹ The world's seas were initially governed by the "freedom of the seas" concept, which limited national jurisdiction to a narrow distance off the coast following the "cannon shot rule" of approximately three miles.⁸⁰ However, increased exploitation of marine resources further beyond the coastline through offshore oil drilling and irresponsible fishing caused international leaders to recognize the importance of reevaluating the responsibility of marine management and the extent of territorial waters.⁸¹ The guiding principle behind UNCLOS is the interrelatedness of the world's oceans and the importance of sustainable conservation.

The 1958 *Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone*, the *Convention on the Continental Shelf*, the *Convention on the High Seas*, and the *Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources of the High Seas* collectively started to define important concepts such as territorial waters, but there was no clear consensus by Member States and thus the conventions could not be practically implemented.⁸² Currently, UNCLOS reinforces previously agreed upon laws from 1958 and 1960 and establishes new rules related to a state's territorial limits and allowable commercial and economic activities.⁸³ One of the key factors influencing negotiations was the desire to control valuable fishery reserves.⁸⁴ A coastal state is allowed complete sovereignty over its territorial sea, defined as up to 12 nautical miles from the shore, and exclusivity to natural resources, the environment, and certain economic activities (such as production of energy and exploiting fisheries) in an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) for a further 200 nautical miles.⁸⁵ It also retains sovereignty over the seabed under its territory and extending 200 nautical miles or more.⁸⁶ All water beyond these limits is referred to as the high seas.⁸⁷ Therefore, all fishing resources within territorial waters and the EEZ are exclusively owned by the state and may not be exploited by other states without prior agreement, and fishing on the high seas is a privilege to all states provided that they cooperate to manage living resources.⁸⁸

International Framework

More specific guidelines for managing marine resources are laid out in the 1995 *Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks*, otherwise known as the *UN Fish Stocks Agreement*. This agreement was signed by 59 states and entities and came into force in 2001 and is further

⁷⁶ UN Open Working Group, *Proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014; IISD, *Urgency of Healthy Oceans Stressed by Experts, Officials*, 26 September 2014; Schiavi, *Marine Protection as Stand-Alone Goal for Post-2015 Agenda?*, 6 October 2014.

⁷⁷ FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture*, 2012, p. iii

⁷⁸ UNEP, *Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of the Environment*, 2005.

⁷⁹ *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*, 1982.

⁸⁰ UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: Convention and Related Agreements*.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

⁸² *Ibid.*; UN Office of Legal Affairs, *1958 Geneva Conventions on the Law of the Sea – Main Page*.

⁸³ *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*, 1982.

⁸⁴ UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: Convention and Related Agreements*.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

reinforced by the 1995 *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*.⁸⁹ The guidelines in the 1995 *UN Fish Stocks Agreement* are “principles for the conservation and management of [those] fish stocks” which gives importance to precautionary action and making decisions based on “available scientific information.”⁹⁰ Overall, it sets guidelines and a framework for international cooperation and management of migratory fish stocks that are implemented by regional organizations that seek to ensure effective conservation and optimum exploitation of fish stocks.⁹¹

The 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro led to the adoption of Agenda 21 as a guideline for governments and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to translate existing agreements into a plan of action.⁹² It refers to *UNCLOS* as laying out rules and obligations for all states to further develop the marine environment and thus, implicitly promote the “sustainable development of small islands.”⁹³ Agenda 21 provides a broad framework, proposing straightforward suggestions for programs to successfully meet these aims, especially in Chapters 17 and 18, which focus on protection and development of marine and freshwater resources.⁹⁴ However, there are no detailed plans of action specifically to address the development of SIDS or the fisheries around them.⁹⁵ This led to future conferences such as the 1994 UN Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS, which produced the *Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA)*.⁹⁶ Building on Agenda 21, it outlines the main issues facing SIDS and identifies 14 priority areas for action such as coastal and marine resources and freshwater resources.⁹⁷ The 2005 Mauritius International Meeting reviewed the BPOA and adopted the *Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI)* for “further implementation” of the BPOA, adding to the priority areas it first laid out.⁹⁸ As the issue of inadequate funding was a major constraint to the BPOA, the MSI established a framework for the provision of financial resources for SIDS.⁹⁹ The overall aim of both the BPOA and the MSI is the support of SIDS and their ability to meet the MDGs.¹⁰⁰ Finally, the August 2014 Third International UN Conference on SIDS occurred in Samoa with the theme of promoting sustainable development of SIDS through durable partnerships.¹⁰¹ This meeting resulted in the 2014 *Samoa Pathway* document that strongly supports enhanced facilities and improved access to markets for fishers, as well as the development of fishery-related industries.¹⁰²

Regional Framework

The UNEP Regional Seas Programme focuses on the environmental management of waters shared by countries to prevent further degradation of the marine environment.¹⁰³ Currently, 13 Regional Seas Programmes are functioning across the world, each based on regional conventions that are signed by the respective states of a region with individual Action Plans outlining the activities of each Programme.¹⁰⁴ While each addresses a separate geographic region and has been laid out by its participants, they all follow the same management approach.¹⁰⁵ Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) are also important regional players that are established by Member States or organizations through international agreements.¹⁰⁶ RFBs focus on fisheries conservation and the sustainable management of fish stocks,

⁸⁹ UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: Convention and Related Agreements*.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² UN Sustainable Knowledge Development Platform, *Agenda 21*.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, *Agenda 21*, 1992.

⁹⁶ SIDSnet, *Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA)*.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ SIDSnet, *Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI)*.

⁹⁹ Ibid.; UN General Assembly, *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*, 2005.

¹⁰⁰ SIDSnet, *Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI)*.

¹⁰¹ UN Division for Sustainable Development, *United Nations Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States*.

¹⁰² UN General Assembly, *Draft outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States: Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway) (A/CONF.223/3)*, 2014. .

¹⁰³ UNEP, *UNEP Regional Seas Programme*.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ FAO, *What are Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs)?*.

and may function through either an advisory mandate or a management mandate, in which case they are called Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs).¹⁰⁷

An example of an RFB is the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), which was established by the 2004 *Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean* to address the long-term conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks.¹⁰⁸ The WCPFC is mainly concerned with tuna species and the management of fishing gear used in their capture, with Pacific SIDS included in its membership.¹⁰⁹ Similarly, the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) is an RFB responsible for the conservation and development of all fisheries resources off the coast of West Africa within the territorial waters and EEZs of its seven member states, including SIDS such as Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau.¹¹⁰

Role of the International System

Food and Agriculture Organization

FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department is dedicated to supporting sustainable development of responsible fisheries. It provides data and information on fishery resources and technology to continuously monitor the state of fisheries worldwide.¹¹¹ In addition, it provides Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profiles gathered from a variety of sources specifically related to fishery statistics.¹¹² Furthermore, many important agreements have been reached under the auspices of FAO, including the 1993 *Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas* and the 1995 *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. The first calls upon states to take action against fishing vessels that employ fishing methods or pursue fishing activities on the high seas that violate conservation and management laws; it is mainly concerned with fishing on the high seas.¹¹³ The Code of Conduct “sets out principles and standards for the conservation and management of all fisheries and aquaculture including processing and trade in fish and fishery products.”¹¹⁴ Similar to the *UN Fish Stocks Agreement*, it also highlights the role that RFBs can play in establishing a responsible international fisheries regime.¹¹⁵ While FAO Compliance Agreement and the *UN Fish Stocks Agreement* are binding on signatories, the Code of Conduct is voluntary.¹¹⁶ In all cases, however, these agreements only touch upon the issue of illegal fishing.¹¹⁷

The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) is a subsidiary body of FAO and the only major intergovernmental forum that solely addresses issues related to fisheries and fish workers within government and the international community.¹¹⁸ COFI is mainly concerned with reviewing FAO programs related to fisheries and aquaculture, and issuing recommendations to fishers, RFBs, governments, NGOs, and the international community.¹¹⁹ Established in 1965, COFI holds sessions every two years and has the authority to establish sub-committees on certain issues, which are then examined in detail before issuing recommendations to.¹²⁰ FAO is also committed to securing sustainable small-scale fisheries as outlined by the *International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries*, which are a result of the 2011 29th COFI session.¹²¹ The guidelines recognize the role of small-scale fisheries in the global fish production industry and aim to provide recommendations and information to secure sustainable small-scale

¹⁰⁷ FAO, *What are Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs)?*.

¹⁰⁸ WCPFC, *Convention Text: WCPFC*.

¹⁰⁹ WCPFC, *Frequently Asked Questions and Brochures: WCPFC; FAO, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC); IISD, WECAFC Report Outlines Recommendations and Resolutions on Fisheries Management*, September 2014.

¹¹⁰ FAO, *Subregional Fisheries Commission (SRFC)*.

¹¹¹ FAO, *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture and the UN Agenda*.

¹¹² FAO, *Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profiles*.

¹¹³ FAO, *FAO Compliance Agreement*.

¹¹⁴ FAO, *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*.

¹¹⁵ FAO, *Decision-making in Regional Fishery Bodies or Arrangements: the evolving role of RFBs and international agreement on decision-making processes*.

¹¹⁶ FAO, *FAO Compliance Agreement*.

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁸ FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, *Committee on Fisheries (COFI) – Fisheries and Aquaculture Department*.

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*

¹²¹ FAO, *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture-International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries*.

fisheries.¹²² Inland fisheries were addressed by the 2014 31st COFI session that resulted in the 2014 COFI report *Inland Fisheries: Issues, Developments and Needs* (COFI/2014/5), which provides information on inland capture fisheries and highlights the problems currently facing this sector.¹²³ It concludes by proposing action on the part of governments who should develop specific policy frameworks for these entities.¹²⁴

Non-UN entities and Intergovernmental Organizations

The role that civil society plays with regards to fisheries has greatly grown in the past twenty years as they continue to influence fisheries policy by providing invaluable information on local culture and customs and re-directing international efforts towards the importance of previously ignored small-scale fisheries.¹²⁵ Civil society organizations, especially NGOs, play a key role in the production and dissemination of information to fishworkers as well as the international community.¹²⁶ WorldFish is an international non-profit research organization that works with the ultimate aim of achieving future food security, especially where fisheries can be a major source of food or income and in locations where fish can play a major role in feeding low-income households in a sustainable manner.¹²⁷ WorldFish is strongly committed to reducing poverty through fisheries and aquaculture with multiple offices in less developed states.¹²⁸

In addition to the individual work of NGOs like WorldFish, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) seek to enhance collaboration between governments to better manage shared marine resources.¹²⁹ The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), founded in 1947, provides information to 22 Pacific SIDS over eight Divisions, each of which is further divided into teams working in certain thematic areas.¹³⁰ The Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Marine Ecosystems Division is divided into two programs, Coastal Fisheries and Oceanic Fisheries, which provide support and advice to Member States for the management of coastal and aquatic fisheries in the Pacific.¹³¹ In a similar manner, fifteen of the sixteen Caribbean SIDS cooperate through the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), which was established by the 2002 agreement establishing the CRFM and focuses on the “responsible utilization of the region’s fisheries and other aquatic resources” by providing information, training, and technical information exchange.¹³²

Threats Facing Small-Scale Fisheries

While it is clear that small-scale fisheries play a major role in SIDS by providing nutrition as well as contributing to GDP, there remain many shortcomings that are not addressed by international agreements. International laws govern fishing on the high seas and within the EEZs and territorial waters of states, while RFBs and conventions apply these principles on a regional scale through contact with the indigenous marine populations and local fishing practices. There are many issues facing small-scale fisheries in SIDS with new issues continuously arising as recent research brings new key issues to light.

Efficiency of Resources

Studies carried out indicate that a large part of a fishery’s overall catch is not recorded due to lack of statistics on non-commercial catches, which are often thought to be negligible.¹³³ However, when comparing non-commercial catches (such as from subsistence fisheries) to commercial catches on a sample of two United States of America flag islands, contributions from small-scale fisheries to the GDP were found to be up to five times as much as current estimates.¹³⁴ This is important because subsistence fishing is done primarily to feed family and relatives of the fisher.¹³⁵ It is largely low-tech and unique to the extremely poor which indicates that estimates for such data can be

¹²² FAO, *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture-International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries*.

¹²³ FAO, *Inland Fisheries: Issues, Developments and Needs (COFI/2014/5)*, 2014.

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*

¹²⁵ FAO, *The Role of NGOs in the Governance of Fisheries*.

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*

¹²⁷ WorldFish, *Welcome to WorldFish*.

¹²⁸ *Ibid.*

¹²⁹ UN DGCM, *Non-governmental organization*; UN DGCM, *Inter-governmental organization*.

¹³⁰ SPC, *Members*; SPC, *Organizational Structure*.

¹³¹ SPC, *FAME Homepage*.

¹³² Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, *About CRFM*.

¹³³ Zeller, et al., *Fisheries Contributions to the Gross Domestic Product: Underestimating Small-Scale Fisheries in the Pacific*, 2006, p. 355.

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*

¹³⁵ WorldFish, *Subsistence Fishing: Fishing Methods Factsheet*.

difficult.¹³⁶ In addition, many small-scale fishing communities continue to be marginalized although there is significant international effort currently to address them.¹³⁷ The main issue here is that a large amount of the catch goes unreported and so it is almost impossible to regulate consumption of fish stocks effectively, and by extension, scientifically determine sustainable fishing levels.

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a major phenomenon in capture fisheries and occurs on the high seas, in a country's EEZ, and within inland fisheries.¹³⁸ The 2001 *International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing* (IPOA-IUU) defines IUU as fishing activities that occur in waters under the jurisdiction of a state without its permission or against its laws or are carried out by vessels in violation of regional fishery agreements or RFMOs that the flag state is party to or a member of or in violation of international law.¹³⁹ Any fishing activities that are not reported (or misreported) to the relevant national authority or to RFMOs in violation of reporting procedures also constitute IUU fishing.¹⁴⁰ The same applies for fishing carried out in waters under the management of an RFMO by a vessel without nationality or whose flag state is not a member of the RFMO or does not comply with conservation or management measures related to the proper conservation of fish stocks.¹⁴¹ IUU fishing is a critical issue because it may cause irreversible harm to existing fish stocks.¹⁴² Usually, IUU fishing occurs when there is a lack of proper monitoring on the part of the "flag state" (the state under whose laws the vessel is registered).¹⁴³ The root causes of IUU fishing are ineffective state control or weak policies by said states, in which the state may be incapable of providing the required framework for such vessels to operate.¹⁴⁴ These problems are further amplified in the case of SIDS, which often have a very small land area (much of which is uninhabited) as compared to their EEZ.¹⁴⁵ An example of such a state is Kiribati in which the total land area is 810 km², and its EEZ is 3.5 million km². It is an archipelago, comprising 33 islands, roughly separated into three island groups with each group surrounded by its "own discrete portion of the EEZ."¹⁴⁶ With a population of only 102,000 and an extremely low per capita income, it is extremely difficult for SIDS like Kiribati to effectively monitor its EEZ.¹⁴⁷ This situation is hardly unique to Kiribati and is applicable to many SIDS.

Local Political Unrest

Fiji and the Solomon Islands demonstrate the negative effects of local political unrest on fisheries and fish production. Fiji is considered a major island in the South Pacific and is depended on by its neighbors Tuvalu and Kiribati. Internal unrest in Fiji is precipitated by the army, which has carried out four coups since 1987.¹⁴⁸ The last coup in 2006 resulted in a steady decline of GDP growth due to declines in investment and tourism, which naturally affect domestic production.¹⁴⁹ With constant unrest, maritime borders are poorly monitored, and Fiji suffers from illegal fishing and high transnational crime, leading to illegal exploitation of its natural resources.¹⁵⁰ Compared with neighboring Tuvalu and Kiribati, fishing constitutes less than 2% of GDP while it is about 8 and 9% for Tuvalu and Kiribati respectively although both have much smaller populations than Fiji.¹⁵¹ The Solomon Islands, on the other hand, gained independence in 1978, but there have been frequent changes in governments due to unstable parliamentary coalitions.¹⁵² Ethnic rivalry from 2000 to 2006 caused significant political instability and damaged

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ FAO Committee on Fisheries, *Chairperson's Report of the Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (COFI/2014/Inf.10)*, 2014, p. 14.

¹³⁸ FAO, *National Plans to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing: Models for coastal and Small Island Developing States*, 2004, p.13.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² FAO, *Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing*.

¹⁴³ *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*, 1982, p. 58.

¹⁴⁴ FAO, *Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing*.

¹⁴⁵ UNOHRLLS, *Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Statistics*, 2013, p. 20.

¹⁴⁶ FAO, *Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profiles: The Republic of Kiribati*.

¹⁴⁷ UNFPA, *Kiribati*.

¹⁴⁸ Tarte, *Fiji Islands Security Challenges and Defense Policy Issues*, pp. 67-72.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid., p. 74.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid, p. 75.

¹⁵¹ UNEP, et al., *SIDS-focused Green Economy: An Analysis of Challenges and Opportunities*, 2012, p. 9; FAO, *Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profiles: The Republic of the Fiji*.

¹⁵² United States, *Solomon Islands*, 2011.

economic development, particularly to the timber industry.¹⁵³ In addition, the only fish cannery in the Solomon Islands, which was operated as a joint venture with Japan, closed temporarily during the ethnic strife.¹⁵⁴ Currently, fisheries in the Solomon Islands hold great, unexploited potential for economic growth as most current fishing is subsistence-based by individuals and not recorded by the government.¹⁵⁵ In addition, high levels of corruption and low accountability further undermine fishing resources in the Solomon Islands.¹⁵⁶

Human Rights Violations

Although the 1995 *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* outlines guidance with respect to small-scale fisheries, there is a lack of widespread social and economic development.¹⁵⁷ Often small-scale fisheries are based on local communities with a strong tradition of seasonal migration depending on availability of work.¹⁵⁸ They are often also highly marginalized with regards to infrastructure and services, despite international efforts to effectively address their needs.¹⁵⁹ While the lack of monitoring of such fishing communities has led to over-exploitation of fisheries, they also remain extremely poor, deprived of their basic human rights.¹⁶⁰ These communities are often remote, lack easy access to markets or services such as health and education and lack structured organization.¹⁶¹ In addition, working conditions are polluted, unsafe, and unhealthy with existence of forced or child labor.¹⁶² Thus, increasing recognition of the role of small-scale fisheries in global fish production and the conditions in which many of them operate, led to the endorsement of the 2014 *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Contexts of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* in the 31st session of the COFI which are a set of guidelines that ensure human rights and greater productivity of small-scale fishers.¹⁶³

Gender Roles

According to the 1979 *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, women should enjoy equal rights and equal forms of participation in all fields and sectors.¹⁶⁴ Thus, FAO seeks to “incorporate gender and social equality issues” in all parts of its work.¹⁶⁵ Nevertheless, discrimination against women occurs in fisheries based on the type of work that women perform.¹⁶⁶ Women are more often found doing post-harvest and marketing work while men tend to be more involved in the catching and harvesting process.¹⁶⁷ Overall, FAO estimates that women may comprise up to 30% of all those employed in fisheries.¹⁶⁸ Although there is little research about the role of women in the aquaculture sector, women play a major role in the fishing industry in every region, ranging from Bangladesh where there are numerous local initiatives fostering women’s participation to Estonia where half the aquaculture workforce is women.¹⁶⁹ As they form such a large part of the worker base, greater involvement by women is essential for the sustainability of these fishing communities. Key barriers to greater female participation include education levels, mobility, time constraints, and weak local support.¹⁷⁰

Conclusion

¹⁵³ Ibid.

¹⁵⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵⁵ Ibid.; Doyle, B. et al., *Reconstructing Marine Fisheries Catches in the Solomon Islands: 1950 – 2009*, 2012, p. 123

¹⁵⁶ Doyle, B. et al., *Reconstructing Marine Fisheries Catches in the Solomon Islands: 1950 – 2009*, 2012, p. 121

¹⁵⁷ FAO, Committee on Fisheries, *Chairperson’s Report of the Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (COFI/2014/Inf.10)*, 2014, p. 14.

¹⁵⁸ Ibid., p. 15.

¹⁵⁹ Ibid.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁶² FAO Committee on Fisheries, *Chairperson’s Report of the Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (COFI/2014/Inf.10)*, 2014, p. 15.

¹⁶³ FAO, *Countries recognize vital role of small-scale fishers*, 2010.

¹⁶⁴ FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture*, 2012, p. 107.

¹⁶⁵ UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, *Implementation of Strategy on Gender Mainstreaming within the United Nations System*, 2012

¹⁶⁶ FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture*, 2012, pp. 107-109.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

¹⁶⁸ Ibid.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid., p. 109.

¹⁷⁰ Ibid., p. 110.

Small-scale fisheries in SIDS and the problems they face may seem to be minor and disconnected from the rest of the world but in reality they are not. As previously illustrated, much of the fish that the world consumes comes from small-scale fisheries, which are largely under-valued. As the world continues to become more intricately connected, the issues in seemingly faraway places affect markets and individuals across the globe. Studying this in the context of growing global needs, the importance of preserving, developing, and conserving marine and fisheries resources for future generations becomes evident. The major issues facing fisheries are related to the regulation and management of human consumption of fish stocks as well as the effect of external factors on marine resources such as climate change and unrest. The threats related to small-scale fisheries are mostly on the internal level as weak governments and remote distances separate SIDS from their neighbors. While some of these issues have started to be addressed through international agreements on matters such as IUU fishing, many of them have yet to be sufficiently tackled.

As the discussion continues on the future development framework, SIDS are not alone in advocating for a stand-alone oceans goal that will protect fisheries and marine resources. During the General Debate of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly, a broad range of geographic and economic interests highlighted the importance of oceans and fisheries in strengthening food security and economic development as justification for creating a post-2015 development goal that addresses overfishing and the blue economy.¹⁷¹ While not in opposition to a stand-alone goal, other states noted that UNCLOS already provides a sound basis for marine management but could be strengthened by a goal that supports capacity- and institution-building to better implement it.¹⁷² Still others advocated for the creation of a new international agreement within UNCLOS to govern marine resources beyond national jurisdictions.¹⁷³ While there are differing views on implementation, the fact remains that fish holds vast potential for fulfilling global food needs, and the ability of SIDS to fulfill this potential makes the issue of small-scale fisheries in SIDS an essential component in future global development agendas.

Further Research

Many questions still remain in addressing the ongoing and emerging issues affecting fisheries in SIDS. For instance, how can IUU fishing in states that have insufficient control over their borders be addressed? How can individual catches by fishers in small fishing communities be measured so that they are included in a country's overall catch? How do the effects of climate change impact small-scale fisheries? There are also many indirect issues facing fisheries in SIDS. How can the effects of domestic political turbulence be mitigated? How can women be sufficiently incorporated into fisheries so that they reach their full potential and in doing so, benefit their communities? How can the international community ensure a basic level of rights and benefits for those involved in the fishing industry are guaranteed? Finally, how can the post-2015 development agenda be utilized to create new governing frameworks or strengthen implementation of existing agreements to support SIDS and the global community in sustainably developing fisheries and marine resources?

¹⁷¹ International Institute for Sustainable Development Reporting Service, *UNGA General Debate 2014 Continues Focus on MDGs, Post-2015 Agenda, SIDS*, 2014.

¹⁷² *Ibid.*

¹⁷³ International Institute for Sustainable Development Reporting Service, *69th General Debate Continues Discussion of Post-2015 Agenda, Highlights Biodiversity, SIDS Issues*, 2014.

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (n.d.). *FAO Fisheries & Aquaculture: FI Fact Sheet*. Retrieved 5 August 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/countryprofiles/search/en>

This website is an excellent resource for information on fisheries and aquaculture in countries across the world. It provides geographic and economic data for each country such as land area and EEZ area, in addition to data on fish consumption and production of fisheries. It also describes trends in the fisheries sector and detailed information on the type of fishing resources and practices.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (n.d.). *FAO Fisheries & Aquaculture: Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing* [Website]. Retrieved 5 August 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/iuu-fishing/en>

This source provides essential information on IUU fishing, identifying its prevalence and root causes as well as defining its detrimental effects on fish stocks. It will be useful for delegates to familiarize themselves with this topic. In addition, the page links to other topics and resolutions, which are crucial to this topic and so, will provide a good basis for further research.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2004). *National Plans to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing: Models for coastal and Small Island Developing States* [Report]. Retrieved 12 July 2014 from: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/007/j1695e/j1695e00.pdf>

This is a must-read document as it provides information about the prevalence and occurrence of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which is one of the biggest challenges to small-scale fisheries today. In doing so, it outlines clear definitions for each of these types and illustrates state measures in tackling these issues. Although it is relatively old, it provides important background information to the topic at hand.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Committee on Fisheries, Thirty-first session. (2014). *Chairperson's Report of the Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (COFI/2014/Inf.10)*. Retrieved 12 July 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/cofi/23885-09a60857a289b96d28c31433643996c84.pdf>

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries set out a framework within which all members of society as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations can work in order to secure the basic needs of small-scale sustainable fisheries. It is mainly concerned with sustainable development of fisheries and capacity-building initiatives. This will be useful to delegates as it shows recent international endeavors to address issues facing small-scale fisheries.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. (2012). *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture* [Report]. Retrieved 1 August 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i2727e/i2727e00.htm>

This FAO report establishes both basic concepts related to the topic as well as extensive first-hand research on both fisheries and related issues such as gender roles. Other points of information are fuel-efficient fishing and fishing management policies which is a good starting point for policy research. Of importance is Part 4 which outlines opportunities and challenges to capture fisheries and aquaculture. Do note, however, that the topic is limited to fisheries only, not aquaculture broadly.

Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. (n.d.). *Inter-governmental: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform* [Website]. Retrieved 9 September 2014 from: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/intgovmental.html>

This website provides information on all previous international conferences addressing issues facing SIDS. Starting with the 1972 Conference on the Human Environment, it builds up a timeline of all subsequent international efforts such as the BPOA and MSI with information on each. This should help readers visualize how each effort builds up on previous attempts and so, more sophisticated solutions to current problems can be generated.

United Nations, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea. (n.d.). *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: Convention and Related Agreements* [Website]. Retrieved 9 September 2014 from: http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_convention.htm

This website provides extensive information on UNCLOS, which is the basis of all conventions and agreements related to fisheries today. In addition to a simplified list of the main points of the convention, the text of the convention is available and so is a historical perspective outlining the development of UNCLOS. Such development is important to gain an idea of how international consensus is reached. Links are also available further explaining related agreements such as the 1995 Fish Stocks Agreement.

United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Food and Agriculture Organization. (2012). *SIDS-focused Green Economy: An Analysis of Challenges and Opportunities* [Report]. Retrieved 5 August 2014 from: http://www.unep.org/pdf/Green_Economy_in_SIDS.pdf

This report provides an excellent brief on SIDS and the major issues that they currently face. While it provides a lot of background information that is not directly relevant to the topic, it will help delegates to gain a complete idea of the context in which these small-scale fisheries are operated and managed. The section on Fisheries is extremely useful as it provides comparisons between different SIDS.

World Bank. (2013). *Fish to 2030: Prospects for Fisheries and Aquaculture (83177-GLB)*. Retrieved 26 July 2014 from: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2013/12/18882045/fish-2030-prospects-fisheries-aquaculture>

This is an essential resource for proposing developments to fisheries and aquaculture. Published by the World Bank, it provides extensive statistics showing the importance of marine production in people's everyday lives. It focuses on the crucial issue of meeting food demands in the face of a rapidly expanding global population and is useful for delegates to frame this issue in the broader context of food security.

Zeller, D., S. Booth and D. Pauly. (2006). *Fisheries Contributions to the Gross Domestic Product: Underestimating Small-Scale Fisheries in the Pacific*. *Marine Resource Economics* 21 (4): 355 – 374. Retrieved 12 August 2014 from: <http://fisheries.ubc.ca/sites/fisheries.ubc.ca/files/uploads/d.zeller/Publications/Papers/2006/Zeller-et-al.-2006-GDP-Pacific.pdf>

In this article, the authors attempted to re-construct fishing production for specific SIDS, taking into account subsistence fisheries which are omitted from GDP calculations. The result indicated a huge increase in production, outlining that the role of these fisheries is not sufficiently acknowledged by the local government. Although it is a very technical article; the final results and analysis are useful to show the importance of often-ignored small-scale fisheries.

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II. Reducing Rural Poverty

Introduction

Total poverty elimination globally is an important priority at the United Nations (UN), particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).¹⁷⁴ The UN's focus on eliminating poverty is demonstrated in the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG), which is to reduce by half the number of individuals living in extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.¹⁷⁵ Currently, about 1.2 billion individuals live in extreme poverty; these individuals live on less than \$1.25 per day.¹⁷⁶ Since 1990, the population of individuals living in extreme poverty across the world has been halved.¹⁷⁷ Despite such tremendous progress in poverty reduction, millions of individuals, especially in rural regions, still live in poverty.¹⁷⁸ Of the estimated 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty today, about 75%, estimated to be around 900 million individuals, are in rural regions.¹⁷⁹ Given the high concentration of poverty in rural regions across the world, FAO continues to maintain a strong focus on strategies and policies to ensure successful and sustainable elimination of rural poverty.¹⁸⁰

Rural Poverty

Since 1990, the concentration of poverty in rural areas has been significantly reduced; however, the majority of the individuals currently living in extreme poverty reside in rural areas.¹⁸¹ As of 2010, 35% of individuals living in rural areas can be considered poor based on daily spending, and rural poverty continues to be widespread, especially in parts of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁸² Often, a majority of these individuals earn a living through agriculture.¹⁸³ A combination of factors have led to a concentration of poverty in rural areas, including lack of access to services and infrastructure such as roads, low agricultural productivity, lack of access to markets through which to commercialize products, and a distinct lack of access to education and other social services, amongst several other factors.¹⁸⁴ The interaction of these factors induces a vicious poverty cycle in rural regions.¹⁸⁵ FAO is focused on strategies that can effectively tackle and break the interactions between these factors and eliminate entrenched poverty in rural regions.¹⁸⁶

Through various partnerships and agreements, FAO raised funds to target rural regions and increase agricultural productivity, develop critical infrastructure, and implement policies to reduce poverty overall in rural areas.¹⁸⁷ FAO notes that investment in agriculture is not the only way to reduce rural poverty; a comprehensive approach that addresses unemployment, social protection for vulnerable populations, and other non-agriculture based areas would constitute an effective holistic approach.¹⁸⁸ The holistic approach also requires tackling issues regarding climate change and sustainable development.¹⁸⁹ This topic will address the role of FAO and the international system in helping to develop and implement policies that help reduce rural poverty. Further, the topic examines issues at the intersection of rural poverty and population growth, climate change, agricultural productivity and rural infrastructure, ultimately presenting various policies to address the interaction of these factors in order to effectively reduce rural poverty.

International and Regional Framework

¹⁷⁴ FAO, *Investment in Agriculture*, 2014.

¹⁷⁵ UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Post-2015 Process*, 2014.

¹⁷⁶ FAO, *FAO's Strategic Objective 3: Reduce Rural Poverty*, 2014, p. 1.

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁰ FAO, *Investment in Agriculture*, 2014.

¹⁸¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁸² FAO, *Reduce Rural Poverty*, 2014.

¹⁸³ FAO, *Investment in Agriculture*, 2014.

¹⁸⁴ FAO, *Reduce Rural Poverty*, 2014.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ FAO, *Investment in Agriculture*, 2014.

¹⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁸ FAO, *FAO's Strategic Objective 3: Reduce Rural Poverty*, 2014, p. 2.

¹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

In November 1996, FAO hosted the World Food Summit at its headquarters in Rome, Italy.¹⁹⁰ Called in response to widespread malnutrition and fear that the agricultural market could not sustain future needs, the ultimate objective of the conference was “to renew global commitment at the highest political level to eliminate hunger and malnutrition, and to achieve sustainable food security for all people.”¹⁹¹ As a result of the World Food Summit, the *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security* was created, outlining commitments and objectives of the World Food Summit participants.¹⁹² In strategic objective 7.3, the Declaration aims to increase the amount of investment into the agricultural sector for growth of agriculture, food security, and rural development to reduce rural poverty.¹⁹³ In addition to the strategic objectives, the participants delineated the *Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security* and the *World Food Summit Plan of Action* (both 1996).¹⁹⁴ Principle Three of the *Rome Principles* specifically looks to combat hunger and poverty at their root causes, through medium- and long-term projects that focus on sustainable agriculture, food security, and development.¹⁹⁵ The *World Food Summit Plan of Action* is a list of commitments for the governments of the World Food Summit, which aim to completely eradicate poverty through the use of investments and policies on all levels of government.¹⁹⁶

Five years after the first World Food Summit, FAO hosted a review conference, World Food Summit: Five Years Later, in Rome, Italy.¹⁹⁷ The conference was called to reaffirm governments’ commitment to eradicating hunger universally by accelerating their unified efforts.¹⁹⁸ In addition to the discussion on the overarching goals for the summit, there were individual forums for groups to discuss their role in combating hunger and poverty.¹⁹⁹ In the forum for members of the private sector, participants acknowledged their role in combating poverty and recognized the need to develop an industry based on agriculture in developing nations.²⁰⁰ It was further noted that the private sector would need the backing of the public sector and international organizations to be successful in creating a vibrant and sustainable agricultural industry in rural regions.²⁰¹ Mirroring the first World Food Summit, the World Food Summit: Five Years Later produced the *Declaration of the World Food Summit: Five Years Later* (2002).²⁰² Unlike the *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security*, this Declaration acknowledged some serious challenges faced by all members in their attempt to combat hunger and poverty.²⁰³

The High-Level Conference on World Food Security took place on 3 June 2008 in response to climate change and its influences on global food security.²⁰⁴ It was widely agreed that food supply and climate change were connected and that there is a need to heighten the level of international focus on both agricultural investment and productivity.²⁰⁵ Though the purpose of the conference was not meant to pledge support to any particular issue, there were a few members that already pledged their financial support.²⁰⁶ At the conclusion of the conference, the participants created the *Declaration of the High-Level Conference*, which reaffirmed the need for food security and established short-, medium-, and long-term goals.²⁰⁷ On a regional level, on 9 September 2011 the heads of state of the East African Community (EAC), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the Republic of South Sudan met in Nairobi, Kenya to address a regional issue of food security at the Summit on the Horn of Africa Crisis.²⁰⁸ The driving force behind the conference was the devastating drought in the Horn of Africa and the prolonged conflict in Somalia. The participants of the conference created the *Declaration of the Summit on the Horn*

¹⁹⁰ FAO, *World Food Summit*, 1996.

¹⁹¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁹² FAO, *Declaration of the World Food Summit of Food Security*, 2009.

¹⁹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁴ FAO, *Declaration of the World Food Summit of Food Security*, 2009; FAO, *World Food Summit*, 1996.

¹⁹⁵ FAO, *Declaration of the World Food Summit of Food Security*, 2009.

¹⁹⁶ FAO, *Rome Declaration on World Food Security*, 1996.

¹⁹⁷ FAO, *World Food Summit: five years later reaffirms pledge to reduce hunger*, 2002, p. 1.

¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁰¹ *Ibid.*

²⁰² *Ibid.*

²⁰³ FAO, *Appendix: Declaration of The World Food Summit: Five Years Later*, 2002.

²⁰⁴ FAO, *High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy*, 2008.

²⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁷ FAO, *Declaration of the High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy*, 2008.

²⁰⁸ IGAD, *The Summit on the Horn of Africa crisis: Ending Drought Emergencies*, 2011, p. 2.

of Africa (2011) to prevent food scarcity and to prepare for emergency agricultural situations such as drought and desertification.²⁰⁹ Similar to the *Declaration of the High-Level Conference*, the *Declaration of the Horn of Africa* seeks to encourage development and agricultural investment, as well as the integration of rural areas into development.²¹⁰

At the Millennium Summit of the United Nations (UN) in 2000, the UN created the MDGs. The MDGs are a list of goals that the UN aspired to achieve by 2015, with the first goal being the eradication of hunger and poverty.²¹¹ However, as a result of the MDG summit in 2010, Member States reevaluated their progress with the MDGs and decided to look past the 2015 deadline into a post-2015 agenda.²¹² In concurrence with the development goals of the Rio+20 meeting of June 2012, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be combined into the post-2015 agenda.²¹³ The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals has proposed eradicating poverty and hunger as goals one and two of the recommended SDGs.²¹⁴ The first goal seeks to end poverty in any form everywhere by 2030.²¹⁵ In addition, it attempts to improve the status of all people, regardless of age or sex, by raising at least half of the world's population out of poverty by 2030.²¹⁶ The objective of the second goal is to ensure that people of all ages, especially infants, will have access to safe and nutritious food year round.²¹⁷ The second goal seeks to achieve that goal by increasing the agricultural productivity and income of farmers, especially those of social minorities, and ensure that food production systems are resilient to external factors like climate and extreme weather conditions.²¹⁸ In order to strengthen the UN commitment to the eradication of poverty, the General Assembly adopted the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) in resolution 67/224 on 4 April 2013.²¹⁹ The resolution implores national governments to accept policies that help the international community as a whole achieve the objectives of the MDGs and post-2015 agenda.²²⁰

Role of the International System

The core purpose of FAO is to provide complete food security while ensuring everyone has access to food of high nutritional value so they can live healthy and active lives.²²¹ FAO made reducing rural poverty one of their primary objectives, because “hunger and food insecurity, above all, are expressions of rural poverty. Reducing rural poverty, therefore, is central to FAO’s mission.”²²² Understanding the significance of the continuing mission, FAO partners with governments, the private sector, national and international organizations, and financial institutions to increase the amount of investments in agriculture and rural development.²²³ FAO reports that rurally impoverished areas need about \$83 billion in investments to catch up to developing and developed areas.²²⁴ FAO Strategic Objective Three designates three broad goals to organize its work to reduce rural poverty.²²⁵ The first is empowering the rural poor to seek and get sustainable access to resources and services through various means such as rural development and local institutions.²²⁶ Second, improve the ability of the rural poor to seek and maintain employment.²²⁷ Lastly, the third goal seeks to improve social protection programs for issues such as food security and the empowerment of rural women.²²⁸

²⁰⁹ IGAD, *The Summit on the Horn of Africa crisis: Ending Drought Emergencies*, 2011, p. 2.

²¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

²¹¹ UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Post-2015 Process*, 2014.

²¹² *Ibid.*

²¹³ UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014.

²¹⁴ UN Open Working Group, *Proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*, 2014.

²¹⁵ *Ibid.*

²¹⁶ *Ibid.*

²¹⁷ *Ibid.*

²¹⁸ *Ibid.*

²¹⁹ UN General Assembly, *Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)*, 2013.

²²⁰ *Ibid.*

²²¹ FAO, *About FAO*, 2014.

²²² FAO, *Reduce Rural Poverty*, 2014.

²²³ FAO, *Investment in Agriculture*, 2014.

²²⁴ *Ibid.*

²²⁵ FAO, *FAO’s Strategic Objective 3: Reduce Rural Poverty*, 2014, p. 2.

²²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

²²⁷ *Ibid.*

²²⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

FAO has attempted to achieve these goals through partnerships with local government and other international organizations. The partnership between FAO and International Labour Organization (ILO) focuses on the need for meaningful employment for people in rurally impoverished areas. Both FAO and ILO state that gainful employment is a key factor to combat against rural poverty and hunger.²²⁹ However, a recurring problem for people who are trying to find gainful employment in these impoverished areas is that many of the jobs do not provide the pay needed to come out of the current status.²³⁰ The ILO has four goals that have been combined with FAO practices to promote the concept of “decent work.”²³¹ Decent means the ambition that people have in their working lives; it allows for the opportunity for work that is productive, with a fair income.²³² In addition to fulfilling work and fair wages, decent work allows for job security and social stability for an individual’s family.²³³ The end goal of decent work is to positively affect the lives of people on local and national levels.²³⁴

Another partnership that FAO is engaged in is with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).²³⁵ FAO and SIDA partnered in 2013 to start *Policy Support on Rural Employment and Decent Work towards Equitable and Sustainable Livelihoods* program in Malawi and Tanzania.²³⁶ FAO notes that young men and women in these areas are the future of agriculture.²³⁷ As a part of this program, the local and national governments learned ways to better track and promote agricultural employment within their countries.²³⁸ Through the program, national governments have a way for younger men and women in rurally impoverished areas to obtain jobs and skills in agriculture.²³⁹

In 2005, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted resolution 2005/39, amending the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA).²⁴⁰ CAPSA is an organization in the South Asian region that works to reduce rural poverty and increase food security by providing policy suggestions and research to the governments and organizations of that area.²⁴¹ Since the establishment of the mission to eradicate poverty and hunger, the General Assembly adopted the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty in resolution 64/216 on 23 March 2010, 65/174 of 17 March 2011, and 66/215 of 26 March 2012, which reiterates the goals of the MDGs and emphasize the national governments to address the issues surrounding rural poverty.²⁴² The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has taken a comprehensive approach to combating rural poverty.²⁴³ UNDP attempts to combat rural poverty through changes in social and economic policy.²⁴⁴ UNDP, like FAO, highlights the fact that economic development alone cannot fix the issues with rural poverty and that economic development will be hindered if social inequalities are not addressed.²⁴⁵

On 26 June 2014, the President of the International Fund Agricultural Development (IFAD), Kanayo F. Nwanze, spoke at the 23rd Summit for the African Union (AU), calling for more investments to be made to Africa’s small-farms in rural areas.²⁴⁶ The AU has made efforts to combat the issue by creating specialized programs focused on

²²⁹ FAO & ILO, *Decent Employment for Agricultural and Rural Development and Poverty Reduction*, 2013.

²³⁰ *Ibid.*

²³¹ *Ibid.*

²³² FAO & ILO, *Guidance on how to address decent rural employment in FAO country activities*, 2010, p. 4.

²³³ *Ibid.*

²³⁴ International Labor Organization, *Decent Work Agenda*, 2014.

²³⁵ FAO, *Rural employment and decent work at FAO*, 2014, p. 2.

²³⁶ *Ibid.*

²³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

²³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

²³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

²⁴⁰ UN Economic and Social Council, *Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific*, (2005/39(2005)), 2005.

²⁴¹ *Ibid.*

²⁴² United Nations, General Assembly, Fiftieth session, *First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (A/RES/50/107(1996))*, 1996; UN General Assembly, *Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (A/RES/66/215(2012))*, 2012.

²⁴³ UNDP, *Fast Facts*, 2013, p. 1.

²⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁶ IFAD, *IFAD President calls on African Union leaders to invest in sustainable rural development for all on 26 June 2014, Rome/Malabo*, 2014.

investment.²⁴⁷ In 2003, the AU adopted “*The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme*” (CAADP), with the main priority of assessing and assisting in the research of economic growth factors within agricultural projects to eliminate hunger and poverty.²⁴⁸ In addition, the CAADP aims to increase annual agricultural-led growth by 6% a year.²⁴⁹ Like the AU, the League of Arab States (LAS) has a large portion of rurally impoverished persons and has developed partnerships to help combat the issue.²⁵⁰ In 2009, LAS and IFAD reported that about 80 million people within the region lived below the poverty line.²⁵¹ Of the 80 million living below the poverty line, LAS and IFAD have found that 60% to 70% of people live in rural areas.²⁵² Since December 2008, IFAD has allocated about \$1.35 billion in soft loans for programs in this region.²⁵³

Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a significant role in combating rural poverty and food insecurity. The International Food Security and Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) is the largest CSO network dedicated to food security.²⁵⁴ CSM has created different policy making groups that cover a wide range of topics such as agriculture, price volatility, and climate change.²⁵⁵ More specifically, CSM has a policy group that has a special interest in policies concerning agricultural investment.²⁵⁶ In 2010, CSM blocked a working paper proposed by FAO, World Bank, IFAD, and the United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD) titled “Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment that Respects Rights, Livelihoods and Resources” (PRAI) by appealing to the members of the Committee World Food Security (CFS).²⁵⁷ The delegation for CSM believed that PRAI was not capable of monitoring private investments in agriculture and operations of companies internationally.²⁵⁸ The delegation also felt that the communities most affected by agricultural investments should have some say in the formulation of the PRAI.²⁵⁹ In 2011, the CSM came to an agreement with these organizations to include more consultation by the recipients of these investments in agricultural investments alongside the previously established frameworks by the PRAI.²⁶⁰ In addition to CSOs in agricultural policy, CSOs assist the rurally poor in a wide range of programs, for example, sustainable livestock.²⁶¹ The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock is a group of organizations that partner and lead in the livestock sustainable development sector.²⁶² Livestock is an important aspect for the rural poor in order to participate actively and compete in growing markets.²⁶³ Despite the combined efforts of the UN and non-governmental organizations, combating rural poverty has met challenges that can head international progress both now and in the future.

Improving Agricultural Productivity and Rural Infrastructure due to Population Growth

Currently, total food aggregate food production level is not sufficient to support the world’s growing population.²⁶⁴ The World Bank projected that there will need to be an increase of 50% in overall agricultural productivity to support the potential 9 billion people living in 2050.²⁶⁵ Such growth poses a strain for rural populations because the projected growth will affect the number of jobs available in the future.²⁶⁶ With population growth and the need to increase productivity and provide employment, governments will have to put an emphasis on non-agricultural jobs.²⁶⁷ To achieve the necessary productivity output, FAO projected that there will need to be a significant

²⁴⁷ African Union Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, *Strategic Plan 2010-2012*, p. 10.

²⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁰ IFAD, *IFAD and the League of Arab States*, 2009, p. 1.

²⁵¹ *Ibid.*

²⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 2.

²⁵³ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

²⁵⁴ International Food Security and Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism, *What is CSM?* 2014.

²⁵⁵ International Food Security and Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism, *Policy Issues*, 2014.

²⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁷ International Food Security and Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism, *Agricultural Investment*, 2014.

²⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁶¹ The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, *The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock*, 2014.

²⁶² *Ibid.*

²⁶³ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁴ The World Bank, *Raise Agricultural Productivity*, 2014.

²⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁶ FAO, *How to Feed the World in 2050*, p. 6.

²⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

investment in rural infrastructure over the next 40 years.²⁶⁸ Investments in rural infrastructure will include items such as roads, water storage, and structures to keep livestock contained like fencing.²⁶⁹ Of infrastructural needs, the lack of proper roads in rural areas has posed one of the most difficult challenges for increasing agricultural productivity.²⁷⁰ Without proper roads, the mobility of farmers and other small stakeholders is hindered, therefore, drastically affecting the profitability of the food grown.²⁷¹ For both an increase in investment and agricultural productivity, rural infrastructure must be addressed.

Climate Change

Climate change is a critical issue for the agricultural sector, which must be addressed for future food security.²⁷² Agriculture is an activity that is extremely vulnerable to climate change, and individuals living in rural poverty rarely have the necessary means to absorb the negative impacts of climatic shocks.²⁷³ The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) calculates that approximately \$83 billion per year will be required by 2013 for the protection of livelihoods in poor rural areas.²⁷⁴ The effects of climate change are diverse; warmer and drier conditions in areas such as the Sahel entail a shorter growing season for crops, and in higher latitudes of the northern hemisphere crops must now be planted earlier in the spring to avoid a reduced yield.²⁷⁵ Extremes of weather, including droughts and floods, are expected to contribute to changes in climate that will put 49 million more people at risk of hunger by 2020.²⁷⁶ Climate change is a “threat multiplier,” and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that the likely consequences for rural poor include losses in crop yields, destroyed homes, food insecurity and increased food prices, restricted mobility, and discrimination, amongst others.²⁷⁷

In a speech to the participants of the UN Climate Summit on 23 September 2014, the Director-General of FAO, José Graziano da Silva, discussed the differing needs of today’s world, in comparison to a few decades ago, where to fix hunger meant to increase agricultural output.²⁷⁸ Today’s challenges, including climate change, instead demand a new means of solving such problem.²⁷⁹ Though there are many ways to combat climate change’s influence on global food security, one approach put forward is climate-smart agriculture.²⁸⁰ Climate-smart agriculture is readjusting the way farmers farm in a way that makes their product better equipped to handle various factors of the environment without having an adverse impact on the environment.²⁸¹ Though climate change is a significant challenge to eradicating hunger, Graziano states that there are many approaches that can be taken to development and food security and it is each individual governments’ job to assess their own needs and respond accordingly.²⁸²

Conclusion

Despite the considerable progress, there are still millions of individuals subject to poverty. By establishing processes to coordinate the post-2015 agenda and create Sustainable Development Goals, the UN has pledged another 15 years of dedication to innovation and investment to lessen hunger and eradicate poverty. With the world’s population steadily growing, the world’s food supply has been projected to be insufficient for future needs. Economic development, though shown to be a great step, cannot solve the issue of rural poverty alone.²⁸³ Investment in agriculture is needed now and in the coming decades. While investment is needed to increase productivity, infrastructure must also be improved. People living in rural areas are hindered by the lack of sufficient roads and

²⁶⁸ FAO, *Rural Structures in the Tropics: Design and Development*, 2011, p. 1.

²⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

²⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 387.

²⁷¹ *Ibid.*

²⁷² FAO, *New approaches to food systems needed to cope with climate change*, 2014.

²⁷³ IFAD, *Climate change: building the resilience of poor rural communities*, p.2.

²⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, p.3.

²⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁷ IPCC, *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*, 2014, p.2.

²⁷⁸ FAO, *New approaches to food systems needed to cope with climate change*, 2014.

²⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁸¹ *Ibid.*

²⁸² *Ibid.*

²⁸³ FAO, *Reduce Rural Poverty*, 2014.

basic agricultural needs like water storage and fencing. Assistance in adapting to the changing climate is also crucial. Communities most affected by agricultural investment should participate in decision-making processes in the management of those investments. FAO has the ability to assist governments in these regions, serve as a bridge to get more investment in these areas and by coordinating with other organizations and local partners and NGOs. FAO has been successful thus far with partnering with other international organization such as ILO and SIDA; however, those programs are still fairly new and will need the continual support of FAO, ILO, SIDA, and other groups from the public and private sector to continue their work.

Further Research

To further research this topic, delegates should consider various questions such as: how can FAO best incorporate communities most affected by agricultural investment in the debate about future agriculture sustainability talks? How can the agriculture industry increase productivity effectively? Given the need for strong rural infrastructure in all rurally impoverished areas, how can this best be approached? What are the strongest approaches to combating climate change and establishing food security? What steps can FAO take to ensure that sustainable development is implemented properly for areas suffering from rural poverty? How can a detailed timeline be established so that FAO is well-placed to contribute to the post-2015 agenda over next fifteen years? What partnerships could FAO seek out to help aid in the mission to eradicate rural poverty and promote food security? By understanding each Member States' own problems with rural poverty and thinking through the questions posed in this guide, delegates can develop creative, sustainable, and progressive solutions to bring FAO closer to meeting its mission and eradicating poverty and hunger by 2030.

Annotated Bibliography

African Union, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture. (2010). *Strategic Plan 2010-2012*. Retrieved 2 August 2014 from: www.africa-union.org

The African Union (AU) is a regional body dedicated to the economic wellbeing of African countries. A significant portion of the African continent is placed in the category of the rurally impoverished. The AU's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture has developed a strategic plan starting in 2010 that outlines the steps the AU has taken and will take to help impoverished people. This source is excellent for delegates because it provides regional insight for research.

International Fund for Agriculture Development. (n.d.). *IFAD and the League of Arab States*. IFAD and the League of Arab States. Retrieved 1 August 2014 from: <http://www.ifad.org/pub/factsheet/las/e.pdf>

For delegates, this source provides some interesting facts and statistics about the operations of the League of Arab States and their troubles with rural poverty. In addition, this source shows the positives of proper investments in the economy and their ability to help alleviate internal struggles with poverty. This source is a benefit for delegates because it gives an overview of a regional organization partnership with an international organization and the resources needed by both parties in order to combat regional rural poverty.

Lonc, T., R. Eberlin, & D. Rakhmanova. (2013). *FAO Strategic Objective 3: Reduce Rural Poverty* [Press Release]. Retrieved 7 July 2014 from:

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Europe/documents/Events_2013/InfCons2013/ppt/07_en.pdf

The FAO Strategic Objective to Reduce Rural Poverty is a briefly articulated approach to partnering with Member States to reduce poverty within their borders. The strategic objective provides background with valuable information on the supportive operations of FAO. Additionally, the strategic objective outlines the regional priorities of Member States and FAO. Alongside the outline of FAO's Member State support, this document provides other resources to gather additional information about reducing rural poverty.

Food Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *Decent Rural Employment: Key for Poverty Reduction and Food Security* [Website]. Retrieved 9 July 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/ba0065e/ba0065e00.pdf>

FAO has put a strong emphasis on the need for meaningful employment in rural areas. Gainful employment in areas of rural poverty is an indicator of potential economic growth, thus showing the lessened effects of poverty in these areas. This particular website provides the background guide with detailed information about the means to which FAO improves employment in rurally impoverished areas. Additionally, this resource outlines various partnerships that FAO engages in to provide employment in these areas.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2014). *FAO's Strategic Objective 3: Reduce Rural Poverty* [Report]. Retrieved 30 July 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3872e.pdf>

The FAO Strategic Objective to Reduce Rural Poverty is a briefly articulated approach to partnering with Member States to reduce poverty within their borders. The strategic objective provides background with important information on the supportive operations of FAO. Additionally, the strategic objective outlines the regional priorities of Member States and FAO. Alongside the outline of FAO's Member State support, this document provides other resources to gather additional information about reducing rural poverty.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2014). *Investment in Agriculture* [Website]. Retrieved 1 Aug 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/investment-in-agriculture/en/>

Investment in agriculture is one of the important ways that can help the region move out of rural poverty. This source provides some basic objectives that FAO has for investing in agriculture, as well as some monetary information. Also, this source provides links to other investors with the same mission that FAO has in supporting development and agriculture worldwide.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2014). *Reducing Rural Poverty* [Website]. Retrieved 7 July 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/about/what-we-do/so3/en/>

As specified by FAO, hunger and poverty go hand in hand. This source outlines, in a broad perspective, the trouble centered on rural poverty. However, despite the various downsides the source articulates, the source also manages to provide various ways that FAO, Member States, and other international organizations may help alleviate the burdens of being rurally impoverished. This source, at its most basic, provides a justification for poverty reduction being a main focus of FAO.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations & International Labour Organizations. (2013). *Employment for Agricultural and Rural Development and Poverty Reduction* [Website]. Retrieved 9 July 2014 from: <http://www.fao-ilo.org/ilo-dec-employ/en/>

As outlined in this source, agriculture accounts for the majority of employment around the world. Employment has been emphasized as a major means of alleviating the burden of rural poverty in the world. This task is no easy feat and FAO enlists the aid of various organizations internationally to aid them in their mission to reduce rural poverty. Of those organizations, the International Labour Organization proves to be a leading partner with FAO in attempting to provide gainful employment for people in rural poverty. This source outlines what both organizations agree decent; gainful employment entails and emphasizes the need for that employment.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-fifth session. (2011) *Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (A/RES/66/215(2012))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 9 July from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/66/215>

The Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty is a continuation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty resolution of the UN General Assembly. Like the First United Nations Decade resolution, the Second United Nations Decade resolution establishes poverty as an issue the UN seeks to eradicate with the next decade. The resolution is important because it highlights national governments as being the primary fight against rural poverty. Additionally, the resolution will provide additionally history about the topic at hand.

United Nations, Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. (2014). *Proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*. Retrieved 8 October 2014 from: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>

The UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform is a great source for research because it outlines the proposed core goals for poverty and hunger for the next 15 years. For delegates, this source will outline some fundamental objectives from which they can frame their working papers and resolutions. Additionally, this source will provide statistics that can provide a quantitative perspective of poverty and hunger in today's world.

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III. Investing in Agriculture for Food Security and Economic Growth

“Hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition can be ended sustainably by 2025. The eradication of hunger and malnutrition must be definitive and irreversible based on the right of everyone to safe, sufficient, nutritious and affordable food. This vision is achievable.”²⁸⁴

Introduction

Investing in agriculture to ensure food security and spur economic growth constitutes a core focus at the United Nations (UN), particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the primary entity addressing issues relating to hunger and malnutrition.²⁸⁵ Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger is the first of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG).²⁸⁶ The goal calls for a reduction by half of the number individuals living in extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.²⁸⁷ According to recent estimates from the World Bank, the developing world, as a whole, attained the first MDG goal as of 2010, reducing the number of people living in extreme poverty from 43% to 21%.²⁸⁸ Such reduction represents a decrease from 1.91 billion people living in extreme poverty in 1990 to about 1.22 billion in 2010.²⁸⁹ Despite such tremendous improvement, it is estimated that about one billion individuals, mostly concentrated in parts of sub-Saharan Africa, will still live in extreme poverty in 2015.²⁹⁰ Currently, about one in eight individuals suffer from chronic hunger, including around 200 million children under the age of five who suffer malnutrition.²⁹¹ Consequently, about ten million children die every year before their fifth birthday.²⁹² With hunger and extreme poverty affecting such a large population across the world, the UN has continued to maintain its focus on poverty and hunger reduction.²⁹³

Food Security

A critical component of poverty and hunger reduction is food security.²⁹⁴ According to FAO, food security “exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”²⁹⁵ There are several components to food security including availability, access, utilization, and stability.²⁹⁶ Food security is at the core of issues that FAO addresses in order to encourage sustainable rural development and increased levels of nutrition.²⁹⁷ To increase agricultural productivity and ensure that poverty is eradicated, especially in rural areas, it is important to consider and ensure that food is available to all individuals, hence, food security is undoubtedly a crucial component of any strategy or policy that seeks to increase agricultural productivity.²⁹⁸

Increase in Agricultural Productivity Leads to Economic Growth

In regions with high prevalence of poverty and hunger, agriculture often constitutes the primary occupation, especially in rural areas.²⁹⁹ For example in Zambia, about 45 percent of the population is dependent on agriculture, and about 76 percent of all farmers are subsistence farmers.³⁰⁰ In Mozambique, agriculture is a component of livelihoods in about 90 percent of homes.³⁰¹ Given the prevalence of agriculture as a main occupation and means of

²⁸⁴ FAO, *High Level Consultation (HLC) on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in the Post 2015 Development Framework*, 2013.

²⁸⁵ FAO, *FAO and the challenge of the Millennium Development Goals: The road ahead*, 2005, p. 24.

²⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 22.

²⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, 2005, p. 22.

²⁸⁸ World Bank, *Remarkable Declines in Global Poverty, But Major Challenges Remain*, 2014.

²⁸⁹ World Bank, *Poverty Overview*, 2014. *Poverty Overview*

²⁹⁰ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, p. 10.

²⁹¹ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/294)*, 2012.

²⁹² *Ibid.*

²⁹³ FAO, *The Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals: Background*, 2014.

²⁹⁴ FAO, *How to Feed the World in 2050. Feeding the World, Eradicating Hunger, World Summit on Food Security (WSFS 2009/INF/2)*, 2009.

²⁹⁵ FAO, *An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security*, 2008, p. 1.

²⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁷ FAO, *Our Strategic Objectives*, 2014.

²⁹⁸ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, p. 10.

²⁹⁹ Mucavele, *True Contribution of Agriculture to Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction*, 2009, p. 3.

³⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

³⁰¹ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

livelihood, improving agricultural productivity is a primary way in which to reduce poverty and hunger.³⁰² Highlighting the importance of agricultural productivity, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted to the General Assembly that, “if hunger and food insecurity are to be overcome, an estimated 60% increase in agricultural productivity, including a 100% increase in developing countries, will be necessary by 2050.”³⁰³

In its annual report on the state of food insecurity in the world, FAO emphasizes the critical link between agriculture and economic growth; regions with low or stagnated agricultural spending per worker are also regions where poverty and hunger are highly concentrated.³⁰⁴ These regions are usually rural areas in developing countries with low levels of agricultural productivity; to achieve higher levels of agricultural productivity while eradicating poverty, these regions ought to be targeted.³⁰⁵ This topic will address the role of FAO and the international system in developing policies to help tackle issues relating to food security and agricultural productivity in order to help reduce extreme hunger and poverty. The transformation of Bangladesh, in particular Bangladesh’s agricultural sector, is presented as a case study to further demonstrate the critical role that effective policies that seek to increase agricultural productivity and ensure food security play in helping to reduce poverty and hunger.

International and Regional Framework

Various aspects of agriculture, food security in particular, constitute a focal point of discussions conducted at the UN.³⁰⁶ Since the 1974 World Food Conference, FAO has organized annual high-level events and thematic meetings relating to agriculture to review policies designed to achieve the hunger and malnutrition eradication goals highlighted in the *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition* (1974).³⁰⁷ In 1996, FAO helped facilitate the first World Summit on Food Security with various heads of states and other national representatives, the result of which was the adoption of the *Rome Declaration on World Food Security (Rome Declaration)*.³⁰⁸ The *Rome Declaration* outlines a commitment to reduce hunger in all regions and to reduce by half the number of undernourished people.³⁰⁹ The unanimous adoption of the *Rome Declaration* reaffirmed the UN’s focus on food security.³¹⁰

In 2000, world leaders came together at the UN headquarters to adopt the *UN Millennium Declaration* (2000), commonly known as the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs).³¹¹ The first goal, aligned with FAO’s mission, is to “eradicate extreme poverty and hunger”, specifically, the goal calls for a reduction in half, “between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day.”³¹² To further build on the MDGs, FAO convened two additional world summits, in 2002 and 2009, focused on food security to ensure renewed commitment to the *Rome Declaration*.³¹³ The 2002 World Summit on Food Security resulted in the drafting of the *Right to Food Guidelines*, which aims to guide Member States towards implementing the right to food.³¹⁴ Ultimately, the *Right to Food Guidelines* was adopted by FAO in 2004 and have since served as a framework for Member States to implement the right to food.³¹⁵ Building on the 2002 summit, at the 2009 World Summit on Food Security, several heads of states and national representatives emphasized a renewed commitment towards eradicating hunger in all regions.³¹⁶

As the 2015 MDG deadline approaches, the charge to reduce extreme poverty by half seems to be out of reach for several states.³¹⁷ However, a few states, including conflict-affected states like Timor-Leste, Bosnia and Herzegovina,

³⁰² FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, p. 10.

³⁰³ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/294)*, 2012.

³⁰⁴ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, p. 10.

³⁰⁵ Ibid.

³⁰⁶ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/294)*, 2012.

³⁰⁷ FAO, *Our strategic objectives*, 2014.

³⁰⁸ Ibid.

³⁰⁹ FAO, *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security (WSFS/2009/02)*, 2009.

³¹⁰ Ibid.

³¹¹ FAO, *FAO and the challenge of the Millennium Development Goals: The road ahead*, 2005, p. 24.

³¹² Ibid.

³¹³ FAO, *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security (WSFS/2009/02)*, 2009.

³¹⁴ Ibid.

³¹⁵ UN General Assembly, *The right to food (A/RES/63/185)*, 2009.

³¹⁶ FAO, *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security (WSFS/2009/02)*, 2009.

³¹⁷ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, p. 10.

and Guinea have been able to maintain sustained improvement in order to meet the MDG on hunger and poverty eradication.³¹⁸ Post-2015, poverty and hunger eradication remains a primary focus at the UN; hence there have been continuing high-level discussions that seek to identify both actionable policies and measurable goals that can be put into place to help facilitate hunger eradication.³¹⁹ The High-Level Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in the Post-2015 Development Framework in March 2013, in Madrid, Spain, stressed the importance of striving towards a sustainable, complete, and permanent eradication of hunger and malnutrition by 2025.³²⁰

Role of the International System

FAO works to achieve its goals in different manners, including disseminating technical expertise to states as well as relevant partners, facilitating public and private collaboration at various levels of engagement, and bringing together relevant actors to engage local actors in specific regions.³²¹ Of note is FAO's role in helping to facilitate high-level meetings like the World Summit on Food Security, World Food Conference, and other annual meetings on specialized issues relating to cultivation, food loss and waste, seeds, urban agriculture, animal health, and biotechnology.³²² These meetings serve as a nexus for exchange of technical expertise on various agricultural practices and as a forum for open discussion of the day's prevailing challenges in the context of food security.³²³ The outcomes of these high-level meetings organized by FAO range from high-level declarations like the *Rome Declaration* to technical documents on, for instance, best practices for fertilizer use.³²⁴

A crucial component of FAO's work is in helping to facilitate a suitable working environment that involves bringing relevant actors and organizations, within and outside the UN system, together to ensure that expertise across a variety of areas is leveraged.³²⁵ FAO works with organizations across academia, civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector, cooperatives, and other partners in order to achieve its goals.³²⁶ In particular, FAO recognizes the importance of partnerships with CSOs and private sector actors.³²⁷ CSOs are often in a unique position because they combine technical expertise on a particular issue with proximity to the area of difficulty.³²⁸ CSOs can also help improve the effectiveness of FAO projects by helping to navigate various political landscapes of the region of interest.³²⁹ FAO partnered with King Boudain Foundation to launch project "Dimitra" that helps improve access and provide visibility to rural populations.³³⁰ Other organizations that FAO had worked with and continues to work with include Texas A&M University, Thomson Reuters Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, SAVE FOOD, the UN World Food Programme, the UN Development Programme, and the World Bank among others.³³¹

Coupled with field projects, FAO has also led the way in helping Member States seek to adopt legislation and enact internal policies to help ease the path towards a world devoid of hunger.³³² In particular, FAO has helped in guiding various states enact legislation on the right to food based on its 2004 adoption of the *Right to Food Guidelines*.³³³ Every year, FAO publishes various technical articles on the state of agriculture and food security in addition to several other technical journals on useful practices for sustainable agriculture.³³⁴ These publications distill various forms of information on a variety of agricultural practices for practitioners and workers around the world, helping to reduce the barrier to entry in different areas of agriculture.³³⁵ Of note is the variety of resolutions adopted by the

³¹⁸ World Bank, *Twenty Fragile States Make Progress on Millennium Development Goals*, 2014.

³¹⁹ FAO, *Post 2015 and MDGs*, 2014.

³²⁰ FAO, *High Level Consultation (HLC) on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in the Post 2015 Development Framework*, 2013.

³²¹ FAO, *Our Strategic Objectives*, 2014.

³²² FAO, *In Action*, 2014.

³²³ FAO, *Themes*, 2014.

³²⁴ FAO, *In Action*, 2014.

³²⁵ FAO, *Partnerships*, 2014.

³²⁶ *Ibid.*

³²⁷ FAO, *Partnerships Strategies*, 2014.

³²⁸ *Ibid.*

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³³⁰ FAO, *Partnerships*, 2014.

³³¹ *Ibid.*

³³² FAO, *Our Strategic Objectives*, 2014.

³³³ *Ibid.*

³³⁴ *Ibid.*

³³⁵ FAO, *In Action*, 2014.

General Assembly that seek to highlight food security and the critical role that sustainable agriculture plays in economic growth.³³⁶ In March of 2009, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/235, primarily focused on agriculture and food security.³³⁷ In February of 2010, the General Assembly adopted resolution 64/197, again focused on agricultural technology development and use in agriculture.³³⁸ The resolution emphasized the importance of agriculture and the unique role that emerging technologies can play in helping to bring about the mainstream development of sustainable agriculture.³³⁹ In light of the Rome principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, as well as the recognition of the impact of climate change on the ecosystem, FAO has begun to shift its focus to helping Member States develop agricultural systems that are resilient yet sustainable.³⁴⁰

Efficient Capital and Resource Allocation in Agriculture for Economic Growth

The 2012 version of FAO's annual publication, *The State of Food and Agriculture*, highlighted efficient resource and capital allocation in agriculture as one of the primary ways to spur the development of agriculture, and thus economic growth, especially in developing economies.³⁴¹ In most developing nations, agriculture accounts for a significant portion of the state's economy, and therefore a sizeable portion of the state's jobs.³⁴² An increase in agricultural productivity and economic returns in agriculture would be accompanied by an improved livelihood.³⁴³ The ability to market and sell farm products at profitable prices along with the increased production of such products on an aggregate level will provide additional revenue and profits to rural farmers enabling them to increase the size of production.³⁴⁴ Consequently, an increased level of production leads to an increase in profits and wealth generated for the farmers, and thus providing an avenue out of a lower economic level.³⁴⁵

FAO further highlights the need to provide a stable and attractive investment climate and to ensure that farmers remain central to any investment strategies pursued.³⁴⁶ How stable an investment climate is in a particular region depends on the nature of the markets as well as legal and institutional policies in place.³⁴⁷ Factors necessary for ensuring a stable and attractive investment climate include good governance, economic stability, and the presence of property rights.³⁴⁸ The availability of a sound fiscal and monetary structure promotes investor confidence in the economic system as well as helps to reduce the tendency for high inflation.³⁴⁹ Various governments can further induce activity in agriculture by providing incentives such as subsidies or other tax incentives to help alleviate the economic costs of production to rural farmers.³⁵⁰ Often, substantial economic investment is required in terms of equipment, fertilizer, and manpower to reach economies of scale in farming.³⁵¹ The level economic investment required is often not accessible to subsistence farmers, preventing them from scaling their operations to generate profits.³⁵² A stable and attractive investment economic system would not only help such farmers scale their operations, it would provide a solid investment foundation upon which other adjacent industries can also develop.³⁵³

Improving Local Agricultural Capacity for Food Security

Food security consists of several different components relating to availability, physical access, economic access, utilization, shocks, and vulnerability.³⁵⁴ In the 2013 publication of *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, FAO

³³⁶ FAO, *In Action*, 2014.

³³⁷ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security (A/RES/63/235)*, 2009.

³³⁸ UN General Assembly, *Agricultural technology for development (A/RES/64/197)*, 2010.

³³⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁰ FAO, *FAO and Post-2015*. 2014.

³⁴¹ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture: Investing in Agriculture for a Better Future*, 2012, p. 8.

³⁴² Mucavele, *True Contribution of Agriculture to Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction*, 2009, p. 3.

³⁴³ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁶ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture: Investing in Agriculture for a Better Future*, 2012, p. 8.

³⁴⁷ Akroyd & Smith, *Review of Public Spending to Agriculture*, 2007, p.10.

³⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁹ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture: Investing in Agriculture for a Better Future*, 2012, p. 9.

³⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

³⁵¹ FAO, *From Economic Growth to Food Security and Better Nutrition*, 2009.

³⁵² Akroyd & Smith, *Review of Public Spending to Agriculture*, 2007, p. 20.

³⁵³ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture: Investing in Agriculture for a Better Future*, 2012, p. 10.

³⁵⁴ FAO, *An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security*, 2008.

addresses the issue of food security head on, proposing several solutions and policies to meet this goal.³⁵⁵ As noted in the report, despite progress towards the MDG hunger target, regions in sub-Saharan Africa have the highest prevalence of undernourishment due to a combination of factors including poverty, environmental conditions such as drought, inadequate transportation system, and price volatility amongst other factors.³⁵⁶ An increase in the food price index is often accompanied by increases in the consumer price of various food commodities.³⁵⁷ Given such price fluctuations, price stability is affected across the world, especially in developing countries where incomes are often not adequate to account for shocks in food prices.³⁵⁸ In particular, an increase in food prices often leads consumers to shift to cheaper and potentially less-nutritious foods leading to a higher risk of malnutrition.³⁵⁹

While increased agricultural productivity, especially in rural areas, would lead to economic growth and a reduction in poverty among the poor, such increase does not necessarily ensure increased food availability and access for the undernourished or hungry.³⁶⁰ Increased agricultural productivity can be diverted to potentially competing interests such as exports and biofuel production which would bring about economic benefits to a given region, but does not bring about a reduction in the number of people that are malnourished and hungry.³⁶¹ To ensure Member States are focused on directing economic growth towards poverty and hunger reduction, the UN, and FAO in particular encourages Member States to enact policies and programs that are nutrition-sensitive.³⁶² To direct economic growth towards poverty and hunger reduction, policies and programs that are nutrition-sensitive should be encouraged.³⁶³ Such nutrition-sensitive policies would encourage better consumer awareness regarding adequate nutrition and target regions with high levels of hunger.³⁶⁴ Another core component of a nutrition-sensitive policy is the development of a core approach that targets those that need the policy in place the most and the poor to ensure a reduction in hunger and malnourishment.³⁶⁵ Such policies would direct resources towards public goods and services that benefit the poor, as well as incentivize the poor to use additional income towards improved diet and health services.³⁶⁶ Nutrition-sensitive policies can help increase food security drastically, as seen in the case of Bangladesh.³⁶⁷

Monitoring System for Food Security

In developing a framework to tackle food insecurity, the 2013 report on *The State of Food Security* emphasizes the need to develop a comprehensive monitoring system to help provide constant awareness of the various components of food security.³⁶⁸ The development of a comprehensive monitoring system was discussed by the 30-member Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals as a critical approach through which Member States can actively monitor food security in their respective regions.³⁶⁹ The proposed monitoring systems would seek to track specific metrics relating to availability, physical access, economic access, utilization, and other components that comprise food security.³⁷⁰ A sample of metrics that could potentially be tracked include average dietary energy supply adequacy, road density in a given region, domestic food price index, access to improved sanitation facilities, cereal import dependency ratio, per capita food price volatility, and the percentage of children under five years of age who are stunted, amongst others.³⁷¹ Through these metrics, a comprehensive profile of the nature of food security in a given region can be developed.³⁷² Once such a profile has been constructed, any potential deviations in the metrics being monitored easily points to a specific problem associated with such a region.³⁷³ Given early detection of such

³⁵⁵ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, p. 13.

³⁵⁶ Ibid.

³⁵⁷ Lagi et al., *The Food Crises: A quantitative model of food prices including speculators and ethanol conversion*, 2011, p. 2.

³⁵⁸ Rosen & Shapouri, *Rising Food Prices Intensify Food Insecurity in Developing Countries*, 2008, p.6.

³⁵⁹ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, p. 15.

³⁶⁰ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/294)*, 2012.

³⁶¹ Lagi et al., *The Food Crises: A quantitative model of food prices including speculators and ethanol conversion*, 2011, p. 2.

³⁶² FAO, *From Economic Growth to Food Security and Better Nutrition*, 2009.

³⁶³ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, 2012, p. 20.

³⁶⁴ Ibid.

³⁶⁵ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/294)*, 2012.

³⁶⁶ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, 2012, p. 20.

³⁶⁷ Rabbani, Sulaiman, & Das, *The impact of asset transfer on livelihoods of the ultra poor in Bangladesh*, 2009, p. 6.

³⁶⁸ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, p. 15.

³⁶⁹ Ibid.

³⁷⁰ Ibid.

³⁷¹ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, p. 17.

³⁷² UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/294)*, 2012.

³⁷³ Lagi et al., *The Food Crises: A quantitative model of food prices including speculators and ethanol conversion*, 2011, p. 2.

deviations through the comprehensive monitoring system, FAO and other partner organizations responsible for food security can effectively leverage their technical expertise to help provide adequate solutions.³⁷⁴ Critically, the development of a region-based comprehensive monitoring system also helps provide information to practitioners, farmers, and the local government in that particular area, providing them with the ability to address issues that would lead to improved agricultural capacity.³⁷⁵

Case Study: Development of the Agricultural Sector in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has recently been highlighted as a success story because, despite significant challenges, Bangladesh is one of the few states that has already met the MDG hunger target.³⁷⁶ Bangladesh is a very densely populated nation, with scarce natural resources and environmental difficulties due to the impact of climate change; however, it has still been successful in meeting the MDG hunger target.³⁷⁷ In the early 1990s, Bangladesh focused on increasing agricultural productivity by opening up their markets for foreign investments with a primary focus on growth in the agricultural sector.³⁷⁸ Bangladesh increased its food production and dietary energy supply adequacy, two metrics that measure the amount of food per calorie available for human consumption per day in a given region, from 95 dollars per capita in 1995 to about 140 dollars per capita in 2012.³⁷⁹ In addition, regulation was strengthened across the board to increase private investment in agriculture.³⁸⁰ Public infrastructure development programs were instituted to help address high cost processes such as irrigation.³⁸¹ To address issues relating to food security, a comprehensive national food policy program was created in 2008 to help monitor and measure relevant metrics.³⁸² Despite such progress, Bangladesh still has quite a way to go in ultimately eliminating food insecurity and reducing the number of malnourished individuals.³⁸³ However, successive governments have shown repeated commitment to agricultural productivity, poverty alleviation, and food security through repeated investment in agricultural productivity and measurement metrics to ensure food security.³⁸⁴

Conclusion

Extreme poverty and hunger eradication have constituted a core component of the UN's focus in the past; the UN and its entities remain committed to addressing hunger and malnutrition across the world.³⁸⁵ As shown above, there are various components to ensuring sustained investment in agriculture to help spur development and ensure food security. Increased investment in agricultural productivity leads to a direct impact on food availability and security, which in turn affects the livelihood and food intake of populations living in chronic hunger and poverty.³⁸⁶ Presence of a stable economic system and economic incentives for agriculture can help spur investment, and increased capital allocation in agriculture as evidenced in the case of Bangladesh.³⁸⁷ Further, a comprehensive monitoring approach towards food security can also be taken in order to continuously understand the overall extent and various aspects of food availability and access.³⁸⁸

In the post-2015 agenda, a comprehensive approach that leads to increased agricultural productivity should form a component of any attempt seeking to eliminate poverty and hunger.³⁸⁹ Through an approach that combines the development of a stable and attractive investment climate, efficient resource and capital allocation, and development

³⁷⁴ Ibid.

³⁷⁵ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, p. 17.

³⁷⁶ Ibid., p. 29.

³⁷⁷ Rahman & Yusuf, *Economic growth in Bangladesh: experience and policy priorities*, p. 7.

³⁷⁸ Ibid.

³⁷⁹ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, p. 29.

³⁸⁰ Rahman & Yusuf, *Economic growth in Bangladesh: experience and policy priorities*, p. 7.

³⁸¹ Rabbani, Sulaiman, & Das, *The impact of asset transfer on livelihoods of the ultra poor in Bangladesh*, 2009, p. 2.

³⁸² FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, p. 29.

³⁸³ Rabbani, Sulaiman, & Das, *The impact of asset transfer on livelihoods of the ultra poor in Bangladesh*, 2009, p. 2.

³⁸⁴ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, p. 29.

³⁸⁵ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/294)*, 2012.

³⁸⁶ Mundlak, *Economic Growth: Lessons from Two Centuries of American Agriculture*. *Journal of Economic*, 2005, p. 6.

³⁸⁷ Yudhoyono, Sirleaf, & Cameron, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development*, 2013, p. 41.

³⁸⁸ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security*, 2013, p. 29.

³⁸⁹ Yudhoyono, Sirleaf, & Cameron, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development*, 2013, p. 42.



of comprehensive measurement approach of various food security indicators, Member States can effectively combat high levels of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.³⁹⁰

Further Research

To continue their research, delegates should consider questions such as: what other strategies outside of those discussed are critical to increasing sustainable agricultural productivity? What potential roles could technology play in ensuring the development of adequate capability for sustainable agriculture in rural areas of developing economies where capacity could be limited? Is a comprehensive monitoring system necessary for ensuring food security and if yes, what are cost effective ways for developing nations to acquire such capability? What are critical goals relating to food security that should form a component of the post-2015 agenda?

³⁹⁰ UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/294)*, 2012.

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2008). *An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security* [Press Release]. Retrieved 2 August 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/a1936e/a1936e00.pdf>

This document provides an introductory, overview, succinct but comprehensive, of FAO and UN's conception of food security. It further highlights the various aspects of food security such as availability, economic and physical access, utilization, and stability, which are all important aspects of food security. This report will help delegates in developing comprehensive solutions to the issue of food insecurity that affects several regions of the world.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2009). *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security (WSFS/2009/02)*. Retrieved 10 July 2014 from: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/Meeting/018/k6050e.pdf>

This is the declaration that emerged from the World Summit on Food Security hosted in Rome by FAO in 2009. Food security is identified as a major issue and component of FAO's mandate, and policies to combat the issue are proposed. The declaration further highlights the detrimental effects of food insecurity, which include increased food prices, higher food shortages, and increased loss across the world. The declaration serves as a major component of FAO's overall policy to combat food insecurity. It would help delegates be aware of the core issue relating to food security as highlighted in the document.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2012). *The State of Food and Agriculture: Investing in Agriculture for a Better Future* [Annual Report]. Retrieved 10 July 2014 from:

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3028e/i3028e.pdf>

The State of Food and Agriculture is an annual report published by FAO that gives an overview of various issues and concerns associated with the agricultural sector across the world. This report was released in 2012, and addresses the overall state of agriculture around the world with the explicit goal of providing strategies that would ensure that it develops. The report identifies capital allocation as one of the major factors affecting the development of agriculture especially in developing economies. The report further provides various policies that would help ensure an environment conducive to increasing investment in agriculture across the world. It will be beneficial for delegates as a useful source that explores in depth various ways to improve agricultural productivity through capital allocation and creation of a climate conducive to investment.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *The State of Food and Agriculture: Food Systems for Better Nutrition* [Annual Report]. Retrieved 10 July 2014 from:

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3301e/i3301e.pdf>

This is the annual State of Food and Agriculture published by FAO in 2013. This report presents an analysis of food systems around the world with the goal of identifying key components, which would make it easier to reduce malnutrition. The report examines the entire agricultural value chain from production to distribution and the entire supply chain to identify key components that should be improved in regions with high concentration of malnourished populations in order to reduce such high levels of malnourishment. This report is useful for delegates as they prepare solutions to various aspects of food systems in highly malnourished regions in order make such food systems deliver benefits for individuals in extreme hunger.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The multiple dimensions of food security* [Annual Report]. Retrieved 2 August 2014 from:

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3434e/i3434e.pdf>

The State of Food Insecurity in the World is an annual report published by FAO that provides an overview of the current impact of food insecurity across various regions. The report addresses various thematic issues regarding the state of food security in several regions across the world. The 2013 report focuses on providing potential solutions to food security problems post 2015. The report further highlights the need for effective monitoring systems in order to help track food insecurity with the goal of ultimately eliminating it. The report is useful for delegates as they prepare potential solutions to food security issues across various regions.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *High Level Consultation (HLC) on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in the Post 2015 Development Framework* [Report]. Retrieved 2 August 2014 from: http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/post2015/sites/post2015/files/files/Synthesis_Report_Madrid_EN.pdf

This is a short report that summarizes the outcomes of the high-level consultation on framing issues relating to food security and nutrition after 2015 that took place in Madrid, Spain on 4 April 2013. It provides an overview of potential new goals that FAO could pursue towards 2025. The report further lays out various thematic areas could represent a new focus for FAO. This report is useful because it highlights particular areas and goals regarding food security and nutrition that FAO can take on going further. It serves as a succinct summary of several discussions as the post-2015 goals are being framed.

Hanson, C. World Resources Institute. (2013). *Food Security, Inclusive Growth, Sustainability, and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. Retrieved 2 August 2014 from: http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Hanson_Food-Security-Inclusive-Growth-Sustainability-and-the-Post-2015-Development-Agenda.pdf

This report proposes several target areas for post-2015 goals to focus on. It provides an overview of areas targeted at poverty alleviation, sustainability, and food security. The report presents specific goals, indicators, and metrics for measuring these goals. The report is useful as delegates consider particular problems and various ways in which to tackle issues relating to agricultural productivity and food security in a sustainable manner.

Mucavele, F. Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network. (2009). *True Contribution of Agriculture to Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction: Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia Synthesis Report*. Retrieved 10 July 2014 from: <http://www.fanrpan.org/documents/d01034/Synthesis%20Report%20True%20Contribution%20of%20Agriculture.pdf>

This report was released by the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network following a 2009 meeting. The report provides a detailed analysis of the link between agriculture and economic growth across Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. It provides several strong arguments that indicate that a strong agricultural sector is important for the development of national economies. This is a useful source for delegates because it provides a strong basis for the argument for a strong link between agricultural productivity and economic growth.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-seventh session. (2012). *Agriculture development and food security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/294)* [Report]. Retrieved 12 July 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/67/294>

This is a Report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development and food security. The report addresses the core of the topic and highlights various policies being pursued at the UN in order to tackle the issue. In particular, the report details the challenges involved in trying to achieve food and nutrition security, highlights the progress made in the implementation of sustainable agricultural policies, water scarcity, volatile food prices, and national level policies that can help stabilize agricultural sectors worldwide. This source is useful for delegates as they undertake their research towards understanding current challenges in terms of eliminating hunger and poverty.

United Nations Development Programme South Sudan. (2012). *Investing in Agriculture for Food Security and Economic Transformation* [Website]. Retrieved 12 July 2014 from: <http://www.ss.undp.org/content/dam/southsudan/library/Reports/southsudanotherdocuments/Investing%20in%20Agriculture%20for%20Food%20Security%20and%20Economic%20Transformation%20-%20November%202012.pdf>

This is a report by the United Nations Development Programme office (UNDP) in South Sudan. The report highlights the work of FAO, WFP, and the UNDP in helping to institute policies to transform rural agriculture and ensure food security among vulnerable populations. The report is useful for delegates because it highlights the importance of agriculture in a developing nation, particularly one emerging from conflict. The report further highlights the role of markets, legislative frameworks, and the development of supportive infrastructures in helping to spur economic growth.

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