



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND GUIDE 2014

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2014 National Model United Nations in Rome, Italy (NMUN•Europe) and welcome to our committee, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). As part of the volunteer staff, we aim to facilitate, to the best of our abilities, your educational experience at the conference in Rome.

Your Director for the conference, Patrick Parsons, holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and a Bachelor of Science in Animal and Veterinary Sciences from West Virginia University and is currently completing a Juris Doctorate from American University's Washington College of Law. Sara Calamitosi, your Assistant Director, is currently finishing a master's degree in law at the University of Perugia.

The topics under discussion for the FAO are:

- I. Beyond 2015: Addressing Global Food Insecurity
- II. Promoting Nutrition Education in Primary and Secondary Schools

The FAO serves as the primary forum for international discussions aimed at eradicating hunger and food insecurity, eliminating poverty and malnutrition, and sustainably managing and utilizing natural resources for food production. As the world's population grows and malnutrition continues to plague our communities, the FAO provides leadership in the creation of collaborative and coherent strategies to address sustainable food and agricultural production for all Member States.

This background guide serves as an introduction to the committee's topics. Accordingly, it is not meant as an all-inclusive source for research, but rather the groundwork for your own analysis and research. The references listed for each topic will provide you with the resources you need to start your own research. In preparation of the conference, each delegation will submit a position paper. Please refer to the following pages for details regarding the position paper submission process. Please also take note of the [NMUN Policies and Codes of Conduct](#) on the website and in the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#) regarding plagiarism, codes of conduct/dress code/sexual harassment, awards philosophy/evaluation method, etc. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the conference itself, feel free to contact the substantive staff listed below or the Deputy Secretary-General, Amanda Lichtenstein, by e-mailing dsg.rome@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparation for NMUN•Europe and look forward to seeing you in Rome!

Sincerely,

Patrick Parsons, Director
Sara Calamitosi, Assistant Director

NMUN•Europe Position Papers Guidelines

Due 15 October 2014

Each committee topic should be addressed in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned country, non-governmental organization (NGO), or expert role. You should identify and address international and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action that are relevant to the policy of your country or NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. A delegate's role as a Member State, Observer State, or NGO should affect the way a position paper is written. The [Delegate Preparation Guide](#) will provide you with additional information.

A position paper should be submitted for each assigned committee.

- The two page position paper should cover all the topics in the background guide, not a separate paper for each topic.
- Do not submit papers for committees not assigned to your country/NGO (see [matrix](#)).
- No more than two delegates can represent a single country/NGO in a committee. If you assign two delegates to represent a country/NGO on a committee, they submit one position paper jointly, not separate position papers from each individual.
- NMUN position papers are not cited as is required for an academic paper. They are written as if they are a policy statement coming from the foreign ministry. While they may reference UN data or past UN Resolutions, like in our samples, formal citations are not used.

Please pay careful attention to the following guidelines when drafting and submitting your position papers. Only those delegations that follow the guidelines and meet the submission deadline will be eligible for [position paper awards](#).

Follow the layout in our [Sample Position Paper](#) using the standards below:

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

Please note that position papers must be comprised of entirely original writing. **The NMUN Conference will not tolerate plagiarism**, including copying from Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy may result in dismissal from the conference. Although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents.

How to Submit Your Position Papers

Position papers need to be submitted by email in PDF format to dsg.rome@nmun.org. As proof of submission, include yourself as an email recipient. Please use the committee name and your assignment in both the email subject line and in the filename (example: GA1_Cuba). Each position paper should be sent as a separate attachment.

Many, many papers will be read by the Secretariat. Your patience and cooperation in adhering to the above guidelines is greatly appreciated.

History of the Food and Agriculture Organization

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was established in 1945 at the First Session of the FAO Conference held in Québec City, Canada, with the primary aim of achieving worldwide food security.¹ It was established with four main objectives: to raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living of peoples of its Member States; to secure improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products; to better the condition of rural populations; and, using the aforementioned three objectives, to contribute towards an expanding world economy and in turn, ensure freedom from hunger for all humanity.² Its motto, “*Fiat panis*,” is Latin for “let there be bread” and is featured in the current emblem of the FAO.³ The current headquarters of the FAO is located in Rome, Italy.⁴

The FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN); it also participates in the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).⁵ It is a part of a group called the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs), which includes two other organizations: the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP).⁶ The three RBAs work together to increase collaboration in an effort to combat global hunger and poverty with focus on the following five topical areas: analytical and policy support for governments and national development plans; the food crisis and Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) implementation; climate change and its links to natural resource management; the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Africa Initiative, which was launched to encourage implementation of the MDGs in Africa; and the transition from relief to development, which helps countries struck by disaster to recover.⁷

The activities of the FAO fall into four main areas: putting information within reach by serving as a knowledge network that disseminates information through its extensive website and numerous publications, sharing policy expertise to its member countries, providing a meeting place for states as a neutral forum, and bringing knowledge to the field through its thousands of field projects and collaboration with humanitarian agencies.⁸

History of the FAO

The FAO was preceded by the former organization called the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA), the initial creation of which was driven by David Lubin, who had proposed for an international organization where agricultural problems could be discussed.⁹ The King of Italy was receptive to the idea and opened the 1905 conference in Rome, Italy, which led to the creation of the IIA. In 1945, shortly after the conclusion of the Second World War, the FAO was created in Québec City, Canada, at the First Session of the FAO Conference, which ratified the financial and governance structure of the FAO, in addition to identifying the policies and the FAO programme of work.¹⁰ In 1946, the Permanent Committee of the IIA dissolved the IIA, and had its functions and assets transferred to the then-new FAO.¹¹ The mandate of the FAO was broader than the IIA, which concentrated on the collection and publication of statistics and agricultural information.¹²

¹ FAO, *Food and Agriculture Organization* [Web Site], 2011.

² FAO, *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Volume I: Constitution* [Web Site], 2011, p.1.

³ FAO, *FAO: its origins, formulation and evolution 1945-1981* [Web Site], 1981, p.9.

⁴ FAO, *Food and Agriculture Organization* [Web Site], 2011.

⁵ FAO, *Food and Agriculture Organization* [Web Site], 2011.

⁶ FAO, *Joint Meeting of the Hundred and One Session of the Programme Committee and the Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session of the Finance Committee: Direction for Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies* [Web Site], 2009, p.1.

⁷ FAO, *Joint Meeting of the Hundred and One Session of the Programme Committee and the Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session of the Finance Committee: Direction for Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies* [Web Site], 2009, p.1; UNESCO, *Increasing resources for vulnerable population* [Web Site].

FAO and the EU, *Success Stories From Inside Poverty's Door*, 2007, p.4.

⁸ FAO, *Food and Agriculture Organization* [Web Site], 2011.

⁹ Hodgson, *Review: The International Institute of Agriculture: An Historical and Critical Analysis of its Organization, Activities, and Policies of Administration* by Asher Hobson, 1932, p.406.

¹⁰ FAO, *Report of the Conference of FAO, First Session* [Web Site], 1945.

¹¹ United Nations, *Protocol for the Dissolution of the International Institute of Agriculture*, 1946.

¹² FAO, *Food and Agriculture Organization* [Web Site], 2011.

Current Structure of the FAO

The FAO currently consists of 195 Member States, two associate members, and one member organization.¹³ The main organ within the FAO is the Conference of Member Nations, which meets every two years in regular session.¹⁴ Each member nation has one representative at the Conference; the functions of the Conference are to determine organizational policy, approve the FAO budget, and make recommendations.¹⁵ The Conference also elects a council of 49 Member States that govern the organization, as well as appoints the Director-General of the Conference, who in turn appoints the staff that manage the administration of the FAO.¹⁶ The FAO is organized into seven departments: Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Economic and Social Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Forestry, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance, Natural Resources Management and Environment, and Technological Cooperation.¹⁷ Each of these departments is further specialized into divisions, which are charged with a myriad of responsibilities that include field work, statistical compilation, and publications.¹⁸

The FAO's activities are funded through two main sources: net budgetary appropriation and voluntary contributions.¹⁹ The net budgetary appropriation is the allotted contributions that each FAO member nation contributes as per the requirements of membership; in 2010-11 the budget for this was \$1 billion.²⁰ Voluntary contributions comprise of two main categories of extra-budgetary resources: core voluntary contributions that are part of the planned FAO program of work and other extra-budgetary voluntary contributions that are used to support field programs, technical assistance, and emergency assistance.²¹

Conclusion

Food and agriculture continue to be pivotal issues in the world today, and the challenge of the FAO will be to remain relevant to the many issues surrounding food and agriculture. The FAO has at times been criticized in the past for being ineffective and irrelevant; one such prominent incidence of criticism came as a response to the FAO's 2004 report "Agricultural Biotechnology: meeting the needs of the poor?," when more than 650 civil society organizations signed an open letter that accused the FAO of betraying the farmers that it had pledged to support by siding with global biotechnology companies on the issue of genetically-engineered crops.²² However, despite this criticism, the FAO has had successes in working towards its mandate of achieving food security; such examples of success include: decreasing damaging and expensive pesticide use in Pakistan, rehabilitating aquaculture activity after the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia, and successfully carrying out a vaccination program in Turkey that prevented a new strain of Foot and Mouth disease in livestock.²³ Continuing forward into the 21st century, the FAO must strike a delicate balance that continues to address the concerns and perspectives of all parties involved, while continuing to define its role and mandate in the world today.

Annotated Bibliography

History of the Food and Agriculture Organization

Food and Agriculture Organization. (2011). *FAO Home* [Web Site]. Retrieved on 31 August 2011 from: <http://www.fao.org/>

¹³ FAO, *Food and Agriculture Organization* [Web Site], 2011.

¹⁴ FAO, *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Volume I: Constitution* [Web Site], 2011, p.3.

¹⁵ FAO, *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Volume I: Constitution* [Web Site], 2011, p.3.

¹⁶ FAO, *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Volume I: Constitution* [Web Site], 2011, p.4-6.

¹⁷ FAO, *Food and Agriculture Organization* [Web Site], 2011.

¹⁸ FAO, *Food and Agriculture Organization* [Web Site], 2011.

¹⁹ FAO, *The Director-General's Medium-Term Plan 2010-13 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13* [Web Site], 2011, p.5.

²⁰ FAO, *The Director-General's Medium-Term Plan 2010-13 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13* [Web Site], 2011, p.5

²¹ FAO, *The Director-General's Medium-Term Plan 2010-13 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13* [Web Site], 2011, p.5

²² ETC Group, *Message to FAO: "Fight Hunger – Not Farmers"*, 2004.

²³ FAO and the EU, *Success Stories From Inside Poverty's Door* [Web Site], 2007, p.3-5.

This is the FAO Web site and is a vast repository of information concerning the FAO, from current news reports about emergencies the FAO is addressing, to a comprehensive collection of the numerous publications issued by the FAO in PDF format. This Web site should be the first location that delegates should peruse to gain a better understanding of the FAO, its many programmes and initiatives, and how its work is connected to the rest of the UN. Many pages of the site can serve as a good starting point for research, and the following pages and sections within the site are highly recommended: About, Publications, Fact Sheets on FAO's Programme, and Countries.

Food and Agriculture Organization. (2011). *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations* [Web Site]. Retrieved on 31 August 2011 from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/022/K8024E.pdf>

The Basic Texts is a comprehensive document that is split into two volumes; Volume I contains the constitution, financial regulations, and rules of procedures of the FAO. Volume II contains details of the governance and administrative structure of the FAO, in addition to the nature of its working relationships with other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. Delegates should note that this is not the completed update of the basic texts, as updates are still ongoing as of October 2011. However, this document is still an invaluable resource for delegates who wish to understand how the FAO functions.

Food and Agriculture Organization. (2011). *The Director-General's Medium-Term Plan 2010-13 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13* [Web Site]. Retrieved on 31 August 2011 from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/021/ma061e.pdf>

An excellent resource for the past, current, and future plans of the FAO from a financial perspective, the Medium-Term Plan provides a comprehensive overview of the many projects of the FAO as it reviews and recommends future policy with monetary figures and relevant statistics attached. Highlighted in this report is the Medium Term Plan, which consists of strategic and functional objectives, and recommendations for the role and actions of the FAO from the year 2011 to the year 2013. The Medium-Term Plan was created in response to the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal, a plan constructed from Member States' feedback in order to create a more effective, efficient, and relevant FAO for the future.

Food and Agriculture Organization. (2010). *Fact Sheet: FAO and the Eight Millennium Development Goals* [Web Site]. Retrieved on 31 August 2011 from: <http://www.fao.org/mdg/22032-0e0f5a6cc2178754a83092ab58f01ed44.pdf>

The FAO's fact sheet gives a comprehensive overview on the past and ongoing efforts of the FAO in addressing the first goal of the UN Millennium Development Goals, which focuses on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. Key issues and information highlighted in this fact sheet include food security programs, global action in response to the food crisis, and recent initiatives to emergencies. This is recommended as a good starting point for delegates to be able to have a better idea of how FAO's initiatives work within the UN system; however further research should be done into the topics summarized on this fact sheet to gain a more in-depth and thorough knowledge of the FAO.

Food and Agriculture Organization. (2011). *FAO at Work 2010-2011: Women – Key to Food Security* [Web Site]. Retrieved on 1 September 2011 from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/am719e/am719e00.pdf>

This is the annual report produced by the FAO that highlights a key theme, which for this past year was the role of women in ensuring food security. In addition, the report also contains an overview and results of the numerous ongoing and new projects and initiatives that the FAO has been involved in over the past year, such as the launch of a wheat rust tracking site, an update on the activities of World Food Day, and the elimination of the cattle disease rinderpest that was achieved under a program coordinated by the FAO. This is a great resource for delegates who wish to have a broad and general overview of the large portfolio of the FAO.

Food and Agriculture Organization. (2011). *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* [Web Site]. Retrieved on 1 September 2011 from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1683e/i1683e.pdf>

Produced in association with the World Food Programme (WFP), this report highlights the issue of food insecurity and the many problems associated with it, as well as analyses on the international response and coordination of relief efforts for food insecurity. It highlights some

success stories from the work of the FAO and WFP, and highlights three key recommendations about food security in regions experiencing a protracted crisis situation. This is a great resource for those wanting to further research about food insecurity, the UN bodies that address it, and to have access to concrete statistical analysis about food insecurity.

I. Beyond 2015: Addressing Global Food Insecurity

“Hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition can be ended 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. Bold and effective action is urgent and both a moral and political imperative.”²⁴

Introduction

Throughout history, scholars and organizations have feared that global growth rates will outpace advances in agricultural production. In 1798, Thomas Malthus wrote “[t]he power of population is so superior to the power of the earth to produce subsistence for man, that premature death must in some shape or other visit the human race.”²⁵ Less than two centuries later, scholars including Thomas Ehrlich again predicted an impending global famine as population growth grew exponentially while agricultural yields only grew arithmetically.²⁶ While the Green Revolution and other agricultural advances have continually advanced food yields, more must be done to ensure global food security.

A decade ago, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) predicted that the world population would grow to 8.3 billion people by 2030.²⁷ This estimate projected that global growth rates would fall from 1.7% to 1.1% and agricultural demand would also slow from 2.2% to 1.5% per year.²⁸ Despite the decreases in both growth rates, global food demand would still require 50% more food to be produced by 2030 and 60% by 2050.²⁹ Thus, while population and demand are projected to grow more slowly than in previous years, the total amount of food produced would still need to increase substantially. Following those growth rates, the United Nations (UN) estimates the world population to increase to 8.3 billion in 2030 and to 9.1 billion in 2050.³⁰ In the 40 years from 1970 to 2010, population increased by 3.2 billion, yet the increase over the 40 years from 2010 to 2050 will only be 2.25 billion.³¹ On an aggregate level, the agricultural sector successfully met the increased demand required over the last 40 years and therefore faces a smaller challenge in meeting the reduced increase expected over the next 40 years.³² Ensuring global food security, however, requires that food demands be met on an individual, not an aggregate, level. The 1996 World Food Summit defined food security as “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.”³³ By 2007, per capita food availability increased to 2,770 kcal per person per day.³⁴ However, roughly 2.3 billion people currently subsist on less than 2,500 kcal per day and 0.5 billion on less than 2,000 kcal, while 1.9 billion average more than 3,000 kcal.³⁵ That inequality is expected to increase by 2050 with 52% of the global population, 4.7 billion people, averaging over 3,000 kcal per day.³⁶

The FAO’s statistical projections and the disparity between aggregate levels of food production and individual access to food reveals two key areas that the international community must address to ensure food security.³⁷ First, production must increase to match an increasing global population, and over 85% of that increase is expected to

²⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *High Level Consultation (HLC) on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in the Post 2015 Development Framework: Joint Chairs and co-Leads Synthesis Report*, 2013.

²⁵ Malthus, *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, 1798, VII.20.

²⁶ Goldstone, *The New Population Bomb: The Four Megatrends That Will Change the World*, 2010.

²⁷ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *World agriculture 2030: Main findings*, 2002.

²⁸ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *World agriculture 2030: Main findings*, 2002.

²⁹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *World Agriculture Towards 2030/2050: The 2012 revision* [Web Site], 2012.

³⁰ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Water and Food Security*.

³¹ Alexandratos & Bruinsma, *World Agriculture Towards 2030/2050: The 2012 Revision*, 2012, p. 1.

³² Alexandratos & Bruinsma, *World Agriculture Towards 2030/2050: The 2012 Revision*, 2012, p. 1.

³³ World Health Organization, *Food Security*, 2014.

³⁴ Alexandratos & Bruinsma, *World Agriculture Towards 2030/2050: The 2012 Revision*, 2012, p. 1.

³⁵ Alexandratos & Bruinsma, *World Agriculture Towards 2030/2050: The 2012 Revision*, 2012, p. 1.

³⁶ Alexandratos & Bruinsma, *World Agriculture Towards 2030/2050: The 2012 Revision*, 2012, p. 3-4.

³⁷ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *World Agriculture Towards 2030/2050: The 2012 revision* [Web Site], 2012.

come from improved crop yields.³⁸ Second, even when aggregate production is increased, more equal access must be addressed.³⁹ Although new facets of sustainability impact the recurring discussion on increasing agricultural yields, the international community must devise new means to address issues of equal access involving distribution, waste, biofuel diversion, and price volatility that remain on the horizon.

International Framework

The international community has highlighted the danger of food insecurity on multiple occasions. First, in 1948, the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948) affirmed in Article 25 that all people have the right to an adequate standard of living that includes the right to food.⁴⁰ Article 11 of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR) (1966) reaffirmed the role of food in an adequate standard of living espoused in the UDHR and recognized the right to be free from hunger.⁴¹ In addition to recognizing the differing needs of food-importing and food-exporting states, the ICESCR committed signatories to improving production, conservation, and distribution methods through information sharing and the efficient utilization of natural resources.⁴² The right to be free from hunger was further clarified by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as having “physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement.”⁴³ The Committee also recognized existing gaps to fulfillment of Article 11 in stating “the roots of the problem of hunger and malnutrition are not lack of food but lack of access to available food, inter alia because of poverty, by large segments of the world’s population.”⁴⁴

Five world conferences and summits have also been held to increase the political will to eradicate hunger and malnutrition: the 1974 World Food Conference, the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition, the 1996 World Food Summit, the 2002 World Food Summit +5, and the 2009 World Summit on Food Security.⁴⁵ At the 1974 World Food Conference, governments committed to eradicating hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition within a decade.⁴⁶ In 1996, the international community again came together and committed to reducing the number of undernourished people by half no later than 2015.⁴⁷ To meet that goal, the *Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Summit Plan of Action* made seven commitments: enabling a political, social, and economic environment with the best conditions for eradicating poverty based on full participation of men and women; implementing policies aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality and improving physical and economic access to food; pursuing participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and rural development policies; striving to ensure that trade policies are conducive to fostering food security; endeavoring to prevent and prepare for natural disasters and man-made emergencies; promoting the optimal allocation and use of public and private investments; and implementing, monitoring, and following-up on the *World Summit Plan of Action*.⁴⁸ The 2002 *Declaration of the World Food Summit: Five Years Later* recognized that the international community again needed to recommit to its previous goal of halving poverty and malnutrition by 2015.⁴⁹

More recently, by a decision of the FAO Council, the World Summit on Food Security was convened in 2009.⁵⁰ Once again committing to previous goals of the 1996 and 2002 World Food Summits and Millennium Development Goal 1, the *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security* included the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable

³⁸ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *World Agriculture Towards 2030/2050: The 2012 revision* [Web Site], 2012.

³⁹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *World Agriculture Towards 2030/2050: The 2012 revision* [Web Site], 2012.

⁴⁰ United Nations General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*, 1948.

⁴¹ United Nations General Assembly, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/RES/21/2200)*, 1966.

⁴² United Nations General Assembly, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/RES/21/2200)*, 1966.

⁴³ United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *Substantive Issues Arising in the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: General Comment 12 (Twentieth session, 1999) The right to adequate food (art. 11)* (E/C.12/1999/5), 1999.

⁴⁴ United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *Substantive Issues Arising in the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: General Comment 12 (Twentieth session, 1999) The right to adequate food (art. 11)* (E/C.12/1999/5), 1999.

⁴⁵ United Nations, *Outcomes on Food* [Web Site].

⁴⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *World Food Summit: 13-17 November 1996 Rome Italy* [Web Site].

⁴⁷ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *World Food Summit: 13-17 November 1996 Rome Italy* [Web Site].

⁴⁸ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action* [Web Site], 1996.

⁴⁹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Declaration of the World Food Summit: Five Years Later* [Web Site], 2002.

⁵⁰ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *World Summit on Food Security* [Web Site].

Global Food Security.⁵¹ Today, international efforts to halve food insecurity by 2015 are guided by those principles: investing in country-owned plans; fostering coordination at national, regional, and global levels; twin-track approaches of direct action to immediately tackle hunger for the most vulnerable and medium- and long-term sustainable agricultural programs to eliminate the root causes of hunger and poverty; ensuring a strong role for the multilateral system; and ensuring sustained and substantial investment in multi-year plans and programs.⁵² To compliment the broad framework agreed to by the international community, regional organizations have also codified measures to address food security including the African Union's *Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security* (2003), the Southern African Development Community's *Dar-es-Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security* (2004), the Caribbean Community's *Liliendaal Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security* (2009), the Commonwealth's *Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles* (2011), and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum's *Kazan Declaration on APEC Food Security* (2012).⁵³

Role of the United Nations System

In 2000, the UN General Assembly joined the calls of the world food summits in addressing the issue of hunger and food security.⁵⁴ Specifically, Goal 1 Target 1.C. of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) resolves to halve the proportion of people suffering from hunger by 2015.⁵⁵ As the target date of 2015 approaches, achievement of Target 1.C. remains "within reach."⁵⁶ In 1990, the proportion of undernourished people was 23.2%; by 2012, that proportion had decreased to 14.9%.⁵⁷ But although the decrease is considerable, a noticeably higher rate of decrease is required to meet the goal of reaching 11.6% by 2015.⁵⁸ Now, while the MDG Momentum and 1,000 Days of Action campaigns seek to accelerate actions to achieve the MDGs, the UN system must also consider new goals to guide the international community beyond 2015.⁵⁹

The Post-2015 Development Agenda

There are currently two similar processes that will likely interlink to form a unified post-2015 development framework.⁶⁰ The first process was established by the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs.⁶¹ Following the outcomes of that meeting, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon established the UN System Task Team to initiate and coordinate the process of drafting the Post-2015 Development Agenda.⁶² Under that process, the Secretary-General has conducted eleven Global Thematic Consultations, nearly 100 national and regional consultations, and a public survey for input from the general public and civil society.⁶³ In addition to these comments, the Secretary-General will rely on advice from the High-Level Panel of Eminent Person, the UN Global Compact, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service.⁶⁴ In a separate process, initiated at the Rio +20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, the Open Working Group (OWG) was created to draft post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs).⁶⁵ By the end of 2014, the Secretary-General will combine the outcomes of both processes to present a final report on the post-2015 development

⁵¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security* [Web Site], 2009.

⁵² Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security* [Web Site], 2009.

⁵³ Assembly of the African Union, *Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa (Assembly/AU/Decl.7 (II))*, 2003; Southern African Development Community, *Dar-es-Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region*, 2004; Caribbean Community Secretariat, *Liliendaal Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security*, 2009; Commonwealth Secretariat, *Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles*, 2011; Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, *Kazan Declaration on APEC Food Security*, 2012.

⁵⁴ United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/5/2)*, 2000.

⁵⁵ United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/5/2)*, 2000.

⁵⁶ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 4.

⁵⁷ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 10.

⁵⁸ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 10.

⁵⁹ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015: Background* [Web Site].

⁶⁰ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 Development Agenda*.

⁶¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 Development Agenda*.

⁶² Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *The Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals: Background* [Web Site], 2014.

⁶³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *The Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals: Background* [Web Site], 2014.

⁶⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *The Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals: Background* [Web Site], 2014.

⁶⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *The Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals: Background* [Web Site], 2014.

framework that will serve as the basis for negotiations to ultimately adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda in September 2015.⁶⁶

The FAO's Role in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The FAO believes that “food security can be the common thread that links the different challenges the world faces in building a sustainable future.”⁶⁷ To that end the FAO has identified 14 thematic areas — food security and the right to food; nutrition; poverty eradication; resilience; social protection; climate change; ecosystems, biodiversity, and genetics; energy; fisheries, aquaculture, oceans, and seas; forests and mountains; land and soils; sustainable agriculture; tenure rights; and water — where it can contribute technical knowledge to the OWG’s process of drafting the SDGs.⁶⁸

Beginning in 2012, the FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP) led three phases of thematic consultations on food and nutrition security to gather input on lessons learned from the MDGs and visions for the Post 2015 Development Agenda.⁶⁹ The first phase, an online consultation, asked participants for input on three themes: 1) lessons learned from the MDGs and the key future challenges to achieving food and nutrition security; 2) what actions work best to address food insecurity and the role of current initiatives; and 3) specific proposals for objectives, targets, and indicators.⁷⁰ The consultation also asked for views on the possible use of the Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC) as the specific target for post-2015 food security goals.⁷¹ The UN Secretary-General launched the ZHC during the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, commonly referred to as Rio+20, to ensure that everyone that the right to adequate food is universally achieved.⁷² The ZHC goals include zero stunted children that are less than two years old, 100% access to adequate food at all times, fully sustainable food systems, a 100% increase in smallholder agriculture’s productivity and income, and zero loss or waste of food.⁷³ The consultation drew over 270 participants with feedback supporting priority emphasis for food security and nutrition in the next global development goals.⁷⁴ The ZHC was also widely supported, although participants agreed that in addition to ambitious objectives “a stronger, better-targeted framework [is needed] to guide and prioritize action...”⁷⁵ In the second phase, the FAO and WFP convened the Committee on World Food Security to refine issues discussed during phase one.⁷⁶ Stakeholders there supported the broad objectives of the ZHC and recommended that a “stand alone, bold and prominent” food security and nutrition goal should be included in the post-2015 goals.⁷⁷ Later, during phase three, the Madrid High Level Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition In the Post-2015 Development Framework reiterated the Committee’s points while additionally highlighting equitable development, sustainability, climate sensitivity, good governance, and inclusiveness.⁷⁸

Conclusion

As the international community transitions from the MDGs to the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the opportunity exists to ensure that the FAO’s five strategic objectives form the basis of future development goals. From pledges made at the world food summits to Goal 1 of the MDGs, the international community has struggled to fulfill its commitment to eliminate hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition—the first strategic objective of the FAO. Before moving forward with the post-2015 process, delegates must understand why previous goals remain unmet, despite ongoing political support on the international and regional level. Once those shortcomings are understood, the next

⁶⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *The Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals: Background* [Web Site], 2014.

⁶⁷ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *The Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals: 14 Themes* [Web Site], 2014.

⁶⁸ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *The Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals: 14 Themes* [Web Site], 2014.

⁶⁹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Post 2015 and MDGs: About the Process* [Web Site], 2013.

⁷⁰ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Post 2015 and MDGs: E-Consultation* [Web Site], 2013.

⁷¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Post 2015 and MDGs: E-Consultation* [Web Site], 2013.

⁷² United Nations, *Zero Hunger Challenge: The Challenge* [Web Site].

⁷³ United Nations, *Zero Hunger Challenge: The Challenge* [Web Site].

⁷⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Post 2015 and MDGs: About the Process* [Web Site], 2013.

⁷⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Post 2015 and MDGs: About the Process* [Web Site], 2013.

⁷⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Post 2015 and MDGs: About the Process* [Web Site], 2013.

⁷⁷ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in the post-2015 Development Agenda Informal Consultation with CFS Stakeholders* [Web Site], 2013.

⁷⁸ Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, *The Madrid High Level Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition In the Post-2015 Development Framework* [Web Site], 2013.

step of drafting post-2015 recommendations to eliminate food insecurity begins. Is the ZHC an adequate basis for crafting recommendations? Are further, more concrete objectives and targets needed? How can these goals eliminate current disparities between undernourished and over nourished individuals? How can broader concepts including sustainability and gender equality be incorporated into goals addressing food security?

Annotated Bibliography

Alexandratos, N. & J. Bruinsma. (2012). *World Agriculture Towards 2030/2050: The 2012 Revision*. ESA Working Paper No. 12-03. Rome: FAO. Retrieved 4 June 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/ap106e/ap106e.pdf>

This revision represents the latest UN statistics on world hunger and population growth. To better address future goals related to food insecurity, delegates must understand global trends in population growth, food production, and nutrition. Additionally, the statistics are key for delegates to recognize and better address the inequality in access to food and adequate nutrition.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. (2013). *Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in the post-2015 Development Agenda Informal Consultation with CFS Stakeholders*. Retrieved 7 June 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/post2015/sites/post2015/files/files/Chair%20Summary%20Informal%20consultation%20CFS%20FinalDraft.pdf>

This information consultation formed the second phase in the FAO-WFP joint consultation process. This outcome document synthesized input from a wide range of stakeholders for use during the third phase in the process. Those synthesized issues provide a wealth of information for delegates to understand various sub-issues that could be incorporated into a future goal.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2013). *The Madrid High Level Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition In the Post-2015 Development Framework*. Retrieved 7 June 2014 from: http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/post2015/sites/post2015/files/files/Vision_and_Building_Blocks_for_Global_Agenda.pdf

The Madrid High Level Consultation formed the third phase in the joint FAO-WFP consultation process regarding a post-2015 food security goal. This document builds off the second phase document mentioned above in highlighting the Zero Hour Challenge and the need to a specific food security goal. Delegates can gain useful insight into the consultation and drafting process by understanding the FAO-WFP process with this document as its outcome since delegates will similarly be weighing current challenges and information in drafting their own recommendations for future goals.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2014). *The Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals: Background* [Web Site]. Retrieved 8 June 2014 from: <http://www.fao.org/post-2015-mdg/background/en/>

Before drafting recommendations for post-2015 goals, delegates must understand both the broader process of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the FAO's role in that process. This Web site provides a succinct explanation of the twin UN System Task Team and SDG processes. Also important to delegates are the links to major UN documents regarding the post-2015 process that will be useful in further research.

United Nations. (n.d.). *Zero Hunger Challenge* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 June 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/zerohunger/challenge.shtml>

Recognizing that one person out of every eight is still hungry or malnourished, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the Zero Hunger Challenge at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. The Challenge is based on five pillars that aim to build support for the goal of achieving zero hunger. Delegates are wise to fully understand the Zero Hunger Challenge by exploring this Web site, since the Zero Hour Challenge may form the preliminary basis for a post-2015 goal relating to food security.

II. Promoting Nutrition Education in Primary and Secondary Schools

“Those who think they have no time for healthy eating will sooner or later have to find time for illness.”⁷⁹

⁷⁹ Stanley, *The Conduct of Life*, 1873.

Introduction

Since the founding of the United Nations (UN), several interventions have addressed the issue of improving people's living conditions, with special attention to the situation of developing countries. Most measures were carried out in the field of capacity building and development, such as production methods or policies regarding agriculture and trade.⁸⁰ Rarely has nutrition education been included in these plans, even though its activities are strictly related to economic development.⁸¹ Nevertheless, more recently, the international community has highlighted the direct link between education, nutrition, and health, considered as the three fundamental pillars for economic growth and stability.⁸²

Nutrition education is defined as "instruction or training intended to lead to acquired nutrition-related knowledge and/or nutrition-related skills and be provided in individual."⁸³ The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank (WB) prefer to use another expression, "behavior change communication" (BCC). "Behavior change is commonly defined as a research-based consultative process for addressing knowledge, attitudes and practices that are intrinsically linked to program goals."⁸⁴ BCC emphasizes how nutrition affects all areas of human life and capitalizes communication to promote positive behaviors, based on a healthy lifestyle and a balanced diet.⁸⁵

According to *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, the unacceptable rates of under-nutrition and nutritional deficiencies necessitate action by the international community.⁸⁶ Additionally, intense economic globalization results in a change in the food available in developing countries, altering dietary habits and lifestyles: "Evidence indicates that increasing imports have stimulated a change from 'healthy' locally sourced foods (pre-imports) to 'unhealthy' fatty foods (post-imports)."⁸⁷ As a result, traditional knowledge about food is no longer commonplace, and new skills are required to make people aware of the importance of a healthy diet based on nutritional needs.

International Framework

The importance of nutrition education was highlighted during the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition (ICN).⁸⁸ During the ICN,

governments pledged to make all efforts to eliminate or reduce substantially, before the next millennium, starvation and famine; widespread chronic hunger; undernutrition, especially among children, women and the aged; micronutrient deficiencies, especially iron, iodine and vitamin A deficiencies; diet-related communicable and non-communicable diseases; impediments to optimal breast-feeding; and inadequate sanitation, poor hygiene and unsafe drinking-water.⁸⁹

The *World Declaration on Nutrition and Plan of Action for Nutrition* was unanimously adopted as the outcome document of the Conference.⁹⁰ Both of these documents reinforced the commitment of the FAO to improving nutrition and, in particular, the *Plan of Action for Nutrition* included nine priority themes focusing attention on the lead role of the promotion of healthy diets and nutritional programs.⁹¹

The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), in November 2014, will review the progress made towards achieving the goals set in the ICN.⁹² The ICN2 will be jointly organized by the FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO). The ICN2 will come to an agreement on how to face current nutrition challenges and will

⁸⁰ United Nations, *Development*, [Web Site].

⁸¹ FAO, *Nutrition Education in Primary Schools: A Planning Guide for Curriculum Development*, 2005, p. 2.

⁸² McNulty, *Challenges and Issues in Nutrition Education*, 2013, p. 3-4.

⁸³ *International Dietetics and Nutritional Terminology - Reference Manual: Standard Language for the Nutrition Care Process*, 2011.

⁸⁴ UNICEF, *Communication for Development - Behavior and Social Change*, [Web Site].

⁸⁵ McNulty, *Challenges and Issues in Nutrition Education*, 2013, p. 7.

⁸⁶ FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, 2013.

⁸⁷ WHO, Commission on Social Determinants of Health, *Globalization, Food and Nutrition Transitions*, 2007.

⁸⁸ FAO, *The International Conference on Nutrition*, 1995.

⁸⁹ FAO, *The International Conference on Nutrition*, 1995.

⁹⁰ FAO, *Guidelines for Developing National Plans of Action for Nutrition*, 1993.

⁹¹ Gopalan, *International Conference on Nutrition: an overview and commentary*.

⁹² FAO, *ICN2 Second International Conference on Nutrition*.

contribute to the post-2015 UN development Agenda, including strengthening international and regional cooperation to enhance nutrition interventions and programmes.⁹³ Even 20 years after the ICN, it is necessary to address the significant variance in the progress achieved by different countries. Indeed, "the phenomenon of co-existence of over-nutrition and under-nutrition in the population is obscured in consideration of country-level statistics."⁹⁴

As an example of those variances, "while the proportion of chronically hungry has been falling over the last two decades, the absolute number has remained stable at about 800 [million], and has been overtaken by the increasing numbers of overweight and obese individuals."⁹⁵ This phenomenon is called the double burden of malnutrition.⁹⁶ Since 1992, the international community has undergone a deep transformation in the global economy and the social and cultural levels. These events have led to a shift in diet composition and energy requirements.⁹⁷ To demonstrate this transformation, developing countries are the most involved in nutritional habit changes, leaving their traditional diets for more Western-patterned diets high in saturated fats and sugars.⁹⁸ Such an evolution is known as "nutrition transition" and "is characterized by a movement from diets associated with under-nutrition to diets associated with over-nutrition."⁹⁹ The most striking result of this shift was reached in 2006 when the number of overweight people in the world overtook the number of chronically hungry.¹⁰⁰

It is particularly noteworthy that in recent years the private sector, civil society, and international organizations have felt the need to enhance cooperation on nutrition education. Looking at one of the more successful collaborative projects, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), it is clear how it is "both stimulated and reinforced by political interest in nutrition among leaders of national governments and development partners alike."¹⁰¹ The SUN process began in 2009 and has led to the adoption of *Scaling Up Nutrition: A Framework for Action*, as "the product of a broad informal partnership [...] [that] includes developing countries, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, bilateral development agencies, United Nations specialized agencies (FAO, UNICEF, World Food Programme, and WHO), nutrition-specific collaboration organizations of the United Nations [...], and the World Bank."¹⁰² Every country involved in the SUN Movement developed a specific plan in order to increase the role of education and to support efforts to scale up nutrition.¹⁰³

Role of the United Nation System

The promotion of nutrition education has always been one of the dominant topics of the FAO Food and Nutrition Division.¹⁰⁴ This body of the FAO works with other committees of the United Nations and cooperates with other international organizations to support "innovative strategies and materials that assist countries in planning and implementing school-based nutrition education."¹⁰⁵ As part of its efforts, it produces *Nutrition Education in Primary Schools: A planning guide for curriculum development*, a manual that aims to help countries organize effective nutrition education programs in schools.¹⁰⁶ The planning guide is structured in three different phases, called tripartite curriculum, which "aims at reinforcing classroom learning by creating a dialogue with families and the community and making the school environment conducive to healthy nutrition."¹⁰⁷ This manual complements *Document Four of the WHO Information Series on School Health*, which highlights the key role of school in the promotion of consumer

⁹³ FAO, *ICN2 Second International Conference on Nutrition*.

⁹⁴ Mazzocchi, Shankar, and Traill, *The development of global diets since ICN 1992: Influences of Agri-Food sector trends and policies*, 2012, p. 38.

⁹⁵ Mazzocchi, Shankar, and Traill, *The development of global diets since ICN 1992: Influences of Agri-Food sector trends and policies*, 2012, p. 1.

⁹⁶ McNulty, *Challenges and Issues in Nutrition Education*, 2013, p. 1.

⁹⁷ FAO, *ICN2 Second International Conference on Nutrition, Background*.

⁹⁸ FAO, *Traditional foods, nutrition education key to fighting hunger and malnutrition*.

⁹⁹ Popkin, *Global nutrition dynamics: the world is shifting rapidly toward a diet linked with noncommunicable diseases*, 2006; Mazzocchi, Shankar, and Traill, *The development of global diets since ICN 1992: Influences of Agri-Food sector trends and policies*, 2012, p. 1.

¹⁰⁰ Mazzocchi, Shankar, and Traill, *The development of global diets since ICN 1992: Influences of Agri-Food sector trends and policies*, 2012.

¹⁰¹ United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN), *Scaling Up Nutrition Movement* [Web Site].

¹⁰² Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, *A Framework for Action*, 2009, p. 1.

¹⁰³ Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, *SUN Countries*, 2013.

¹⁰⁴ FAO, *Nutrition Division*.

¹⁰⁵ FAO, *Nutrition Education in Primary Schools: A Planning Guide for Curriculum Development*, 2005, p. 10.

¹⁰⁶ FAO, *Nutrition Education in Primary Schools: A Planning Guide for Curriculum Development*, 2005.

¹⁰⁷ FAO, *Nutrition Education in Primary Schools: A Planning Guide for Curriculum Development*, 2005, p. 10.

awareness programs and "describes how educational investments can be enhanced, by increasing the capacity of schools to promote health as they do learning."¹⁰⁸

In order to reinforce the promotion of nutrition education and to respond efficiently to challenges in the effectiveness of these policies, the FAO avails itself also of the support of the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN). According to its *Sixth Report on the World Nutrition Situation*, "[f]or all populations, [nutrition] education and social marketing are crucial components of national, municipal and community efforts for sustained improvements in food and nutrition security."¹⁰⁹

In addition to the efforts of the UN bodies, a number of Member States, regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have cooperated to improve awareness among populations and introduce healthy eating campaigns.¹¹⁰ For example, the FAO and WHO promoted the *Food Based Dietary Guidelines* (FBDGs), "an information communication tool involving the translation of recommended nutrient intakes or population targets into recommendations of the balance of foods that populations should be consuming for a healthy diet."¹¹¹ The main asset of FBDGs is the philosophy behind them: They are based on a common heritage of principles of nutrition science. As stated in the *Cyprus Declaration*, "FBDGs should be developed in cultural contexts, recognizing the social, economic and environmental aspects of foods and eating patterns."¹¹²

School-Based Nutrition Interventions

The FAO has cooperated with several other agencies in order to promote nutrition education at all levels of schooling. WHO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), and the World Bank partnered in April 2000 to launch an initiative called *Focus Resources on Effective School Health* (FRESH).¹¹³ The FRESH framework provides basic health-related school policies to create an environment where nutrition education could be reinforced by more effective "strategies between the health and education sectors, teachers and health workers, schools and community groups, and between the pupils and those responsible for implementing school health programs."¹¹⁴ Furthermore, in 2008 the WHO published *School Policy Framework: Implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health*.¹¹⁵ The objective of this framework was to stress the link between nutrition education and educational settings, suggesting the implementation of school policies that support a healthy-life approach such as promoting healthy eating, restricting the foods available to specific food groups like fruit and vegetables, and increasing the time dedicated to physical activity.¹¹⁶

School Gardens

Over the past 20 years, school gardens have been one of the most popular initiatives in the educational setting, and it is now common to discuss "garden-based nutrition education."¹¹⁷ According to a 2007 report of the FAO Regional Emergency Coordination Office for Southern Africa, with technical collaboration by the Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division, "garden-based learning has the potential of [...] increasing the relevance and quality of children's education by introducing them to food and nutrition-related knowledge and skills [...] [and] improving pupils' nutrition by supplementing school feeding programmes with fresh micronutrient and protein-rich products, and increasing children's nutrition knowledge and skills, to the benefit of the whole family."¹¹⁸

¹⁰⁸ WHO, *Information Series on School Health - Document Four, Healthy Nutrition: An Essential Element of a Health-Promoting School*, 1998.

¹⁰⁹ UNSCN, *Sixth Report on the World Nutrition Situation*, 2010, p. 100.

¹¹⁰ Hawkes, *Promoting healthy diets through nutrition education and changes in the food environment: an international review of actions and their effectiveness*, Chapter 2, 2013.

¹¹¹ FAO, *Food-based Dietary Guidelines, Food Guidelines by Country*; Hawkes, *Promoting healthy diets through nutrition education and changes in the food environment: an international review of actions and their effectiveness*, 2013.

¹¹² WHO and FAO, *Preparation and use of food-based dietary guidelines - Report of a joint FAO/WHO consultation*, 1996; Wahlqvist and Kouris-Blazos, *Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs)*, 1994.

¹¹³ UNICEF, *Focusing Resources on Effective School Health (FRESH)*, 2012.

¹¹⁴ World Bank, *FRESH Framework, A Toolkit for Task Managers*, 2002.

¹¹⁵ WHO, *School Policy Framework Implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health*, 2008.

¹¹⁶ WHO, *School Policy Framework Implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health*, 2008.

¹¹⁷ FAO, *School gardens*, 2006.

¹¹⁸ FAO, Regional Emergency Coordination Office for Southern Africa with technical collaboration of the Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division, *Garden-Based Learning for Improved Livelihoods and Nutrition Security of School Children in High HIV-Prevalence Areas in Southern Africa*, 2007, p. 5.

In 2004, the UNESCO Institute of Education Planning and the FAO co-published a book entitled *Revisiting garden-based learning in basic education*.¹¹⁹ This report, along with the FAO report's *A new Deal for School Gardens*, highlights how school gardens are often improperly used for generating income.¹²⁰ There is, therefore, an urgent need to redefine aims and priorities of this kind of program. The main objective of school gardens is to provide children with nutritional skills and knowledge. This vision requires policies "linking the garden educationally to school meals, good nutrition, the natural environment, agriculture and food production as a means of making a living, and lifelong healthy eating habits. Learning should be promoted not only within the classroom but also through the wider curriculum, [especially] involving families and the community in supporting gardening for a healthy diet."¹²¹

The FAO has also highlighted the gap between the great value of nutrition education strategies and the lack of a professional knowledge in this field of people who work in educational settings.¹²² Statistics show that professional training for teachers is unclear in many countries, and this has serious consequences on the effectiveness of nutrition education programs.¹²³ To answer this situation, in 2010 the FAO called for the support of the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection to "carry out an assessment of needs for professional training in nutrition education and communication in Africa."¹²⁴ To this aim, the *Nutrition Education and Communication* (NEAC) project was launched, in order to underline "an urgent need for developing and adopting a suite of professional training courses at undergraduate, postgraduate and extension levels as a framework for comprehensive capacity building."¹²⁵ In January 2012, the FAO launched a program called *Education for effective Nutrition in Action* (ENACT).¹²⁶ Defined as "a key to future capacity development," the project concentrates its attention on the diffusion of best practices in professional training dietary promotion.¹²⁷

Case Studies: Country Projects

In order to assist Member States in the effective implementation of nutrition education strategies, the FAO develops and supports innovative programs that reinforce and complement national action plans.¹²⁸ In line with the FAO mission, the Nutrition Education and Consumer Awareness Group "works with government agencies, universities, training institutions and non-governmental organizations to identify, enhance, develop and strengthen national capacities to provide nutrition education for the general public, school children and highly vulnerable groups."¹²⁹ Promoting these country-level projects in collaboration with national governments, the FAO provides information, technical guidelines, nutrition education materials, and tools oriented to trainers and educators.

One of the most famous programs in this field was the 1995 China School Nutrition Project, jointly promoted by WHO and FAO. Supporting the government of China in the promotion of healthy lifestyles in schools, the project was launched in six pilot schools in Zhejiang Province.¹³⁰ The FAO provided "technical assistance in the field of nutrition education (curriculum and material development), capacity building among local education, nutrition and health professionals, as well as in project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation."¹³¹

As developing countries are the most strongly affected by malnutrition, they have also become the regions where nutrition education is more addressed and effective.¹³² For example, the *Información, comunicación y educación alimentaria nutricional* (ICEAN) plan achieved notable results, involving an impressive number of

¹¹⁹ Desmond, Grieshop, and Subramaniam, *Revisiting Garden-Based Learning in Basic Education*, 2004.

¹²⁰ FAO, *A New Deal for School Gardens*, 2010, p. 11.

¹²¹ FAO, Regional Emergency Coordination Office for Southern Africa with technical collaboration of the Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division, *Garden-Based Learning for Improved Livelihoods and Nutrition Security of School Children in High HIV-Prevalence Areas in Southern Africa*, Workshop Report Part I, 2007, p. 5.

¹²² FAO, *A New Deal for School Gardens*, 2010, p. 19-20.

¹²³ FAO, *A New Deal for School Gardens*, 2010.

¹²⁴ FAO, *Professional Training in Nutrition Education*.

¹²⁵ NEAC, *Rationale*.

¹²⁶ FAO, *Professional Training in Nutrition Education*.

¹²⁷ FAO, *Professional Training in Nutrition Education*.

¹²⁸ FAO, *Nutrition Education and Consumer Awareness - Country Projects*.

¹²⁹ FAO, *Capacity building for nutrition education - Promoting nutritionally adequate diets for all people is a major aim of FAO*.

¹³⁰ FAO, *Nutrition Education and Consumer Awareness - Country Projects, China School Nutrition Project*.

¹³¹ Hawkes, *Promoting healthy diets through nutrition education and changes in the food environment: an international review of actions and their effectiveness*, 2013.

¹³² FAO, *Nutrition Education and Consumer Awareness - Country Projects*.

intergovernmental, NGOs, and private organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean.¹³³ Argentina boosted this program with *Nutrition Education in Primary Schools*, a project promoted by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology from August 2006 to July 2009 and meant "to contribute to the improvement of school age children's health and nutritional status by incorporating food and nutrition education into the curriculum of Primary Education."¹³⁴

In general, as a result of this international support, governments have increased the number of actions regarding educational initiatives in school and public awareness campaigns, promoting nutrition education as a key element of their overall economic development policies. Conversely, these projects are less effective when developed in absence of collaboration between international and regional institutions, or when they clash with the chronic weakness of governmental bodies.¹³⁵

Conclusion

While considerable achievements have been made over the years and in particular since the 1992 ICN, much remains to be done in order to improve the promotion and effectiveness of nutrition education. On a global level, the analysis in this field reports that "less than one-third of the countries use nutrition guides and recommendations in primary-school nutrition education."¹³⁶ Undoubtedly, the ICN2 in November 2014 will serve as a forum to discuss and review the crucial points of nutrition education programs.

In balancing food insecurity problems and the influence of globalization on eating habits, how can the FAO establish additional mechanisms to successfully address the existing challenges on nutrition? Furthermore, what can be learned from the successful results of programs that promote school-based approaches accompanied by community trainings? What role do civil society and the private sector play in the effectiveness of nutrition education measures? Finally, how can public sector campaigns funded by private industry be incorporated into nutrition education, considering that their vested interests are often in conflict with the civil society efforts to promote healthy diets?

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<http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0333e/a0333e00.htm>

The Planning Guide is one of the most important publications issued by the FAO concerning the issue of nutrition education. It is composed of three elements: The Reader, The Activities, and The Classroom Curriculum Chart. It aims at helping countries in addressing nutrition issues with the educational attention it deserves. It is a useful manual for those interested in establishing effective nutrition education programs in schools, as it provides examples of effective exercises.

Food and Nutrition Council of Zimbabwe, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Children's Fund. (n.d.) *Healthy Harvest, A training manual for community workers in growing, preparing, and processing healthy food*. Retrieved 5 June 2014 from:

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/tc/tce/pdf/Healthy_Harvest_training_manual_.pdf

This manual is the result of a collective effort of several national and international organizations. Analyzing the problem of malnutrition and its causes and consequences, this publication focuses on the relevant role of nutrition education strategies in order to address this issue. It dedicates a special attention to the importance of community-based training, in order to provide different population groups with appropriate technical knowledge and skills.

Hawkes, C. (2013). *Promoting healthy diets through nutrition education and changes in the food environment: an international review of actions and their effectiveness*. Rome: Nutrition Education and Consumer Awareness Group,

¹³³ FAO, *Información, comunicación y educación alimentaria nutricional*.

¹³⁴ FAO, *Nutrition Education and Consumer Awareness - Country Projects, Nutrition Education in Primary Schools in Argentina*.

¹³⁵ FAO, Regional Emergency Coordination Office for Southern Africa with technical collaboration of the Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division, *Garden-Based Learning for Improved Livelihoods and Nutrition Security of School Children in High HIV-Prevalence Areas in Southern Africa*, Workshop Report Part I, 2007, p. 22-24.

¹³⁶ FAO, *Nutrition Education in Primary Schools - a survey in 50 countries worldwide*.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Retrieved 5 June 2014 from:
www.fao.org/ag/humannutrition/nutritioneducation/69725/en/

This review is one of the most recent publications that analyze the potential of nutrition education strategies, with a great care to their effectiveness over the 20 years since the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) in 1992. It raises several issues related to nutrition education in its broadest sense: public awareness campaigns, aims of the nutrition education actions, the role of the educational setting, skills training, and the outcomes of school-based interventions. The paper is an extremely valuable resource for delegates that are advised to peruse it as the foundation of their research.

Mazzocchi M., B. Shankar and B. Traill. (2012). *The development of global diets since ICN 1992: Influences of Agri-Food sector trends and policies*. FAO. Retrieved 5 June 2014 from:
http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/agn/pdf/FAO_Commodity_and_Trade_Policy_Research_Working_paper_01.pdf

Mazzocchi, Shankar, and Traill present a detailed overview of dietary and nutritional changes and their causes since the ICN 1992. The report is a fundamental resource for delegates, as it provides an analysis of key trends of food consumption. It examines the development of international food markets and policies with particular emphasis.

McNulty, J. (2013). *Challenges and issues in nutrition education*. Rome: Nutrition Education and Consumer Awareness Group, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Retrieved on 5 June 2014 from:
www.fao.org/ag/humannutrition/nutritioneducation/en/

This paper was prepared for the Nutrition Education and Consumer Awareness group of FAO; it outlines the steps made by the international community when addressing the issues pertaining to the double-burden of malnutrition. Firstly, it focuses on the definition of "nutrition education" and the consequences of a wider or more restricted interpretation of this term. Thereafter, it provides a concise background of the experiences of countries affected by food insecurity and under-nutrition, while facing challenges arising from the economic globalization, such as overweight and diet-related chronic diseases.

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Rules of Procedure

Food and Agriculture Organization

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the Food and Agriculture Organization (hereinafter referred to as “the Organization”) and shall be considered adopted by the Organization prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Director and Assistant Director are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, and are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Deputy Secretary-General or her designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations and in furtherance of the educational mission of that organization.
4. For the purposes of these rules, “President” shall refer to the chairperson or acting chairperson of the Organization.

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - *Dates of convening and adjournment*

The board shall meet every year in regular session, commencing and closing on the dates designated by the Secretary-General.

Rule 2 - *Place of sessions*

The Board shall meet at a location designated by the Secretary-General.

II. AGENDA

Rule 3 - *Provisional agenda*

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and communicated to the Members of the Organization at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

Rule 4 - *Adoption of the agenda*

The agenda provided by the Secretary-General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of the agenda items shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting.

The vote described in this rule is a procedural vote and, as such, observers are permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, those present and voting means those delegates, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote. Should the Organization not reach a decision by conclusion of the first session’s meeting, the agenda will be automatically set in the order in which it was first communicated.

Rule 5 - *Revision of the agenda*

During a session, the Organization may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only important and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during a session. Permission to speak on a motion to revise the agenda shall be accorded only to three representatives in favor of, and three opposed to, the revision. Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a session, may be placed on the agenda if the Organization so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Organization decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a committee has reported on the question concerned.

For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item of an important and urgent character is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final. If an item is determined to be of such a character, then it requires a two-thirds vote of the Organization to be placed on the agenda. It will, however,

not be considered by the Organization until a committee has reported on the question. The votes described in this rule are substantive vote, and, as such, observers are not permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting means members (not including observers) in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum

Any item proposed for inclusion in the agenda shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents.

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the Organization.
2. The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the Organization and be responsible for all the arrangements that may be necessary for its meetings.

Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall receive, print, and distribute documents, reports, and resolutions of the Organization, and shall distribute documents of the Organization to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Organization may require.

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat

The Secretary-General, or her/his representative, may make oral as well as written statements to the Organization concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 10 - Selection of the President The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall serve as President and, *inter alia*, chair the Organization for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretary-General.

Rule 11 - Replacement of the President If the President is unable to perform her/his functions, a new President shall be appointed for the unexpired term at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 12 - Official and working language

English shall be the official and working language of the Organization.

Rule 13 - Interpretation (oral) or translation (written)

Any representative wishing to address any body or submit a document in a language other than English shall provide interpretation or translation into English.

This rule does not affect the total speaking time allotted to those representatives wishing to address the body in a language other than English. As such, both the speech and the interpretation must be within the set time limit.

V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 14 – Quorum

The President may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the members of the Organization are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the Organization shall be required for any decision to be taken.

For purposes of this rule, members of the Organization means the total number of members (not including observers) in attendance at the first session's meeting.

Rule 15 - General powers of the President

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Organization, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Organization and over the maintenance of order at its meetings.

He or she shall rule on points of order. He or she may propose to the Organization the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each member may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

Included in these enumerated powers is the President's power to assign speaking times for all speeches incidental to motions and amendment. Further, the President is to use her/his discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference. For purposes of this rule, the President's power to propose to the Organization entails her/his power to entertain motions, and not to move the body on his or her own motion.

Rule 16

The President, in the exercise of her or his functions, remains under the authority of the Organization.

Rule 17 - Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President. Any appeal of the decision of the President shall be immediately put to a vote, and the ruling of the President shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. Any questions on order arising during a speech made by a representative should be raised at the conclusion of the speech, or can be addressed by the President, sua sponte, during the speech. For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (not including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 18

A representative may not, in rising to a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 19 - Speeches

1. No one may address the Organization without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.
2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Organization, and the President may call a speaker to order if her/his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The Board may limit the time allowed to speakers and all representatives may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives favoring and two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call her or him to order without delay.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, if the President determines that the Organization in large part does not want to deviate from the limits to the speaker's time as it is then set, and that any additional

motions will not be well received by the body, the President, in her/his discretion, and on the advice and consent of the Secretariat, may rule as dilatory any additional motions to change the limits of the speaker's time.

Rule 20 - Closing of list of speakers

Members may only be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after having spoken. During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Organization, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by decision of the Organization.

The decision to announce the list of speakers is within the discretion of the President and should not be the subject of a motion by the Organization. A motion to close the speakers' list is within the purview of the Organization and the President should not act on her/his own motion.

Rule 21 - Right of reply

If a remark impugns the integrity of a representative's State, the President may permit that representative to exercise her/his right of reply following the conclusion of the controversial speech, and shall determine an appropriate time limit for the reply. No ruling on this question shall be subject to appeal.

For purposes of this rule, a remark that impugns the integrity of a representative's State is one directed at the governing authority of that State and/or one that puts into question that State's sovereignty or a portion thereof. All interventions in the exercise of the right of reply shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point of order or motion. The reply shall be read to the Organization by the representative only upon approval of the Secretariat, and in no case after voting has concluded on all matters relating to the agenda topic, during the discussion of which, the right arose.

Rule 22 - Suspension of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension of the meeting, specifying a time for reconvening. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass.

Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to the vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. After adjournment, the Organization shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

As this motion, if successful, would end the meeting until the Organization's next regularly scheduled session the following year, and in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and in furtherance of its educational mission, the President will not entertain such a motion until the end of the last meeting of the Organization.

Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of debate on the topic under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to two representatives favoring and two opposing adjournment, after which the motion shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. If a motion for adjournment passes, the topic is considered dismissed and no action will be taken on it.

Rule 25 - Closure of debate

A representative may at any time move the closure of debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified her/his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. Closure of debate shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. If the Organization favors the closure of debate, the Organization shall immediately move to vote on all proposals introduced under that agenda item.

Rule 26 - Order of motions Subject to rule 23, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

- a) To suspend the meeting;
- b) To adjourn the meeting;
- c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat, with the names of twenty percent of the members of the Organization would like the Organization to consider the proposal or amendment. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the proposal or amendment for circulation among the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be put to the vote at any meeting of the Organization unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated. If the sponsors agree to the adoption of a proposed amendment, the proposal shall be modified accordingly and no vote shall be taken on the proposed amendment. A document modified in this manner shall be considered as the proposal pending before the Organization for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

For purposes of this rule, all proposals shall be in the form of working papers prior to their approval by the Secretariat. Working papers will not be copied, or in any other way distributed, to the Organization by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of the working papers. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft report segment. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft report segment and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Organization. These draft report segments are the collective property of the Organization and, as such, the names of the original sponsors will be removed. The copying and distribution of amendments is at the discretion of the Secretariat, but the substance of all such amendments will be made available to all representatives in some form.

Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before voting has commenced, provided that it has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic

When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Organization, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, so decides. Reconsideration can only be moved by a representative who voted on the prevailing side of the original motion to adjourn. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

For purposes of this rule, those present and voting means those representatives, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion is voted upon by the body.

VI. VOTING

Rule 30 - Voting rights

Each member of the Organization shall have one vote.

This rule applies to substantive voting on amendments and proposals divided out by motion. As such, all references to member(s) do not include observers, who are not permitted to cast votes on substantive matters.

Rule 31 - Request for a vote

A proposal or motion before the Organization for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Organization may adopt proposals or motions without a vote.

For purposes of this rule, proposal means any proposal or amendment divided out by motion. Just prior to a vote on a particular proposal or motion, the President may ask if there are any objections to passing the proposal or motion by acclamation, or a member may move to accept the proposal or motion by acclamation. If there are no objections to the proposal or motion, then it is adopted without a vote.

Rule 32 - Majority required

1. Unless specified otherwise in these rules, decisions of the Assembly shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of tabulation, the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

All members declaring their representative States as “present and voting” during the attendance roll call for the meeting during which the substantive voting occurs, must cast an affirmative or negative vote, and cannot abstain.

Rule 33 - Method of voting

1. The Organization shall normally vote by a show of placards, except that a representative may request a roll call, which shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is randomly selected by the President. The name of each present member shall be called in any roll call, and one of its representatives shall reply “yes,” “no,” “abstention,” or “pass.”

Only those members who designate themselves as present or present and voting during the attendance roll call, or in some other manner communicate their attendance to the President and/or Secretariat, are permitted to vote and, as such, no others will be called during a roll-call vote. Any representatives replying pass, must, on the second time through, respond with either yes or no. A pass cannot be followed by a second pass for the same proposal or amendment, nor can it be followed by an abstention on that same proposal or amendment.

Rule 34 - Explanations of vote

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanation of their votes after the voting has been completed. The representatives of a member sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended, and the member has voted against the proposal or motion.

All explanations of vote must be submitted to the President in writing before debate on the topic is closed, except where the representative is of a member sponsoring the proposal, as described in the second clause, in which case the explanation of vote must be submitted to the President in writing immediately after voting on the topic ends.

Rule 35 - Conduct during voting

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representatives shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual process of voting.

Rule 36 - Division of proposals and amendments

Immediately before a proposal or amendment comes to a vote, a representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If there are calls for multiple divisions, those shall be voted upon in an order to be set by the President where the most radical division will be voted upon first. If objection is made to the motion for division, the request for division shall be voted upon, requiring the support of a majority of those present and voting to pass. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are

involved shall then be put to a vote. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

For purposes of this rule, most radical division means the division that will remove the greatest substance from the draft report segment, but not necessarily the one that will remove the most words or clauses. The determination of which division is most radical is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.

Rule 37 - Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from, or revise part of another proposal.

An amendment can add, amend, or delete operative clauses, but cannot in any manner add, amend, delete, or otherwise affect perambulatory clauses.

Rule 38 - Order of voting on amendments

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal shall be voted on first and then the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

For purposes of this rule, furthest removed in substance means the amendment that will have the most significant impact on the draft report segment. The determination of which amendment is furthest removed in substance is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.

Rule 39 - Order of voting on proposals

If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Organization decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted.

Rule 40 - The President shall not vote

The President shall not vote but may designate another member of her/his delegation to vote in her/his place.

VII. CREDENTIALS

Rule 41 - Credentials

The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General prior to the opening of a session.

Rule 42

The Organization shall be bound by the actions of the General Assembly in all credentials matters and shall take no action regarding the credentials of any member.

VIII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS

Rule 43 - Participation of non-Member States

1. The Organization shall invite any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Organization and any other State, to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.
2. A committee or sessional body of the Organization shall invite any State that is not one of its own members to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.
3. A State thus invited shall not have the right to vote, but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote on request of any member of the body concerned.

If the Organization considers that the presence of a Member invited according to this rule is no longer

necessary, it may withdraw the invitation again. Delegates invited to the Organization according to this rule should also keep in mind their role and obligations in the committee that they were originally assigned to. For educational purposes of the NMUN Conference, the Secretariat may thus ask a delegate to return to his or her committee when his or her presence in the Organization is no longer required.

Rule 45 - Participation of national liberation movements

The Organization may invite any national liberation movement recognized by the General Assembly to participate, without the right to vote, in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that movement.

Rule 46 - Participation of and consultation with specialized agencies

In accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies shall be entitled: a) To be represented at meetings of the Organization and its subsidiary organs; b) To participate, without the right to vote, through their representatives, in deliberations with respect to items of concern to them and to submit proposals regarding such items, which may be put to the vote at the request of any member of the Organization or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

Rule 47 - Participation of non-governmental organization and intergovernmental organizations

Representatives of non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations accorded consultative observer status by the General Assembly and other non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or a continuing basis by the Organization on the recommendation of the Bureau, may participate, with the procedural right to vote, but not the substantive right to vote, in the deliberations of the Organization on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.