



Food and Agriculture Organization

President: Angélica Renata García Hernández

Moderator: Fernanda Camacho Canto

Conference Officer: Ana Victoria Ramos Ruiz



"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating.
Education is the premise of progress."
- Kofi Annan

Esteemed delegates,

It is an honor and a privilege to extend the warmest welcome to TOLMUN 2023. On behalf of Tecnológico de Monterrey and the Organizing Committee, we greet you and express our gratitude for being a part of our Model United Nations 2023.

TOLMUN has always been a unique opportunity for you, the leaders of tomorrow, to explore and address the most important and compelling global challenges of our time. Over the next few days, you will have the chance to represent different nations and play a crucial role in seeking solutions to complex international problems, harnessing the power of research and debate.

There is no doubt that the most significant aspect of a model is all of you, the delegates. Your enthusiasm for participation fosters a diplomatic and competitive environment. The best delegates are those who are committed to their goals, who advocate for their positions, and, above all, those who drive forward the ideas that will contribute to building a better world. We understand that debating and defending a position can be demanding, but your effort and willingness to do so make a difference.

The primary objective is for you to enrich yourselves with an experience that broadens your perspective on the world we live in. As delegates, you will develop diplomatic skills, make connections, and foster that much-needed spirit of global awareness in today's world. This experience will shape you as individuals and contribute to your academic and, more importantly, personal development. Although the challenges, stress, and debates may be demanding, we assure you that in the end, it will all be rewarding.

Never cease to participate, debate, listen, and, above all, learn.

On behalf of the entire organizing committee, thank you very much for your valuable participation in TOLMUN 2023. Good luck, delegates, and we wish you great success.

Sincerely,

Juan Pablo Sánchez Saldívar
Secretario General

Valeria Tapia Morales
Subsecretaria General



WELCOME LETTER FOR DELEGATES

“The first and most respectable of the arts is agriculture.”

-Rousseau

Dear and honorable delegates, it is a pleasure for us to welcome you to the committee of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). We hope that you get involved in the most serious way in this committee, but also, we want you to enjoy and learn many things about the topics that we selected for you and the experience of what it means to be in the FAO committee.

Our main objective is to solve agriculture, economic and hunger problems. The FAO committee finds resources and methods that can benefit communities and citizens in order to solve these types of problems around the world. We always look out for all the people on earth and in their welfare.

Discussing about food insecurity and production is of vital importance due to the urgent need to address these global problems. It's a problem that involves human rights and ethics. Lack of food affects millions of people around the world, resulting in hunger and malnutrition. Access to adequate food is a fundamental human right and discussing this issue highlights the importance of addressing inequalities and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live a dignified life.

These topics have a huge impact on health. Malnutrition and hunger have serious consequences for people's health, especially children and pregnant women. These problems can lead to delayed growth, weak immune systems, and a host of long-term health problems. By discussing food insecurity, awareness can be raised about the relationship between proper nutrition and health.

All of it needs international cooperation, since these are a global problem that requires the cooperation of governments, international organizations, NGOs and companies. Discussions on this topic can lead to greater engagement and collaboration at the international level to address food security challenges and sharing best practices across countries. We can all innovate and raise public awareness, furthermore, they can increase public awareness of the problem, which in turn can generate more support for initiatives and policies that address food insecurity.

We are convinced that you will do your best and will try to find an answer to discover what we can do so that the new technologies do not affect global agriculture, or in the case, to look for a way in which technology will be a great benefit for agriculture. Finally, we are certain that you are going to do your best job and put all your efforts into the debate. We invite you to participate in the best way possible and give your best opinions of the topics. Have in mind that in this way you are going to contribute in order for the world to become a better place to live.



Last but not least, rest assured that we can guide you and we are willing to help you with any questions you may have about the course of the debate and in whatever you need.

Best regards

The chair.

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ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a United Nations specialized agency that directs global efforts to combat hunger. The main goal of the FAO is to ensure food security for all and continuous access to enough nutritious food for people to live active, healthy lifestyles.

On October 16, 1945, the FAO was founded in Quebec City, Canada. With a vision of eradicating hunger and enhancing nutrition and living conditions through increasing agricultural productivity. FAO's mission is to achieve food and security for all, while also ensuring that people have regular access to adequate high-quality food as well as contribute to global economic prosperity.

The company's headquarters are now in Rome, and it has offices all around the world. The establishment of this organization began at the end of World War II since the conflict itself helped to highlight the issue of food requirements put on civilians and soldiers.

FAO collaborates with a wide range of institutions, including private foundations, grassroots organizations, businesses, professional associations, other United Nations agencies, national governments, and others. FAO now has 196 member countries. It is administered by the biennial FAO conference, which is attended by representatives from each member country as well as the European Union. The conference elects a Council of 49 members to serve as its executive organ.

The organization coordinates the work of governments and technical agencies in agricultural, forestry, fisheries, and land and water resource development initiatives. It also conducts research, provides technical assistance on projects in individual countries, runs educational programs through seminars and training centers, provides information and support services, such as keeping statistics on global agricultural production, trade, and consumption, and publishes a number of periodicals, yearbooks, and research bulletins. In the 1960s, the FAO concentrated on high-yield grain strain creation, protein deficiency reduction, rural employment, and agricultural export promotion. It issued An Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development in 1969. The 1974 World Food Conference led to programs for food security and low-cost projects for small farmers. In the 1980s and '90s, FAO programs focused on sustainable agriculture and rural development, focusing on economically feasible, environmentally sound, and technologically appropriate strategies.



The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031 aspires for a sustainable and food-secure world, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. Following an inclusive, transparent process involving internal and external discussions, this framework, designed in response to global and regional problems, was endorsed during the 42nd session of the FAO Conference on 18 June 2021.

The framework's goal is to assist the 2030 Agenda by transforming to more efficient systems for better productivity, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better living, leaving no one behind. The four betters offer an organizational principle for how FAO plans to directly contribute to SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), as well as to promote the attainment of the larger SDG agenda, which is critical for FAO's overall vision.

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TOPIC A:

Impact of armed conflicts on access to food

Worldwide, more than 2.3 billion people experience food insecurity, and armed conflicts are the main cause. Being exposed to armed conflicts leads to highly negative and frequently permanent short- and long-term consequences, which can even impact future generations. These conflicts cause issues like lack of food and starvation due to the disruption and devastation of food supply networks. It also decreases the number of people engaged in farming, damages infrastructure, weakens resilience, and raises susceptibility to problems.

The human costs of armed conflicts are enormous. Millions of lives are affected and lost. In addition to the humanitarian tragedies, armed conflicts directly cause food insecurity and starvation by disruption and destruction of food systems, reducing farming populations, destroying infrastructure, reducing resilience and increasing vulnerabilities, disruptions in access to market, increasing food price or making goods and services unavailable altogether. The worst food crises have occurred in areas of armed conflict illustrating a strong correlation between these variables.

All nineteen countries classified by FAO as under “protracted crisis” conditions in 2017 were engaged in violent conflict at that time too. Moreover, six out of ten countries with the worst food crisis in the world in 2019 and all countries experienced famine in 2020 were caused due to conflict. It has also had a spillover effect on food security in Ethiopia and Uganda.

Armed conflicts directly cause food insecurity and starvation by disrupting and destroying food systems, reducing farming populations, destroying infrastructure, reducing resilience, and increasing vulnerabilities, disrupting market access, raising food prices, or rendering goods and services unavailable entirely.

FAO guidelines were used to quantify household food insecurity and Household hunger status. Three-fourth of the households had anxiety about food supply and ate an undesired monotonous diet due to lack of resources. Households were obliged to eat a few kinds of foods, eat smaller meals, eat foods they do not want to eat, or went a whole day without eating any food. Household food insecurity access, food insecurity experience, and hunger scales significantly increased percentage points after a conflict.

According to the Global Report on Food Crises, armed conflict and other threats to security pushed 139 million people into acute food insecurity in 2021 (an increase of almost 40 million people compared to the year before). In 2022, the situation has



worsened further as the impacts of the armed conflict in Ukraine are felt across the globe.

Significant progress has been made in improving global food security, yet some countries still face severe challenges. In some cases, violent armed conflict has potentially contributed to local food insecurity due to disruption of food production and agricultural markets. Despite the relevance of this topic in the context of tracking global food security, there is a paucity of empirical work examining this cross-country variation. Therefore, this study uses country level data, covering 106 countries in Africa, Asia, Central and South America between 1961- 2011, to estimate the relation between conflict and food security.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have launched a joint programme in collaboration with mine action partner Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD) to support smallholder farmers and rural families most affected by the conflict. The programme has already started in Kharkivska oblast, and will later expand to Mykolaivska and Khersonska oblast, focusing on farmers with land plots smaller than 300 hectares as well as rural families growing food for their own consumption. The programme is designed to safely release land back to productive use, including by clearing it from mines and other explosive remnants of the combat, to help restore agricultural livelihoods, contribute to Ukraine's economic recovery, and phase out the need for humanitarian assistance for thousands of rural families.

The conflict has damaged Ukraine's agriculture and food production, disrupted supply chains and exports, increased production costs, and caused widespread mine contamination.

According to the Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment, published in February 2023, Ukraine's production of grain and oilseeds decreased by 37 percent in 2022. Almost 90 percent of small-scale crop producers surveyed by FAO in Ukraine reported a decrease in revenue due to conflict, and one in four reported having stopped or significantly reduced their agricultural activity.

To date, the \$100 million project is facing a funding gap of \$90 million. FAO and WFP estimate potential annual savings of up to \$60 million in direct food assistance to rural communities. The project has been supported by the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund, a UN pooled fund, as well as private donors.



KEY QUESTIONS:

1. What is the position of the delegation you represent in armed conflicts and in weapon possession?
2. What measures does the state take when it gets affected by an armed conflict attack?
3. Has agriculture in the country been affected by an armed conflict in the last five years?
4. Does the delegation you represent consider that it has sustainable agriculture?

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TOPIC B

New investments in Climate-smart agriculture

Because of climate and the greenhouse gasses that it produces, it is a fact that climate is an essential factor for agriculture to be successful and for determining the conditions of production of each product that we consume in our daily routine. But, over the past few years, global agriculture has shown that climate change has been affecting the food production, water supply, and everything else involved in the agricultural sector. Extreme weather variations, drought, loss of livestock and forest fires are some of the causes of global warming that are causing the agricultural sector to decline more and more.

Due to the damage caused by this natural phenomenon, several countries have shown multiple problems with their food production, causing extreme famine in countries such as Somalia and Kenya, which have shown deplorable living conditions due to extreme drought, causing that most of its inhabitants are in a situation of malnutrition and even causing that many people need to leave their country in search of a place with a better quality of life.

Like this example there are many countries around the world that suffer from these conditions or even worse. Fortunately, people that are well aware about this issue, including companies, activists, and entrepreneurs; are doing the best they can to control the problem.

FAO experts found the best way to do this, which is through climate-smart agriculture. This system consists of various transformations, reorientations and all the necessary actions to guarantee food security and sustainability in face of global warming.

The three main objectives that this climate intelligence wants to achieve are:

- Increasing the sustainability of agricultural income and expenditure production.
- Adaptation of agricultural land to the new technology implemented.
- Reduction of greenhouse gasses.

After conducting multiple practices and analysis with this new agriculture system, the conclusion of experts is that this system does not have a high price, on the contrary, it has a good and economical price.



This project shows many benefits that would improve food production and an impressive improvement in the adaptation of agricultural land to drastic climate changes. Also, the major program of this climate-smart agriculture is able to increase the sustainability of small farmers.

These type of investments are supported by owners of assets and managed by specialized laboratories. Their main function is to align their investments with the objective of a good change in the economy; due to this action, the greenhouse gasses that are all over the atmosphere reduce. In order to do it, scientists and entrepreneurs have in mind the big risk of how this process can affect their work and even, their companies.

An economic analysis has shown that in a 20 year timeframe, 32 investors will generate and redistribute a net value of USD 0.44 to 1.63 per dollar invested into small agriculture. So if during a long period of time, the investments to climate-smart agriculture go well, people will generate a net value of USD 6.8 million.

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. Does the country that you represent invest in a climate-smart agriculture system?
2. What is the delegation's position about the usage of this new agriculture?
3. What is the country willing to do or achieve with this new system of agriculture?
4. What other ideas does the delegation have about how to take more advantage of climate-smart agriculture?

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CONTACT

Contact to the chair
President: A01771473@tec.mx

NOTE: You will have to send your position paper to this email.
Deadline for review: Between 26th and 29th September.

Deadline for submission to meet requirement: before the first session on 5 October.