



Food and Agriculture Organization

President: María José Salgado Campuzano

Moderator: Adriana Espiridion

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WELCOME LETTER TO DELEGATES

Dear fellow delegates,

Welcome to this Model United Nations, where we will have the opportunity to get to know our fellow students from a different perspective. We will analyze, reflect, and reach agreements on issues that affect society today.

Furthermore, this will be a space where you can feel free to express your opinions, since we will not always agree with every point of view. However, we will be able to expand our knowledge and understand the different ways in which others perceive and analyze social issues.

Please be assured that if there is anything we can help you with, we will be happy to do so. You can count on us throughout this experience. Without further ado, we hope this will be an activity where we can develop our cognitive and social skills, learn from one another, and, above all, enjoy every activity.

Welcome, and we wish you the best of luck in this Model United Nations!

Sincerely,

President: María José Salgado Campuzano

Moderator: Adriana Isaura Espiridión Velázquez

Conference officer: Camila Téllez Hernández



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to combat hunger and achieve food security. Its main objective is to ensure that people have regular access to sufficient and good-quality food to live active and healthy lives.

The FAO was officially established on October 16, 1945, in Quebec, Canada, after several countries recognized the need to create an international organization dedicated to food and agriculture. Since then, it has worked to improve nutrition, agriculture, and the living conditions of rural populations.

The organization mainly works on issues related to food security, sustainable agriculture, nutrition, rural development, fisheries, forestry, and the sustainable management of natural resources. It also provides information, data, and advice to governments to develop policies and programs that help combat hunger and poverty.

One of the FAO's main purposes is to eradicate hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition, as well as to help reduce poverty and promote economic and social development. Furthermore, it seeks to encourage the sustainable use of resources such as land, water, air, climate, and genetic resources in order to protect them for future generations.

The FAO also plays an important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as it works with governments and other organizations to promote more sustainable agrifood systems, improve nutrition, reduce rural poverty, combat food waste, and address the effects of climate change on agriculture and food security.

Currently, the FAO has 193 members, one Member Organization, and two Associate Members. In addition, it works in more than 130 countries and has regional and national offices to adapt its programs to the needs of different regions around the world.

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Topic A: Reduction or substitution of synthetic pesticide use in large-scale commercial agriculture as well as synthetic nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers. Nowadays, modern farms use a large amount of chemicals to help food grow fast and protect crops from pests. Synthetic pesticides are used to kill insects, weeds and plant diseases. Also synthetic nitrogen and phosphate are artificial nutrients added to the soil to make crops grow faster. These chemicals have helped produce food but using too many of them damages the environment and people's health.

The impacts they cause on our environment and in health are water pollution when it rains fertilizers fall into the oceans and rivers causing algae to grow in excess and stealing oxygen from the water killing fish. Also, farm workers are very exposed to strong substances and this can cause health issues, and chemical residues can remain on human food.

Apart from water pollution and direct health risks, the use of the chemicals harms the environment in several other ways. Using fertilizers degrades soil quality over time, killing earthworms that naturally keep the earth healthy. Also, pesticides instead of only eliminating harmful pests can damage helpful insects, they kill essential pollinators like bees, which are very important for the pollination process that contributes to many other things in the environment. Furthermore, producing synthetic fertilizer requires an immense amount of energy and applying them releases nitrous oxide, which is a greenhouse gas that causes climate change.

However, switching to organic methods can temporarily reduce crop yields, leading to higher food prices. Additionally, modern agricultural technology, such as precision farming tools that help apply fertilizers, can be really expensive for small farms in developing countries.

Geographically, major agricultural producers consume the highest total of synthetic chemicals, creating pollution. Meanwhile, countries with high intensity farming apply the highest amounts of pesticides and developing regions suffer the worst human health risks due to the lack of safety measures for workers. This situation is important for FAO (the Food and Agriculture Organization) because its mission is to eradicate hunger while safeguarding the natural resources for food production. For FAO, changing to eco-friendly alternatives, such as biopesticides and organic soil management, is necessary to ensure that agriculture can continue without destroying the environment. For this challenge, member states must work together to create an effective solution. Governments can provide financial incentives, like tax reductions, to help farmers buy eco-friendly pesticides and modern equipment. Also, international organizations should invest in training programs for rural communities dedicated to agriculture, teaching sustainable techniques. However,

the economic realities of developing countries must be considered. The committee must focus on creating balanced solutions that encourage



environmental protection, protect human health and ensure global food security without harming local agricultural economies.

Some questions you can use:

How can governments encourage farms with a high production switch to eco-friendly alternatives without reducing food production?

How can international organizations help countries all over the world share technology for biopesticides and natural fertilizers?

What financial help can some countries provide to farmers afford sustainable agricultural technologies?

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Topic B: Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in International Waters and Its Cumulative Impact on Marine Ecosystems and Fishing Communities Dependent on Coastal Resources

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is one of the biggest problems for the ocean and fishing communities. It includes fishing that breaks the rules, does not report the fish caught or happens without enough regulations. IUU fishing can happen in international waters and also in areas controlled by countries. This makes it harder to protect fish populations and marine ecosystems

IUU fishing is very dangerous for developing countries because some countries do not have enough money, technology or resources to control fishing activities. It can also take fish away from legal fishermen and make local fishing communities lose their income. Small fishing communities are especially affected because many families depend on fishing for food and work. This can also cause poverty and food insecurity

An important example is Bahía de Kino in Mexico, which is one of the most important fishing communities in the Northern Gulf of California. The Gulf of California is known for having a lot of different marine species and it is an important source of fish for Mexico and other countries. Fishing in this region gives food and jobs to thousands of people

Fishing activities in the Gulf of California create more than 50,000 jobs and produce about 50% of Mexico's fishery production. There are around 26,000 fishing boats in the region and about 90% of them are small boats called "pangas". This shows how important small scale fishing is for local communities

The case of Bahía de Kino also shows that having fishing rules does not always mean that fishing will be sustainable. Fishing permits and licenses are used to control who can fish and where they can fish, but sometimes these rules do not give fishermen enough reasons to protect marine resources. Giving fishermen more secure rights and responsibilities could help them take better care of the resources they depend on

Fishing has been important for people for thousands of years. Unlike agriculture, fishing depends directly on the resources that nature provides. Because of this it is important to have rules that protect fish and marine ecosystems. In 1995 the FAO

approved the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which gives guidelines for responsible fishing and the protection of aquatic resources and biodiversity



Why This Matters for FAO

The FAO has an important role in fighting IUU fishing because it helps countries promote responsible fishing and protect marine ecosystems. IUU fishing does not only affect the ocean, it also affects food, jobs and the economy of fishing communities

The FAO can help countries improve their fishing laws and monitoring systems. It can also help developing countries that do not have enough technology or money to control fishing activities. Countries can share information and work together to stop illegal fishing and protect fish populations

It is also important to create rules that help small fishing communities. If fishermen have more responsibility and secure rights to the resources they use they can have more reasons to protect them. This can help make fishing more sustainable and protect the future of local communities

Key Questions

1. How can the FAO help countries reduce IUU fishing in international waters?
2. What can developing countries do to improve the control of fishing activities?
3. How can the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries help prevent IUU fishing?
4. How can countries work together to protect marine ecosystems and fish populations?
5. How can fishing rules help small fishing communities protect marine resources?

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