



SRMUN CHARLOTTE 2022

Reconciling the Past and Restoring Multilateral Partnerships for the Future

March 24-26, 2022

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2022 and the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) Plenary. My name is Des Woods, and I have the pleasure of serving as your Director for the GA Plenary. This will be my fourth time serving on SRMUN staff. Previously, I have served as the Assistant Director for the Commission on the Status of Women at SRMUN Charlotte 2019, Assistant Director for GA Plenary for SRMUN Virtual 2021, and most recently as the Assistant Director for the United Nations Environmental Assembly for SRMUN Atlanta 2021. I am currently a first-year graduate student at North Carolina State University's Higher Education Administration program. Our committee's Assistant Directors will be Ian Arnold and Howard Mai. This will be Ian's first time as a SRMUN staff member, after having previously participated in seven Model United Nations conferences as a delegate, and one as a staff member for another conference. Ian focused on studying political science and economics while earning a business management degree at Santa Fe College. This will also be Howard's first year working as a member of the SRMUN staff. Howard is currently a graduate student at George Washington University working towards completing a Master of Arts in International Affairs with concentrations in International Law and Organizations and US Foreign Policy.

The United Nations General Assembly, or UNGA, is comprised of all 193 Member States of the UN, which provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues. The UNGA occupies itself as the chief deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the United Nations. It also plays a significant role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law. The overarching mission of the UNGA is to recommend diplomatic and multilateral solutions to issues involving peace and security, human rights, development, international law and justice, and social, economic, and political unrest.

By focusing on the mission of the UNGA and the SRMUN Charlotte 2022 theme of "*Reconciling the Past and Restoring Multilateral Partnerships for the Future*," we have developed the following topics for delegates to discuss at the conference:

- I. Fostering Sustainability in Food Supply Chains
- II. Encouraging Economic Integration Measures for Stateless Populations in Host Countries

This background guide provides an introduction to the committee and the topics that will be debated at SRMUN Charlotte 2022. It should be utilized as a foundation for a delegate's independent research. However, while we have attempted to provide a holistic analysis of the issues, the background guide should not be used as the single mode of analysis for the topics. Delegates are expected to go beyond the background guide and engage in intellectual inquiry of their own. The position papers for the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues and their externalities. Delegations are expected to submit a position paper and be prepared for a vigorous discussion at the conference. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, March 4, 2022, by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.**

Ian, Howard, and I are very excited to be serving as your dais for the GA Plenary. We wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and look forward to working with you in the near future. Please feel free to contact Director-General Chantel Hover, Ian, Howard, or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

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History of the United Nations General Assembly Plenary

The United Nations (UN) was founded in 1945 after the end of World War II. Created with a focus on maintaining international peace and security, fostering diplomatic relations, encouraging international cooperation, promoting human rights, and helping Member States to meet these goals.¹ The United Nations General Assembly (GA), or UNGA, was established in Article 7 of the UN Charter (1945) along with the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat.² The UNGA is the only portion of the UN that has universal membership making it the most inclusive and open body within the UN.³

Non-Member States, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) can participate in UNGA sessions with the status of Observer, and these groups do not have voting rights.⁴ The UNGA aims to pass most of its decisions by consensus but also allows for standard voting. Regular decisions during UNGA sessions only require a simple majority. In the event of electing Member States to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) or the expulsion of a Member State, then a two-thirds majority is required.⁵

The UNGA's mandate, outlined in Chapter IV (Articles 10-22) of the UN Charter, is to discuss "any questions or any matters within the scope of the [Charter] or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the [Charter]."⁶ The UNGA also has the ability to make recommendations to the UNSC and all Member States.⁷ The UNGA recommends peaceful measures and must seek to protect the general welfare of Member States and promote friendly relations among Member States. Article 13 allows the UNGA to conduct studies and make recommendations based off the findings to promote "international co-operation in the political field and encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification" in addition to "promoting international co-operation in the economic, social, cultural, educational, and health fields, and assisting in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."⁸

The UNGA is a collection of six Main Committees that are based on the primary fields of responsibility: the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee); the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee); the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee); the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee); the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee); the Legal Committee (Sixth Committee).⁹ Each of these committees are assigned to different agendas to work to create and adopt resolutions to then be submitted to the GA Plenary.¹⁰ The GA Plenary can also choose to address issues without referring them to one of the other committees.¹¹ The GA Plenary takes the reports provided by the committees to debate, deliberate, and vote on them.¹² In the GA, all 193 Member States each receive one vote.¹³ Each of the six committees elect a chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur.; all Member States are eligible to hold these positions.¹⁴ The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) advises the UNGA on the organization of conferences within the UN. The department work closely with the Secretary-General to schedule conferences and meetings. The DGACM also works to balance the calendars of all GA bodies and "ensure the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources."¹⁵

¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 1.

² *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 7.

³ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 9.

⁴ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook*, p. 30.

⁵ New Zealand, *United Nations*, p. 12.

⁶ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 4.

⁷ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 10.

⁸ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 13.

⁹ Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 18.

¹⁰ New Zealand, *United Nations Handbook 2017-2018*, 2017, p. 23.

¹¹ New Zealand, *United Nations*, p. 23.

¹² Smith, *Politics and Process at the United Nations: The Global Dance*, 2006, p. 161; Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 62.

¹³ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 18.

¹⁴ New Zealand, *United Nations*, p. 23.

¹⁵ "Mandate | Department for General Assembly and Conference Management." *United Nations*, accessed February 9, 2021, <https://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/coc/mandate>.

The UNGA's regular session is scheduled each year on the Tuesday of the third week of September.¹⁶ General debate is normally the beginning of the session and lasts seven to nine days.¹⁷ Debate is centered around a theme chosen by the President-elect of the GA and the Secretary-General.¹⁸ In December 2020, the UNGA approved a USD 3.231 Billion budget for the fiscal year 2021.¹⁹ The UNGA allocates funding to a range of international efforts including human rights, humanitarian projects, development, and peacekeeping.²⁰

The theme of the 75th session of the UNGA is "The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism - confronting COVID-19 through effective multilateral action."²¹ Other than the yearly session, the GA can also call for special or emergency special sessions.²² Special sessions are called upon by the Secretary-General at the request of either the Security Council or a majority of the members of the UN.²³ The last special session that convened was in December 2020, and it was requested by a majority of Member States to address COVID-19.²⁴ An emergency special session can be convened within 24 hours and called on by any seven members of the Security Council, or by a majority of the members of the UN when the UNSC "fails to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security..."²⁵ The last emergency special session to convene was June 13, 2018, to address the draft resolution, "Protection of the Palestinian Civilian Population."²⁶ The session ultimately adopted the draft resolution to "[deplore] the use of excessive, disproportionate and indiscriminate force by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory..."²⁷

Maintaining the priorities outlined in the Decade of Action, while also keeping in mind the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the UN's goals, the Declaration for the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the UN was passed.²⁸ In this document, the UNGA addressed diverse issues from the effects of climate change on developing Member States, ongoing armed conflicts, to increasing youth participation and development, and fully addressing the current COVID-19 pandemic, among others.²⁹ Other actions taken by the UNGA include the first Summit on Biodiversity.³⁰ At the summit, 150 Member States participated in the dialogue on biodiversity.³¹ More

¹⁶ UN DPI, *Basic Facts about the United Nations: 42nd Edition*, 2017.

¹⁷ "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) | General Assembly of the United Nations," *United Nations*, accessed January 21, 2021, <https://gadebate.un.org/en/faq>

¹⁸ "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) | General Assembly of the United Nations," *United Nations*.

¹⁹ "General Assembly Approves \$3.2 Billion UN Budget for 2021," *UN News*, December 31, 2020, accessed August 12, 2021, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1081222>

²⁰ "Fifth Committee Approves \$6.37 Billion Budget for 12 Peacekeeping Missions from July 2021 to JUNE 2022, Concluding Resumed Session," *United Nations: Meetings Coverage and Press Releases*, June 29, 2021, accessed August 12, 2021, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/gaab4368.doc.htm>

²¹ Bozkir, Volkan, "Letter on the Theme of the General Debate for UNGA75," August 8, 2020. Letter. *United Nations*. Accessed February 1, 2021. <https://www.un.org/pga/74/2020/08/10/theme-for-the-general-debate-of-the-75th-session/>

²² *Basic Facts about the United Nations: 42nd Edition*, New York: United Nations Department of Public Information, 2017.

²³ "Special Sessions," *United Nations*, accessed February 1, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/sessions/special.shtml>.

²⁴ United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/4, *Special Session of the General Assembly in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic*, A/RES/75/4, (November 9, 2020), <https://undocs.org/a/res/75/4>.

²⁵ "Emergency Special Sessions," *United Nations*, accessed February 21, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/sessions/emergency.shtml>.

²⁶ "Tenth Emergency Special Session," *United Nations*, accessed February 1, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/sessions/emergency10th.shtml>.

²⁷ UN DPI, *General Assembly Adopts Resolution on Protecting Palestinian Civilians Following Rejection of United States Amendment to Condemn Hamas Rocket Fire*, 2018.

²⁸ "Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations," October 20, 2020, *United Nations*, <https://www.un.org/en/un75/commemoration#:~:text=Titled%20E%80%9CDeclaration%20on%20the%20commemoration,centre%2C%20build%20trust%2C%20improve%20digital>.

²⁹ "Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations," *United Nations*.

³⁰ "United Nations Summit on Biodiversity," *United Nations*, accessed February 1, 2021, <https://www.un.org/pga/75/united-nations-summit-obiodiversity/#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20Summit%20on%20Biodiversity%20will%20be%20convened%20by,with%20and%20depend%20on%20biodiversity>

³¹ "United Nations Summit on Biodiversity." *United Nations*. Accessed February 1, 2021.

than 150 Member States also participated in the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women.³² Through this event, Member States discussed actions to empower women and girls.³³

Looking to the future, the President of the GA, Volkan Bozkir, launched an initiative titled #Vaccines4All, to “support multilateral efforts to achieve fair and equitable access to [COVID-19] vaccines.”³⁴ The UNGA President shared his vision, stating, “The world is facing pressing problems...COVID-19 has shown us more clearly than ever that countries cannot address these challenges on their own. Global problems require global solutions, and that is why we need to recommit to multilateralism...”³⁵ Most recently, the UNGA has requested for a special session beginning June 2, 2021.³⁶ The session will address the “Challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation.”³⁷ The 2021 Parliamentary Hearing of the UNGA will support the special session by focusing on corruption and international cooperation.³⁸

<https://www.un.org/pga/75/united-nations-summit-obiodiversity/#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20Summit%20on%20Biodiversity%20will%20be%20convened%20by,with%20and%20depend%20on%20biodiversity>

³² “UNGA High-level Meeting to Celebrate 25th Anniversary of Beijing Women’s Conference.” *IISD*, accessed February 21, 2021, <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/unga-high-level-meeting-to-celebrate-25th-anniversary-of-beijing-womens-conference/>.

³³ “UNGA High-level Meeting to Celebrate 25th Anniversary of Beijing Women’s Conference.” *IISD*.

³⁴ Bozkir, Volkan. “Briefing to the General Assembly on Priorities.” January 21, 2021. *United Nations*. <https://www.un.org/pga/75/2021/01/21/briefing-to-the-general-assembly-on-priorities/>

³⁵ “PGA 75,” *United Nations*, accessed February 1, 2021, <https://www.un.org/pga/75/>.

³⁶ “Special Sessions.” *United Nations*. accessed February 1, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/sessions/special.shtml>.

³⁷ “Special Sessions.” *United Nations*.

³⁸ “Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations.” *IPU*, accessed February 1, 2021, <https://www.ipu.org/event/annual-parliamentary-hearing-united-nations-1>.

I. Fostering Sustainability in Food Supply Chains

Introduction

Globally, the foodservice industry serves billions of meals a day while employing more people than any other retail business.³⁹ The global food supply chain is estimated to waste one quarter of produced food, representing equal magnitudes of wasted fresh water, arable land, and fertilizers.⁴⁰ Highlighting the growing awareness that health, environment, and agriculture are inextricably linked, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: “Zero Hunger” addresses concerns about the sustainability of global food supply chains.⁴¹ Excessive food waste being perceived as a growing yet manageable challenge is reflected in SDG 12: “Responsible Consumption and Production.”⁴² Within SDG 12, target 12.3 has aimed to halve global per capita food waste by 2030, reducing the food lost during supply chain, production, and post-harvest processes.⁴³ Furthermore, integrating sustainable agricultural targets in the effort to eliminate hunger recognizes that industrial agriculture threatens critical ecosystem processes required for food production.⁴⁴ Documented ecosystem disruptions include biodiversity loss, greenhouse gas emissions, erosion of soil, increased pest pressure, losses of organic soil matter, and pollution and eutrophication of water bodies.⁴⁵

Over a quarter of the world population (26.4 percent) experiences food insecurity – inconsistent access to safe nutritious food required for normal growth.⁴⁶ Increasing food supply chain efficiency is critical to securing people’s access to diverse, healthy foods.⁴⁷ Doing so while also reducing food safety risks is a priority that calls for improvements in monitoring systems, regulation throughout the supply chain, screening technology, and post-harvest processing and storage.⁴⁸ The need for transformative economic and political changes may be inferred from the way SDG 2 frames addressing hunger, food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture.⁴⁹

Efforts to reform food systems lack emphasis on improving overall diet quality, focusing instead on expanding production capacity.⁵⁰ This prioritization contributes to micro- and macronutrient deficiencies and other preventable health problems, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and obesity.⁵¹ Nearly 30 percent of the global population is obese or overweight, two-thirds of whom live in low- and middle-income Member States.⁵² The COVID-19 pandemic has affected global food systems by negatively impacting food supply availability, accessibility, utility, and stability.⁵³

³⁹ Carlos Martin-Rios, Christine Demen-Meier, Stefan Gössling, and Clémence Cornuz. “Food Waste Management Innovations in the Foodservice Industry.” *Waste Management* 79 (2018): 196–206. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wasman.2018.07.033>

⁴⁰ Matti Kummu, Hans De Moel, Miina Porkka, Stefan Siebert, Olli Varis, and Philip J. Ward. “Lost food, wasted resources: Global food supply chain losses and their impacts on freshwater, cropland, and fertilizer use.” *Science of the total environment* 438 (2012): 477–489.

⁴¹ Jennifer Blesh, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’” *World Development* 118 (2019): 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2019.02.004>.

⁴² Carlos Martin-Rios, Christine Demen-Meier, Stefan Gössling, and Clémence Cornuz. “Food Waste Management Innovations in the Foodservice Industry.” *Waste Management* 79 (2018): 196–206. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wasman.2018.07.033>.

⁴³ Martin-Rios, “Food Waste Management Innovations,” 196–206.

⁴⁴ Jennifer Blesh, Jennifer, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’” *World Development*.

⁴⁵ Blesh, “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’”

⁴⁶ Martha I. Huizar, Ross Arena, and Deepika R. Laddu. “The global food syndemic: The impact of food insecurity, Malnutrition and obesity on the healthspan amid the COVID-19 pandemic.” *Progress in cardiovascular diseases* 64 (2021): 105.

⁴⁷ Jennifer Blesh, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’” *World Development*.

⁴⁸ Blesh, “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’”

⁴⁹ Blesh, “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’”

⁵⁰ Blesh, “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’”

⁵¹ Blesh, “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’”

⁵² Blesh, “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’”

⁵³ David Laborde, Will Martin, Johan Swinnen, and Rob Vos. “COVID-19 risks to global food security.” *Science* 369, no. 6503 (2020): 500–502.

History

Following World War II, several Member States engaged in national food security management reflecting protectionist attitudes towards domestic markets, including Canada, Japan, and the United States (US) of America.⁵⁴ In the 1960s, coalitions of universities and donors sought to address food insecurity and malnutrition through top-down approaches in dozens of Member States.⁵⁵ However, despite being able to apply substantial resources to the implementation of their expertly designed interventions, some of these efforts failed to produce expected results due to a lack of strategic capacity.⁵⁶ After 1980, the present food regime arose in response to agricultural trade liberalization and is consequently characterized by multinational corporations and increasingly consolidated market power.⁵⁷ A growing contingent of alternative food movements highlights increasing efforts to disrupt the present regime with the aim of replacing it with one based on equity, sustainability, and wellbeing.⁵⁸

On October 16, 1945, 42 Member States convened in Quebec, Canada, to establish the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the UN and participate in its inaugural committee session.⁵⁹ The first FAO session approved the new organization's constitution, pledging Member States to work to improve access to nutrition, efficiency in food production and distribution, and development for rural populations.⁶⁰ The FAO's mandate to "collect, analyze, interpret, and disseminate information related to nutrition, food and agriculture" and to "promote or recommend national and international action" served as important forecasts of the functional requirements of fostering qualitative improvements in global food systems.⁶¹

Building on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, A/RES/70/1 set the SDGs as the guidance for sustainable global development for the years leading up to 2030.⁶² An ambitious initiative to improve lives, the SDGs are "determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfill their potential in dignity and equality, and in a healthy environment."⁶³ Many social scientists expressed concern that a "productionist" perspective — advocating increased production as the primary solution — dominated the discussion in formulating SDG 2, leading to inadequate engagement with the causes of food insecurity, including capital flight, corporate-dominated markets, and free trade.⁶⁴ Scholars note that the prevalence of a "productionist" paradigm led to counterproductive applications of initiatives such as short-term technical solutions like food aid, despite high levels of emigration and rural unemployment.⁶⁵ Food aid raises supply, which lowers crop prices where it is received, and may consequently reduce incomes for local farmers, stifling growth and discouraging production, which in turn increases food insecurity.⁶⁶ An analysis of pre-pandemic progress towards SDGs report that the number of undernourished people rose by over 50 million between 2014 and 2019.⁶⁷ Additionally, data shows that production and consumption patterns remained unsustainable while environmental

⁵⁴ G. Otero, G. Pechlaner, & E.C. Gürcan, "The political economy of "food security" and trade: Uneven and combined dependency" *Rural Sociology*, 78(3), (2013): 263–289. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ruso.12011>.

⁵⁵ Jennifer Blesh, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. "Development Pathways toward 'Zero Hunger.'" *World Development*.

⁵⁶ Blesh, "Development Pathways toward 'Zero Hunger.'"

⁵⁷ Blesh, "Development Pathways toward 'Zero Hunger.'"

⁵⁸ Blesh, "Development Pathways toward 'Zero Hunger.'"

⁵⁹ R.W. Phillips, *FAO: its origins, formation and evolution 1945–1981*, (Rome, Italy: FAO, 1981). <https://www.fao.org/3/p4228e/p4228e.pdf>

⁶⁰ John D. Shaw, *World Food Security: A History Since 1945*, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), 9. <http://ndl.ethernet.edu.et/bitstream/123456789/44214/1/36.pdf>.

⁶¹ Shaw, *World Food Security*

⁶² United Nations General Assembly resolution 70, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, A/RES/70/1, (September 25, 2015), https://www.un.org/ga/search/viewm_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1

⁶³ United Nations General Assembly resolution 70, *Transforming our world*.

⁶⁴ Jennifer Blesh, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. "Development Pathways toward 'Zero Hunger.'" *World Development*.

⁶⁵ Blesh, "Development Pathways toward 'Zero Hunger.'"

⁶⁶ J. Levinsohn and M. McMillan, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), *Does Food Aid Harm the Poor? Household Evidence from Ethiopia*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: NBER, 2005. <https://doi.org/10.3386/w11048>.

⁶⁷ Yongyi Min and Francesca Perucci. "UN/DESA Policy Brief #81: Impact of Covid-19 on SDG Progress: A Statistical Perspective" *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, August 27, 2020, accessed September 12, 2021. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/un-des-a-policy-brief-81-impact-of-covid-19-on-sdg-progress-a-statistical-perspective/>.

degradation accelerated at an alarming rate.⁶⁸ Efforts to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in unprecedented economic recessions.⁶⁹ This, together with recent climate-related disasters and violent conflicts across the globe are important drivers behind recent food security and nutrition setbacks.⁷⁰

Current Situation

In recent decades, agricultural producers primarily focused on leveraging modern technology to increase yields of select crop species, particularly grains.⁷¹ Consequently, the global community gained considerably improved access to calorie-dense food supplies.⁷² However, healthy diets must include a range of nutrients in addition to calories, and many people suffer ill health from the humanitarian and economic burdens their communities incur from widespread nutrient deficiencies.⁷³ Nutrient deficiency is correlated with increased risks of developing debilitating diseases.⁷⁴

The international community is facing a critical juncture in developing sustainable food supply chains, having been humbled by stagnating progress prior to, and substantial setbacks developed during, the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁵ Populations have experienced widespread dietary disruption as rapid shifts in the food environment arose from migration strategies enacted to control COVID-19.⁷⁶ *The UN Report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* estimates that as many as 811 million people suffered from hunger in 2020.⁷⁷ SDG 2 recognizes the emerging consensus that addressing the global environmental, public health, and social equity crises facing the global food system requires collective action.⁷⁸ SDG 2 targets range from environmental concerns to the domain of public health.⁷⁹ There is contention regarding the extent to which food production must be increased.⁸⁰ Scholars arguing that enhancing major field crop production output will improve food security gravitate toward proposed solutions involving technological innovation, encompassed under the term “sustainable intensification.”⁸¹ However, other scholars highlight current global food waste, primary destinations of commodity production, and surplus of calories per capita as indicators that the root causes of food insecurity must include poverty and inequitable access to food.⁸²

While the world is overstocked in calories, 815 million people are undernourished and as many as two billion people suffer micronutrient deficiencies.⁸³ Many subsistence farmers suffer from undernutrition due to economic

⁶⁸ Yongyi Min and Francesca Perucci. “UN/DESA Policy Brief #81: Impact of Covid-19 on SDG Progress: A Statistical Perspective” *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, August 27, 2020, accessed September 12, 2021. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/un-des-a-policy-brief-81-impact-of-covid-19-on-sdg-progress-a-statistical-perspective/>.

⁶⁹ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all*. Rome, Italy: FAO, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4474en>.

⁷⁰ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, *The State of Food Security*

⁷¹ Kibrom T. Sibhatu, and Matin Qaim. “Farm production diversity and dietary quality: linkages and measurement issues.” *Food Security* 10, no. 1 (2018): 47-59.

⁷² Sibhatu, “Farm production,” 47-59.

⁷³ Jennifer Bryce, Denise Coitinho, Ian Darnton-Hill, David Pelletier, Per Pinstrup-Andersen, and Maternal and Child Undernutrition Study Group. “Maternal and child undernutrition: effective action at national level.” *The Lancet* 371, no. 9611 (2008): 510-526.

⁷⁴ Jayson B. Calton, “Prevalence of micronutrient deficiency in popular diet plans.” *Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition* 7, no. 1 (2010): 1-9.

⁷⁵ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all*.

⁷⁶ Martha I. Huizar, Ross Arena, and Deepika R. Laddu. “The global food syndemic: The impact of food insecurity, Malnutrition and obesity on the healthspan amid the COVID-19 pandemic.” *Progress in cardiovascular diseases* 64 (2021): 105.

⁷⁷ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all*.

⁷⁸ Jennifer Blesh, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’” *World Development* 118 (2019): 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2019.02.004>.

⁷⁹ Blesh, “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’”

⁸⁰ Blesh, “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’”

⁸¹ Blesh, “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’”

⁸² Blesh, “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’”

⁸³ Blesh, “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’”

constraints on their production capacity.⁸⁴ While farms follow general principals of ecology, they are typically evaluated on exceptionally narrow efficiency criteria and suffer from a continued lack of engagement with ecological science.⁸⁵ Increases in yield are generally realized without taking account of degradation of ecosystems or long-term food production capacity, and gains achieved through focusing on the cultivation of single crops are offset by corresponding diminution of crop diversity and human diet quality.⁸⁶ The continued promotion of these practices is often attributed to the domination of a “productionist” perspective on the causes of food insecurity.⁸⁷ To be effective, food security initiatives should seek improvements in the deterrents of undernutrition such as disease burden, lack of women’s empowerment, poor education, and poverty.⁸⁸

The United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) Global Environment Outlook reported that, faced with increasing uncertainty arising from climate change, the global food system is challenged to supply higher quality diets while growing more sustainable.⁸⁹ The UNEP report outlined several biodiversity-preserving case studies including Fiji’s advent of sustainable fishery management strategies which were later deployed to Malaysia and Polynesia.⁹⁰ Harvesting high protein legume grains have been proven to increase dietary diversity and quality, and legumes intentionally grown and left unharvested to decompose in the field supply net carbon and nitrogen inputs that boost agroecosystem effectiveness.⁹¹ Canada has enjoyed notable success in enhancing prairie soil health through the adoption of crop rotation with legumes.⁹² Ecosystem productivity and soil fertility critically depend on the presence of organic soil matter. Utilizing cover crops increases the proportion of the year with living plant roots in the root zone, fostering interaction between plants and microorganisms, and increasing nutrient cycling while building organic soil matter.⁹³ Agroecosystems featuring high levels of biodiversity can host complex networks of interacting species, providing resilient autonomous pest control while reducing reliance on costly and hazardous pesticides.⁹⁴ Such diversification efforts on farmlands afford forest species opportunities to migrate between habitats, contributing to biodiversity conservation.⁹⁵ Agroecological farms may be clustered together to generate diversified agricultural landscapes capable of conserving ecosystems at greater spatial scales.⁹⁶ Advocates encompass such initiatives under the term regenerative agriculture, as they aim to grow rather than simply sustain ecosystems.⁹⁷

Soil fertility is a critical component of food production threatened by the exportation of soil nutrients through harvested crops. These exported nutrients must be replenished if food production is to be sustainable.⁹⁸ The health of the global food system is measured by the extent to which the food being produced contributes to human health and

⁸⁴ Kibrom T. Sibhatu, and Matin Qaim. "Farm production diversity and dietary quality: linkages and measurement issues." *Food Security* 10, no. 1 (2018): 47-59.

⁸⁵ Jennifer Blesh, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. "Development Pathways toward 'Zero Hunger.'" *World Development* 118 (2019): 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2019.02.004>.

⁸⁶ Blesh, "Development Pathways toward 'Zero Hunger.'" 1-14.

⁸⁷ Blesh, "Development Pathways toward 'Zero Hunger.'" 1-14.

⁸⁸ Z.A. Bhutta, T. Ahmed, R.E. Black, S. Cousens, K. Dewey, E. Giugliani, B.A. Haider, B. Kirkwood, S.S. Morris, H.P. Sachdev, M. Shekar, "What works? Interventions for maternal and child undernutrition and survival," *Lancet*, (Feb 2, 2008): 371.

⁸⁹ Paul Ekins, Joyeeta Gupta, Pierre Boileau, United Nations Environment Program, *Global Environment Outlook GEO-6: Healthy Planet, Healthy People*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2019.

⁹⁰ Ekins, *Global Environment Outlook*.

⁹¹ Jennifer Blesh, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. "Development Pathways toward 'Zero Hunger.'" *World Development* 118 (2019): 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2019.02.004>.

⁹² F. Altobelli, Amanullah, A. Benedetti, T. Calles, L. Caon, R. Charrondiere, P. Shiv, F. Grande, P. Muthuraman, M. Pisante, B. Pramar, R. Vargas, D. Verma, L. Wiese, M. Xipsiti, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Soils and pulses: Symbiosis for life*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Rome, Italy: FAO, 2016. <https://www.fao.org/3/i6437e/i6437e.pdf>.

⁹³ Jennifer Blesh, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. "Development Pathways toward 'Zero Hunger.'" *World Development* 118 (2019): 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2019.02.004>.

⁹⁴ Blesh, "Development Pathways toward 'Zero Hunger.'" 1-14.

⁹⁵ Blesh, "Development Pathways toward 'Zero Hunger.'" 1-14.

⁹⁶ Blesh, "Development Pathways toward 'Zero Hunger.'" 1-14.

⁹⁷ Craig R. Elevitch, D. Niki Mazaroli, and Diane Ragone. "Agroforestry standards for regenerative agriculture." *Sustainability* 10, no. 9 (2018): 3337.

⁹⁸ Jennifer Blesh, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. "Development Pathways toward 'Zero Hunger.'" *World Development*.

well-being through healthy diets.⁹⁹ Evidence clearly demonstrates the connection between poor-quality diets and the burden of ill health globally.¹⁰⁰ In every region of the world, increasing numbers of people are threatened by moderate to severe food insecurity due to the rising unaffordability of healthy diets.¹⁰¹

Many studies of the global food system focus on total calories produced irrespective of the ultimate destination of the calories yielded. For example, 36 percent of globally produced calories are used to feed livestock and four percent are used to make biofuels.¹⁰² Despite rendering an inaccurate understanding of global food production and security, such studies continue to be relied upon.¹⁰³ Furthermore, as crop yields are the most often available data, comparisons of operations regularly overlook other critical factors, such as extensive greenhouse gas emissions arising from certified organic management practices.¹⁰⁴ Ecology and nutrition literature on SDG 2 have tended to encompass similar limitations in scholarship, often reflecting reductionist, treatment-focused approaches and applying an empirically outdated “productionist” framework rooted in perceptions that ecological management decreases yield, and that food availability is the primary problem.¹⁰⁵

Case Study

Philippine Nutrition Program

In the 1950s, the Philippines intensified efforts to develop food and nutrition programs informed by research. In the 1960s, the green revolution yielded global increases in food staple crop production when advances in biology and chemistry led to improved crop selection and fertilizer availability.¹⁰⁶ Yet the international community struggled to sustainably achieve food security goals.¹⁰⁷ For example, encouraged by green revolution increases in rice yields, farmers in India switched from producing millet and barley, to producing rice.¹⁰⁸ Consequently, rice became the national staple, increasing the total availability of calories, yet reducing diet diversity while increasing water consumption and pesticide use.¹⁰⁹

In 1971, the Philippines vested responsibility for supervising national nutrition and food production in the National Food and Agricultural Council.¹¹⁰ In 1974, Presidential Decree 491 established nutrition as a national priority and created the National Nutrition Council (NNC) to coordinate improvements in national nutrition. The NNC developed the Philippine Nutrition Program (PNP) as an integral component of the national socioeconomic development program.¹¹¹ Nutrition planning developed out of a realization that technical solutions applying to particular deficiencies failed to address the critical problem of energy-protein malnutrition.¹¹² The PNP benefited

⁹⁹ Blesh, “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’”

¹⁰⁰ Jennifer Blesh, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’” *World Development*.

¹⁰¹ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all*. Rome, Italy: FAO, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4474en>.

¹⁰² Jennifer Blesh, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’” *World Development*.

¹⁰³ Blesh, “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’”

¹⁰⁴ Blesh, “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’”

¹⁰⁵ Blesh, “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’”

¹⁰⁶ Kun Wu, Shuansuo Wang, Wenzhen Song, Jianqing Zhang, Yun Wang, Qian Liu, Jianping Yu et al. “Enhanced sustainable green revolution yield via nitrogen-responsive chromatin modulation in rice.” *Science* 367, no. 6478 (2020).

¹⁰⁷ Jennifer Blesh, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’” *World Development*.

¹⁰⁸ M.B. Dastagiri, and Anjani Sneha Vajrala. 2018. “The Political Economy of Global Agriculture: Effects on Agriculture, Farmers, Consumers and Economic Growth”. *European Scientific Journal, ESJ* 14 (4), 193. <https://doi.org/10.19044/esj.2018.v14n4p193>

¹⁰⁹ Dastagiri, “Political Economy”

¹¹⁰ R. Florentino, R., Adorna, C., & Solon, F. (1982). “Interface problems between nutrition policy and its implementation,” *Nutrition Policy Implementation*, 247–276. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4684-4091-1_15

¹¹¹ Florentino, “Interface problems,” 250

¹¹² A. Berg, (1987). Nutrition planning is alive and well, thank you. *Food Policy*, 12(4), 365–375. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/932001469472067652/pdf/REP418-WP-Box396280B-PUBLIC.pdf> ., 366.

more than 336,500 malnourished preschoolers through a Ministry of Health targeted food assistance program.¹¹³ During the same period the Philippines developed self-sufficiency in rice production through its Masangana 99 Rice Production Program.¹¹⁴ In 1978, the PNP utilized *Gulayan sa Kalusgan* — a green revolution-inspired project that encouraged the production of legumes and other nutrient-dense crops — to yield over 193,380 metric tons of produce.¹¹⁵ The PNP coordinated the training and deployment of over 3,970 indigenous workers in 41 cities and 57 provinces to ensure their initiatives had access to the required technical skills to deliver different services provided by varying intervention schemes.¹¹⁶ The PNP rendered practical assistance to many while accruing valuable data for future undertakings.¹¹⁷

Conclusion

Food systems must be incentivized to provide healthy, affordable diets, sustainably and inclusively, if they are to contribute powerfully to SDG goals of eliminating hunger and malnutrition.¹¹⁸ Important tools for addressing the root causes of food crisis include reliable data and analysis.¹¹⁹ While the COVID-19 pandemic is causing major setbacks, it also affords the opportunity to learn from the inequalities and vulnerabilities it exposed.¹²⁰ Food policy must recognize that power and capital have shifted focus from controlling land to controlling access to markets.¹²¹ Focusing primarily on increasing production to address food security obscures the fact that mitigating food losses and waste is one of the most promising strategies for improving food security in the decades ahead.¹²² Efforts to reform food supply chain policy require sustained collaboration between invested stakeholders, realistic and implementable solutions, and a keen awareness of the ideal timing for action.¹²³

Committee Directive

Sustainability is the foundation of global development plans, as encompassed by the SDGs. Fostering sustainability in food supply chains grows in importance as the global population increases. Through research delegates should develop a productive perspective on how their and other Member States might answer the following: What has the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated about food supply chain vulnerabilities? Is the supply of food adequate, can people access it, do they intake sufficient nutrients from the food they get, and is the supply stable? How might stakeholders better coordinate sustainability-improving initiatives? How might delegates encourage and support the global community in its pursuit of sustainability in food supply chains?

¹¹³ Florentino, R., Adorna, C., & Solon, F. (1982). Interface problems between nutrition policy and its implementation. *Nutrition Policy Implementation*, 247–276.

¹¹⁴ R. Florentino, R., Adorna, C., & Solon, F. (1982). “Interface problems between nutrition policy and its implementation,” *Nutrition Policy Implementation*, 247–276.

¹¹⁵ Florentino, “Interface problems,” 255

¹¹⁶ Florentino, “Interface problems,” 255

¹¹⁷ A. Berg. (1987). “Nutrition planning is alive and well, thank you. Food Policy.”

¹¹⁸ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all.*

¹¹⁹ Food Security Information Network (FSIN). 2020. *2020 Global report on food crises: Joint analysis for better decisions.* Rome, Italy and Washington, DC: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); World Food Programme (WFP); and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). <https://www.fsinplatform.org/global-report-food-crises-2020>, 10.

¹²⁰ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all.*

¹²¹ Jennifer Blesh, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’” *World Development*.

¹²² Matti Kumm, Hans De Moel, Miina Porkka, Stefan Siebert, Olli Varis, and Philip J. Ward. “Lost food, wasted resources: Global food supply chain losses and their impacts on freshwater, cropland, and fertilizer use.” *Science of the total environment* 438 (2012): 477-489.

¹²³ Jennifer Blesh, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. “Development Pathways toward ‘Zero Hunger.’” *World Development*.

II. Encouraging Economic Integration Measures for Stateless Populations in Host Countries

Introduction

The creation and reinforcement of nation-states and nation-state sovereignty inherently establishes an “in-group” (citizens) and an “out-group” (non-citizens) within and between Member States. At the extreme periphery of the global “out-group” are those who find themselves with no claim to citizenship anywhere, occupying a “stateless” status.¹²⁴ While refugees, internally displaced peoples (IDPs), and migrants can also be stateless, stateless peoples are not always refugees, or internally displaced peoples, or migrants. For example, a refugee from Afghanistan may have needed to flee their country of origin in order to escape unjust persecution, but they may still hold an Afghan passport and citizenship, making them refugees, but not stateless. In an alternative example, a person from the Rakhine State in Myanmar, who was born and raised in the region with their parents but had to flee to another area of Myanmar due to the destruction of their home and village, may be denied citizenship to Myanmar based on the fact that they are Rohingya Muslims, leaving them without citizenship to any Member State and rendering them both internally displaced and stateless.¹²⁵

The United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) cites four main causes of statelessness.¹²⁶ The first are gaps in nationality laws within and between Member States. Different Member State governments hold different requirements to nationality and citizenship.¹²⁷ Some nationality laws are rooted in place of birth, meaning that where a person was born will legally determine the nationality to which they are attached.¹²⁸ Other nationality laws are based on descent, mandating that a person’s nationality is determined by the nationality of their parents, with some Member States requiring that one or both parents to a child must be nationals of that particular country in order for the child to “inherit” that nationality.¹²⁹ This can sometimes cause confusion if a child is born in a different Member State as one or both of their parents and can cause exclusion and statelessness, both temporary and long-term.¹³⁰ Another cause of statelessness are changes in political borders and the creation of new states.¹³¹ As borders and demographic compositions are rearranged, those living in the border territories may find it difficult to prove to the new government or regime their hereditary, religious, or other link to the new or modified Member State.¹³² Third is statelessness caused by migrating (legally and/or illegally) to another Member State and living outside one’s Member State of citizenship for too long a period of time.¹³³ This deprivation due to prolonged departure generally happens as a neglect to follow up on legal notification and paperwork pertaining to one’s prolonged stay.¹³⁴ Last, citizenship and nationality can be deprived due to discrimination.¹³⁵ Historically, nationality and citizenship have been rescinded from citizens arbitrarily based on their religion, ethnicity, language, and/or race.¹³⁶ While internationally condemned, this form of discrimination continues to occur today.¹³⁷

Due to the variety of situations, biases, and legal loopholes that may render a person stateless, enacting policies to address the protection, support, and integration of stateless peoples has proven particularly challenging for Member

¹²⁴ “About Statelessness,” *United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR)*, accessed December 20, 2021, <https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/about-statelessness/>

¹²⁵ Amal de Chickera, “Statelessness and identity in the Rohingya refugee crisis,” *The Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN)*, October 2018, accessed December 20, 2021. <https://odihpn.org/magazine/statelessness-identity-rohingya-refugee-crisis/>

¹²⁶ “Ending Statelessness” *United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR)*, accessed December 20, 2021, <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/ending-statelessness.html>

¹²⁷ “Ending Statelessness,” *UNHCR*.

¹²⁸ “Ending Statelessness,” *UNHCR*.

¹²⁹ “Ending Statelessness,” *UNHCR*.

¹³⁰ “Ending Statelessness,” *UNHCR*.

¹³¹ “Ending Statelessness,” *UNHCR*.

¹³² “Ending Statelessness,” *UNHCR*.

¹³³ “Ending Statelessness,” *UNHCR*.

¹³⁴ “Ending Statelessness,” *UNHCR*.

¹³⁵ “Ending Statelessness,” *UNHCR*.

¹³⁶ “Ending Statelessness,” *UNHCR*.

¹³⁷ Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion. *The World’s Stateless*. The Netherlands: Wolf Legal Publishers (WLP), December 2014, <https://files.institutesi.org/worldsstateless.pdf>

State governments across the United Nations (UN).¹³⁸ However, as the concept of nationality and citizenship is a man-made one, so is the condition of the stateless.¹³⁹ This gives hope to many humanitarian organizations that a feasible solution to protect and integrate stateless peoples within the host societies they have found themselves in is entirely attainable, given the necessary attention, compassion, and resources.¹⁴⁰

History

The UN first recognized statelessness as a distinct status unto itself in the *1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons*.¹⁴¹ The 1954 Convention was preempted by the UN General Assembly (GA) resolution 319, adopted in 1950, which requested that the Secretary-General coordinate and “seek information” about the statelessness from all UN Member States.¹⁴² The resolution also “expressed the desirability of convening a conference” with the focus of understanding and recommending definitive action on the problems of statelessness.¹⁴³ The 1954 Convention was the product of this conference, and it was in this document that the UN first established the definition of statelessness as belonging to one “who is not considered as a national by any State under operation of its law.” This served not only to define statelessness, but highlight that in the absence of citizenship anywhere, stateless persons were not protected under any Member State law, leaving them free to discrimination and exile without rights to recourse. The 1954 Convention introduced minimal standards of human rights and inclusion due to stateless peoples, including the “same rights as citizens with respect to freedom of religion and education of their children.”¹⁴⁴ As of 2021, only 96 Member States have signed on to the 1954 Convention, 37 of which conditionally acceded to the treaty with formally declared reservations to particular articles or guarantees.¹⁴⁵

Building off the human rights logic of the 1954 Convention, the *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Stateless Persons* asserted that since stateless persons should be guaranteed the basic minimum of human rights, one of the most basic human rights is belonging to a society. In this vein the 1961 Convention sought to reduce and eventually eliminate statelessness through integration measures within Member States that would lead to opportunities for permanent residency and/or citizenship for stateless peoples within a host country.¹⁴⁶ The Convention called for Member States to grant their nationality to those born within their borders who can claim no other nationality or citizenship. It also declared that the UNHCR would hold the authority to issue necessary travel documentation to stateless persons, with their stated nationality associated with the Member State in which the stateless person currently resided, on an as-needed basis.¹⁴⁷

In 2006, the *Conclusion on Identification, Prevention and Reductions of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless Persons* revisited the rights and opportunities outlined in the 1954 and 1961 Conventions and attempted to strengthen the previously ratified measures as well as recommend new ones.¹⁴⁸ While the report primarily focused

¹³⁸ Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion. *The World's Stateless*.

¹³⁹ Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion. *The World's Stateless*.

¹⁴⁰ Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion. *The World's Stateless*

¹⁴¹ “UN Conventions on Statelessness,” *The United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR)*, accessed December 20, 2021, <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/un-conventions-on-statelessness.html>

¹⁴² United Nations General Assembly resolution 319, *Draft Convention relating to the Status of Refugees*, A/RES/429(V), (December 14, 1950), [https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/429\(V\)](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/429(V))

¹⁴³ “Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons: Procedural History,” *The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law*, accessed January 2, 2022, <https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/cssp/cssp.html>

¹⁴⁴ “Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons,” opened for signature September 28, 1954, https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/wp-content/uploads/1954-Convention-relating-to-the-Status-of-Stateless-Persons_ENG.pdf

¹⁴⁵ “Status of Treaties: 3. Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons,” *The United Nations Treaty Collection*, last updated December 17, 2021, accessed December 20, 2021, https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetailsII.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=V-3&chapter=5&Temp=mtdsg2&clang=en

¹⁴⁶ “Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,” adopted on August 30, 1961, https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.25_reduction%20statelessness.pdf

¹⁴⁷ “Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,” adopted on August 30, 1961.

¹⁴⁸ “Conclusion on Identification, Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless Persons No. 106 (LVII) – 2006,” *The United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR)*, October 6, 2006, accessed December 23, 2021, <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/excom/exconc/453497302/conclusion-identification-prevention-reduction-statelessness-protection.html>

on the prevention of statelessness and its link to a future reduction in numbers, a small but significant reference to economic integration was made in operative clause “(p),” which called for Member States “to consider measures to allow the integration of persons in situations of protracted statelessness, through developing programs in the field of education, housing, access to health and income generation, in partnership with relevant United Nations agencies.”¹⁴⁹ While no international agreement has been made on “income generation” and economic inclusion of stateless peoples in host societies, these UN documents seem to point towards a path of economic integration through a transference of nationality unto those who are currently stateless. Each of these documents outlines broader mechanisms and justifications for Member States to bestow a recognition of their own nationality on stateless persons that reside within their territorial borders, thereby allowing them access to some, if not always the same, economic opportunities provided to the Member State’s citizens.

Current Situation

Successes and Challenges

A necessary and elementary step in aiding stateless peoples is identifying who and where they are. One immediate problem with this is the way stateless, refugee, internally displaced peoples and migrants are separated for identification.¹⁵⁰ Even though these groups can overlap (i.e., a stateless person can also be a refugee, or an internally displaced person, etc.) the UNHCR does not account for a multi-status individual, and therefore chooses or is informed through self-reporting only one of these status labels when collecting data and producing global statistics.¹⁵¹ This skews the data for all categories and leading to confusion on the real number of stateless peoples.¹⁵² To complicate matters further, the UNHCR receives quantitative reports on the population of stateless peoples from only 75 Member States – less than half of the Member States that comprise the UN.¹⁵³ Creating economically viable integration plans and building Member State and citizen trust in these plans proves exceedingly difficult in all Member States, but particularly those where population counts of stateless persons are unknown.¹⁵⁴ With the limited information the UNHCR does have, it is estimated that there are approximately 12 million stateless persons in the world today.¹⁵⁵

Despite these challenges, the UN has seen some successes in advocating for the integration of stateless peoples into the communities they reside in over the years. In 2007, the situation of Brasileirinhos Apatridás, “stateless children born to Brazilian parents abroad,” was resolved through diplomatic campaigns coordinated between Brazilians and UN agencies, with all children given an opportunity to claim a nationality, allowing them to seek formal education opportunities and become a contributing member of the society in which they resided as young adults.¹⁵⁶ In 2008, the Supreme Court in Bangladesh ruled that a community of 300,000 Urdu-speaking stateless persons – who were denied the opportunity to apply or legally reside in both Pakistan and Bangladesh after the partition of former East Pakistan into Bangladesh in 1946 – would be considered nationals of Bangladesh and be given the right to vote and hold ID cards.¹⁵⁷ The UNHCR helped liaise between the Bangladeshi government and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in coordinating a quick and peaceful disbursement and filing of new documentation, as well as building community partnership to welcome a new labor force into the local economy.

¹⁴⁹ “Conclusion on Identification, Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness,” *UNHCR*

¹⁵⁰ Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion. *The World’s Stateless*.

¹⁵¹ Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion. *The World’s Stateless*.

¹⁵² Amal de Chickera, “Statelessness and identity in the Rohingya refugee crisis,” The Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN).

¹⁵³ Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion. *The World’s Stateless*.

¹⁵⁴ Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion. *The World’s Stateless*.

¹⁵⁵ “‘12 million’ stateless people globally, warns UNHCR chief in call to States for decisive action,” The United Nations UN News, November 12, 2018, accessed December 30, 2021, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/11/1025561>

¹⁵⁶ “Statelessness Around the World” *United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR)*, accessed January 2, 2022, <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/statelessness-around-the-world.html>

¹⁵⁷ Onchita Shadman and Roladn Schonbauer, “How a Bangladesh court ruling changed the lives of more than 300,000 stateless people,” February 23, 2015, accessed January 2, 2022, <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/latest/2015/2/54ec22869/bangladesh-court-ruling-changed-lives-300000-stateless-people.html>

Case Study

Sri Lanka

The UN and UNHCR has seen some successes in advocating for the rights of stateless persons to a formal integration into the society in which they reside. In Sri Lanka, there lies a large population of stateless peoples working in the informal labor economy on tea estates.¹⁵⁸ Many of them are descendants of Indians who were forcibly transplanted from India to Sri Lanka in the early 1800s to work on tea and coffee plantations.¹⁵⁹ After the British colonizers eventually surrendered the Indian and Sri Lankan territories under their control, the plantation workers were unable to obtain citizenship in their former or current Member State residence.¹⁶⁰ The Indian government considered these workers Sri Lankan, as at this point many (if not all) had been born in Sri Lanka, and through this justification denied any responsibility of awarding formal citizenship.¹⁶¹ The Sri Lankan government, on the other hand, cited the historical origin of these workers as coming from India, and therefore denied the workers rights to obtain Sri Lankan citizenship on the basis that they should be Indian citizens.¹⁶² Today, this has left over 300,000 tea plantation workers in Sri Lanka as stateless, working informally on plantations at negligible wages in the informal economy.¹⁶³

Highlighting not only the human rights violations of the situation, but the economic gains that could be introduced to the Sri Lankan economy in a formal legal inclusion of the tea workers into the employment sector, the UNHCR and multiple humanitarian organizations were vocal in their support of integration policies for these workers.¹⁶⁴ In October 2003, enough government support was gained to pass the “Grant of Citizenship to Persons of Indian Origin Act,” mandating that “all stateless persons of Indian origin who had lived in Sri Lanka since October 30, 1964, and their descendants, will be granted Sri Lankan citizenship if they wish.”¹⁶⁵ Following this passage, the UNHCR, working in tandem with the Sri Lankan Ministry of the Interior, the Ceylon Workers’ Congress (CWC) and Sri Lanka’s immigration authorities, have succeeded in ensuring approximately 200,000 stateless people have received citizenship, not only affording them the right to own land, open a bank account, vote, and to work in the formal economy, adding to government revenue and community prosperity.¹⁶⁶

Conclusion

Thus far, the primary avenue pursued by the UN towards the economic integration of stateless peoples has been through the elimination of their status as stateless, by means of conferring some sort of legal residency or citizenship opportunity to them. After establishing some form of legal nationality tied to an individual, that individual is then able to enter the formal economy of the society in which they reside. While the UNHCR generally leads the campaigns and recommendations for such initiatives, the GA has shown its ability and authority in directing the UNHCR’s attention to certain areas of focus, as well as to make broad recommendations on human rights, migration, and economic matters of international concern. Additionally, as the GA comprises all 193 Member States to the UN, its decisions stand as some of the most representative of a true international consensus. As the GA, UNHCR and other UN bodies have helped to secure the most basic human rights to stateless populations, economic opportunities remain mostly untenable. Economic integration and security have been alluded to in some of the most recent UN documents related to the plight of the stateless, and it is well within the GA’s purview to carry the discussion forward into feasible, updated recommendations for action.

¹⁵⁸ Chetani Priyanga Wijetunga, “Feature: Sri Lanka makes citizens out of stateless tea pickers” *UNHCR News*, October 7, 2004, accessed December 30, 2021, <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/latest/2004/10/416564cd4/feature-sri-lanka-makes-citizens-stateless-tea-pickers.html>

¹⁵⁹ Wijetunga, “Feature: Sri Lanka makes citizens out of stateless tea pickers” *UNHCR News*.

¹⁶⁰ Wijetunga, “Feature: Sri Lanka makes citizens out of stateless tea pickers” *UNHCR News*.

¹⁶¹ Wijetunga, “Feature: Sri Lanka makes citizens out of stateless tea pickers” *UNHCR News*.

¹⁶² Wijetunga, “Feature: Sri Lanka makes citizens out of stateless tea pickers” *UNHCR News*.

¹⁶³ Wijetunga, “Feature: Sri Lanka makes citizens out of stateless tea pickers” *UNHCR News*.

¹⁶⁴ Wijetunga, “Feature: Sri Lanka makes citizens out of stateless tea pickers” *UNHCR News*.

¹⁶⁵ Wijetunga, “Feature: Sri Lanka makes citizens out of stateless tea pickers” *UNHCR News*.

¹⁶⁶ Wijetunga, “Feature: Sri Lanka makes citizens out of stateless tea pickers” *UNHCR News*.

Committee Directive

In addressing this issue, delegates should be mindful of the rights and limits Member State sovereignty imposes on determinations of nationality, political and legal residency, citizenship, and other related statuses. Delegates should understand the general policy outlook of their Member State governments surrounding stateless populations within their borders. Has their Member State signed, or filed any formal reservation to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on statelessness? What economic incentives might prompt broader economic integration measures to be considered and applied in the delegate's Member State? The UN almost entirely focuses on protection and prevention measures in regards to statelessness, but can more be done for current stateless populations beyond protection? Noting that the primary path towards integration has been the eliminations of the statelessness condition, are there any other alternative routes to economic integration? Should any others be considered? Delegates are encouraged to read through the critical documents highlighted in this background guide, and note whether any of the existing frameworks could be expanded or modified to include further economic rights and opportunities to stateless populations.

Annotated Bibliography

I: Fostering Sustainability in Food Supply Chains

Blesh, Jennifer, Lesli Hoey, Andrew D. Jones, Harriet Friedmann, and Ivette Perfecto. "Development Pathways Toward 'Zero Hunger.'" *World Development* 118 (2019): 1–14, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2019.02.004>.

The article elaborates on the progress made towards the second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 2). It reviews data pertaining to the shaping of the target goals, noting multiple challenges that have arisen on the path to sustainable food security. The authors offer insights into how the framing of the issue itself affects prospective solutions to global hunger. Lessons accrued from past failures are laid out for those seeking to shift policy, and an emphasis on adaptability and tailoring proposals to the interests of decision-makers is imparted.

AO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming food system for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all*, Rome, Italy: FAO, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4474en>.

Presenting an in depth look at the current state of global food security and nutrition, this report explores recent challenges and opportunities facing world food systems. Starting with a look at the difficulties arising over the past year from the COVID-19 pandemic and climate related disasters, this report shows that progress towards food security was actually off track in meeting international goals prior to 2019 and the pandemic. Through a detailed look at the consequences of failing to build a more resilient and inclusive global food system, the report offers inspiration and a unique array of ideas on the way forward.

Food Security Information Network (FSIN), *2020 Global report on food crises: Joint analysis for better decisions*. Rome, Italy and Washington, DC: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); World Food Programme (WFP); and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 2020, <https://www.fsinplatform.org/globalreportfoodcrises-2020>

Detailing the global food crisis, this report thoroughly examines the hunger-related hardships that began to increase in 2020. Beginning with an analysis of COVID-19's impact on people's access to food, this report analyzes the direct and indirect difficulties and challenges experienced around the world. Critically important tools for effectively addressing root causes of food crises are introduced, as well how the most effective means of utilizing them can be achieved, with an emphasis on identifying reliable data and analyses.

Garnett, Tara. "Food Sustainability: Problems, Perspectives and Solutions." *Proceedings of the Nutrition Society* 72, no. 1 (2013): 29–39, <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0029665112002947>.

This article examines how various perspectives frame problems relating to food and nutrition security. The article examines the strengths and weaknesses of viewing sustainable food production as primarily a production, consumption, or socio-economic challenge. It offers a holistic perspective synthesized from insights offered by the examined frames. The author explains the tradeoffs that attend favoring one perspective over another and how policy makers are developing more nuanced positions.

Martin-Rios, Carlos, Christine Demen-Meier, Stefan Gössling, and Clémence Cornuz. "Food Waste Management Innovations in the Foodservice Industry." *Waste Management* 79 (2018): 196–206, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wasman.2018.07.033>.

Through an examination of the factors driving waste management innovations in global food service sectors, this article highlights the opportunities available for creating more sustainable food supply chains. Beginning with a look at the sheer magnitude of the problem, and its proliferation across the world regardless of economic or socio-political development, the authors argue for the potential to make use of the enormous amount of energy lost through food system waste. The authors offer insights gleaned from exploring how,

why, and to what end innovation has arisen regarding food service waste management, and how it may continue to progress and innovate.

II: Encouraging Economic Integration Measures for Stateless Populations in Host Countries

United Nations, *Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: The United Nations and Statelessness*, June 2011, <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/FINAL%20Guidance%20Note%20of%20the%20Secretary-General%20on%20the%20United%20Nations%20and%20Statelessness.pdf>

In 2011, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General wrote a note providing guidance on addressing statelessness. The note provided a policy framework for action for the more than 12 million people identified as "stateless" worldwide. It is documented that not recognizing stateless individuals can impact economic developments. According to the note, the UN must act to address the cause and effects of statelessness as there can be social, legal, and economic advancements.

“Ensuring the right to a nationality, more pressing than ever: UNHCR,” *United Nations*, August 30, 2021, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/08/1098732>

The 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness turned 60 years old in 2021, and the COVID-19 pandemic shined light on the continued challenges facing stateless people. In addition to COVID-19, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi acknowledged the effects of climate change and forced displacement as another pressing issues during the last year. Grandi said, “Having a nationality – and the protection of a government that nationality affords – can make a life-saving difference, even more so in times of crisis, whether it’s vaccination, evacuation or providing a social safety net that is needed.” This UN article includes information additional statements from Grandi and statelessness statistics between the last decade and last summer.

Jennifer Guay, "How Being Stateless Makes You Poor," *Foreign Policy*, June 30, 2016, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2016/06/30/how-being-stateless-makes-you-poor/>

Former UN correspondent Jennifer Guay detailed personal accounts of individuals recognized as stateless. Guay's article noted the economic issues with the topic of statelessness and how difficult it can be to even identify the financial losses to national economies due to lack of research. For developing Member States, recognizing stateless people could, however, be an economic boon.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *I Am Here, I Belong: The Urgent Need to End Childhood Statelessness*, 2015, https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/wp-content/uploads/2015-10-StatelessReport_ENG16.pdf

The UNHCR published findings and personal stories of stateless children and young adults. The 2015 report highlights how the lack of a nationality can have long-lasting effects for an individual seeking an education, healthcare, employment, and being a member in society. The personal stories range from diverse Member States such as Côte d’Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Italy, Jordan, Malaysia, and Thailand.

“Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion,” *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*, <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/livelihoods.html?query=economic>

The UNHCR’s mission includes promoting economic inclusion for refugees and that these populations have a right to work and achieve self-reliance. This UNHCR resource provides several details and links regarding economic inclusiveness efforts. Concepts from the UNHCR could provide delegates with models on achieving economic inclusion for stateless populations.