



Arizona Model United Nations 64

Food & Agriculture Organization

Background Guide

Chair Introduction

Hello everyone! My name is Jack Erickson and I am the Chair for the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO). I am excited to meet all of you and participate in diplomacy together! Currently, I am in my third year at the University of Arizona and I am studying Political Science and Spanish. If you have any questions to ask me before the conference email me at:

jderickson614@arizona.edu!

Bilingual Committee Information

As I am sure you all know, this committee is a bilingual committee that will be done in both English and Spanish with live interpretation there to help us all! AZMUN is one of the only organizations that does these types of committees, and one of the coolest things is that this closely reflects how the actual UN runs as not everyone knows the same language. If you have any knowledge of both languages, we encourage you to use both in your speeches, motions, resolutions, and in conversations with fellow delegates. This will help everyone be able to participate and make the most out of our committee! Looking forward to seeing you all in March!

Committee Information and Purview

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to fight hunger and improve food security. Founded in 1945, FAO works with countries, organizations, and communities to ensure that people have regular access to enough safe and nutritious food to live healthy and active lives. Its main areas of focus include agriculture, forestry, fisheries, livestock, and sustainable management of natural resources. FAO supports farmers by promoting better farming practices, improving rural livelihoods, and strengthening food systems to be more resilient to climate change and crises. By collecting data, providing technical assistance, and shaping global policies, FAO plays a key role in achieving sustainable development and working toward a world free from hunger and malnutrition.

Topic I: Supporting Farmers affected by Climate Change

Climate change poses a serious and growing threat to farmers around the world, particularly small-scale and subsistence farmers who rely directly on natural resources for their livelihoods. Changes in rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, rising temperatures, floods, and more frequent extreme weather events have made farming increasingly unpredictable. These challenges lead to reduced crop yields, loss of livestock, soil degradation, water scarcity, and increased pest and disease outbreaks. As a result, many farmers face food insecurity, reduced incomes, and greater poverty, which can also affect national and global food supplies.

Supporting farmers affected by climate change is therefore essential for achieving sustainable development and ensuring long-term food security. Assistance can take many forms, including access to climate-resilient seeds, improved irrigation systems, better soil management techniques, and diversified farming systems that reduce risk. Farmers also need knowledge and training to adapt their practices, as well as access to weather information, early warning systems, and financial support such as insurance and credit. Empowering farmers to adapt not only protects their livelihoods but also helps stabilize food production and rural economies.

These efforts are closely linked to the mission and work of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). FAO plays a leading role in helping countries and farmers respond to the impacts of climate change through the promotion of climate-smart agriculture. This approach focuses on increasing agricultural productivity in a sustainable way, strengthening resilience to climate shocks, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions where possible. FAO supports farmers by introducing drought- and flood-tolerant crop varieties, improving livestock management, and encouraging sustainable land and water use practices that protect ecosystems.

In addition, FAO provides technical assistance, research, and data to help governments design effective agricultural and climate policies. The organization works on the ground with local communities, offering training programs that equip farmers with practical skills to adapt to changing climate conditions. FAO also supports disaster risk reduction by developing early warning systems and emergency response programs that help farmers prepare for and recover from climate-related disasters. Through partnerships with governments, NGOs, and international agencies, FAO ensures that climate action in agriculture is inclusive and reaches the most vulnerable populations.

By supporting farmers affected by climate change, FAO contributes directly to reducing hunger, alleviating poverty, and building resilient food systems. These efforts align with FAO's broader goal of achieving a world free from hunger while ensuring that agriculture remains sustainable for future generations.

Questions to consider:

- How does climate change directly impact farmers' crop production, livestock, and livelihoods?
- What types of support do farmers need most to adapt to changing climate conditions?
- How can climate-smart agricultural practices help farmers become more resilient to extreme weather events?
- What role does FAO play in helping farmers manage climate risks and recover from climate-related disasters?
- How can governments, organizations, and farmers work together to build sustainable and climate-resilient food systems?

UN Documents:

- UNFCCC - Resolution Decision 4/CP.23
- UNFCCC - Resolution Decision 2/CP.27

Bibliography:

- <https://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture-sourcebook/en/>
- <https://www.fao.org/publications/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-food-and-agriculture/en>
- <https://www.fao.org/policy-support/policy-themes/climate-smart-agriculture/fao-policy-series--climate-smart-agriculture/en>
- <https://www.fao.org/climate-change/what-we-do/climate-negotiations/sharm-el-sheikh-joint-work/koronivia-joint-work-on-agriculture/en>

Topic II: Reducing antibiotic use in livestock to prevent “SuperBugs”

The widespread use of antibiotics in livestock production has raised serious concerns about the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, often referred to as “superbugs.” Antibiotics are commonly used in animals not only to treat disease, but also to prevent illness and, in some regions, to promote faster growth. When antibiotics are overused or misused, bacteria can adapt and become resistant, making infections harder to treat in both animals and humans. These resistant bacteria can spread through food, water, the environment, and direct contact, posing a major threat to global public health and food safety.

Reducing the use of antibiotics in livestock is therefore essential to slowing the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This can be achieved by improving animal health and welfare through better hygiene, biosecurity, vaccination, proper nutrition, and responsible farming practices. Healthier animals are less likely to become sick and therefore require fewer antibiotics. Education and training for farmers and veterinarians also play a key role, helping them

understand when antibiotics are truly necessary and how to use them responsibly under veterinary guidance.

This issue is closely tied to the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). FAO is a leading global actor in the fight against antimicrobial resistance, particularly at the intersection of agriculture, animal health, and food systems. FAO promotes the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in livestock and supports countries in developing policies and regulations to reduce unnecessary antibiotic use. The organization encourages sustainable livestock production systems that prioritize disease prevention rather than treatment.

FAO works as part of the One Health approach, which recognizes the close connection between human health, animal health, and the environment. Through this framework, FAO collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) to address AMR in a coordinated way. FAO also helps countries strengthen surveillance systems to monitor antibiotic use and resistance patterns in animals and food products, providing valuable data to inform decision-making.

By supporting better livestock management practices, strengthening regulations, and raising awareness about antimicrobial resistance, FAO helps reduce the risk of superbugs while protecting animal productivity and food security. These efforts contribute to safer food systems, healthier animals, and improved public health, aligning with FAO's broader mission to promote sustainable agriculture and safeguard the well-being of current and future generations.

Questions to Consider:

- How does the overuse of antibiotics in livestock contribute to the development of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria?
- What strategies can farmers implement to reduce the need for antibiotics while maintaining healthy animals?
- How can education and training for farmers and veterinarians improve the responsible use of antibiotics?
- What role does the FAO play in helping countries monitor and regulate antibiotic use in livestock?
- How can reducing antibiotic use in animals protect human health and contribute to global food safety?

UN Documents:

- FAO Resolution on Antimicrobial Use in Agrifood Systems (FAO Conference)
- UN General Assembly Political Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance (UNGA 79)
- FAO's Progressive Management Pathway for AMR (FAO-PMP-AMR)
- RENOFARM Initiative (FAO)

Bibliography:

- https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/unga79--world-leaders-commit-to-decisive-action-on-antimicrobial-resistance/en?utm_
- https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/fao-launches-global-10-year-initiative-to-reduce-the-need-for-antimicrobials-for-sustainable-agrifood-systems-transformation/?utm_
- https://wfa.org/landmark-fao-resolution-on-antimicrobial-use-in-agrifood-systems/?utm_
- https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/fao-new-plan-to-counter-antimicrobial-resistance/en?utm_

Topic III: Expanding access to nutritious foods in Low-Income Regions

Expanding access to nutritious foods in low-income regions is a critical challenge in the fight against hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. Many people in these regions face limited availability of diverse foods, high prices, weak food distribution systems, and reliance on diets that lack essential vitamins and minerals. As a result, undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and stunting especially among children and pregnant women remain widespread. Improving access to nutritious foods is not only vital for health and development but also for education, productivity, and long-term economic growth.

Addressing this challenge requires strengthening food systems from production to consumption. This includes supporting local farmers to grow a wider variety of nutritious crops, improving food storage and transportation to reduce losses, and increasing access to markets where affordable, healthy foods are available. Social protection programs, nutrition education, and school feeding initiatives also play an important role in ensuring vulnerable populations can access balanced diets. When communities have reliable access to nutritious food, they are better able to break cycles of poverty and poor health.

These efforts are closely tied to the mission of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). FAO works to improve food security and nutrition by promoting sustainable agriculture and inclusive food systems that make healthy foods more accessible and affordable. The organization supports countries in developing nutrition-sensitive agricultural policies that prioritize the production of fruits, vegetables, legumes, and other nutrient-rich foods, rather than focusing only on staple crops.

FAO also provides technical assistance and data to help governments design effective nutrition programs and strengthen food value chains in low-income regions. Through initiatives such as school feeding support, community-based nutrition projects, and food fortification programs, FAO helps ensure that nutritious foods reach those most in need. In emergencies and

crisis-affected areas, FAO supports livelihoods and local food production to reduce dependence on food aid and improve long-term resilience.

By expanding access to nutritious foods in low-income regions, FAO directly contributes to reducing hunger, improving health outcomes, and achieving sustainable development goals. These actions reflect FAO's core commitment to ending malnutrition in all its forms while building resilient, equitable, and sustainable food systems for the future.

Questions to Consider:

- What economic, social, and environmental barriers limit access to nutritious foods in low-income regions?
- How can local agriculture be strengthened to increase the availability of diverse and nutritious foods?
- What role do infrastructure and food distribution systems play in improving access to healthy diets?
- How can nutrition education help communities make better use of available food resources?
- How do organizations like FAO support governments and communities in building sustainable, nutrition-focused food systems?

UN Documents:

- UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025, extended to 2030)
- Rome Declaration on World Food Security and Plan of Action (1996)
- Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition (1979)
- Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition — UN GA Resolution A/RES/80/157 (2025)
- Sustainable Development Goal 2 — Zero Hunger (UN Sustainable Development Agenda)

Bibliography:

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- <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/c2b4b7a4-01e1-48a6-9c06-e9e55154b15c/content>
- <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/d9175e08-9504-40fb-85c1-a0d0ca12a284/content>
- <https://www.thelancet.com/series-do/maternal-and-child-nutrition>