

TOPIC GUIDES

PIMUN 2018



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC
& SOCIAL COUNCIL
(ECOSOC)



Paris International Model United Nations 2018 ECOSOC

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Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

We would like to extend a cordial welcome to the 7th Edition of Paris International Model United Nations. It is our sincere wish that you have an excellent time surrounded by friends and delegates of all ages and nationalities. In this conference built in the heart of the beautiful city we are certain you will have an amazing time in our United Nations Economic and Social Council. The ceaseless commitment and hard work of all of the secretariat, chairs and most importantly you the delegates will lead to some amazing experiences for us all. The topics you shall be debating have been specifically chosen to highlight the important issues that the world at large faces in one of the most diverse committees the United Nations has to offer. Through skilled diplomacy, excellent debating, resolution writing and a fair amount of frustration, we hope that this year we shall all finish with a greater understanding of the UN and lots of friends besides that. Though it is always difficult to completely immerse yourself in the roles of ambassadors of the countries you have chosen we are certain that you will grow into these roles successfully and bring something worthwhile to the position as well. We look forward to hearing all of your budding ideas and ideals that will transcend local, cultural and political boundaries in May and making sure that these four summer days will be some of the most enriching of your lives.



Chair Introductions



Philippe Lefevre

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is my honour to be one of the chairs at this year's PIMUN ECOSOC committee in the heart of la Belle Paris. I am a second year History and Politics student at the Panthéon-Sorbonne in Paris, studying my Erasmus year in France and returning to my home university of York next year. I have been doing Model United Nations for over a year and half, with PIMUN 2018 being my 18th conference and my 7th Chairing experience. My interest in international relations and travelling has massively fuelled this pseudo-obsession with MUN. Alongside this I am very active in the Youth Association for a Greater Europe where I run their think tank and cultural projects in Paris, and also help organise the Model European Union Paris. What little time I have otherwise is invested into playing badminton and guitar, as well as creatively finding other ways to spend money and pretend to do professional work such as going to other conferences. I look forward to seeing the incredibly high level of debate I am certain you will all bring to this year's conference, and do not worry at all if you need to contact the dais for help, that is what we are here for.



Kieran Spencer

Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure to be your chair at PIMUN 2018. I just about to finish my final year of studying International Relations in Istanbul, Turkey. PIMUN will be my 17th international conference and 9th MUN as chair. Unfortunately, this will most likely be the final conference of my MUN career before I move to small village in Zambia to work teaching English for the next two years. My hobbies include long walks on the beach, candlelit dinners and discussing current issues in international diplomacy. I cannot wait to hear a fun and fruitful debate and many engaging socials. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the conference. Best of luck to all of you!

Tatiana Serova

Dear Delegates, I am a Franco-Russian student of International Relations, living in Paris. Apart from learning 4 languages, law and economics, I also take additional courses in sarcasm and sense of direction. My MUN journey started 2 years ago, and from Cambridge to New York, passing by Hamburg, I am now thrilled to co-chair the ECOSOC committee at PIMUN. Literally fond of inspiring quotes by liberal philosophers, I enjoy dancing salsa and having passionate debates about cinematographic masterpieces. Cannot wait to meet you all and discuss such interesting topics.

[Introduction to the Committee](#)

The United Nations Economic and Social Council is a major branch of the United Nations, being the culmination of 15 specialized agencies and one of the six major organs of the UN, founded in 1945. It is also the holder of many of the United Nations commissions including the Statistical Division, Human Rights Council (formerly a commission) and Commission on Sustainable Development. The current president is Her Excellency Marie Chatardová who is the 73rd President of ECOSOC and was appointed on the 27th of July 2017.

One of the main goals of ECOSOC is to link many of the diverse UN bodies together whose focus is on sustainable development. This means bringing in regional commissions, intergovernmental commissions and hundreds of programs, agencies and funds to power change in the world at large. It also coordinates programs to follow up UN conferences and summits and dispersing this information to the rest of the United Nations. One of the key challenges it faces is the duplication of work that the immense UN system faces. With this coordination in mind, over 3200 NGOs work with ECOSOC alongside countless other state and non-state actors.

Every year a different global issue is spotlighted for UNESCO through the lens of sustainable development, providing greater focus and application for the UN system. ECOSOC has considerable weight in the Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, being an important supervisory council for every SDG. For example in 2018 it will host a high-level political forum with a focus on SDG 6,7,11,12,15 and 17, alongside the work it does supporting other projects. There are 54 member states on the council who are each elected to a three year term by the General Assembly; these will be represented at PIMUN 2018 as seen below:



Topic A:
the global
grabbing



Addressing
land
crisis



Cre

dit: Daniel Juol Nhomnge¹

What is Land Grabbing?

Although there is consensus that land grabbing involves elements from developed countries acquiring large amounts of land in the developing world there is no one type of Land Grabbing in the world. Land Grabbing is closely connected to the topic of Foreign Agricultural Investment which is when one usually developed country

¹ <https://paanluelwel.com/2017/01/11/land-policy-in-south-sudan-can-help-reduce-land-grabbing-and-conflict/>



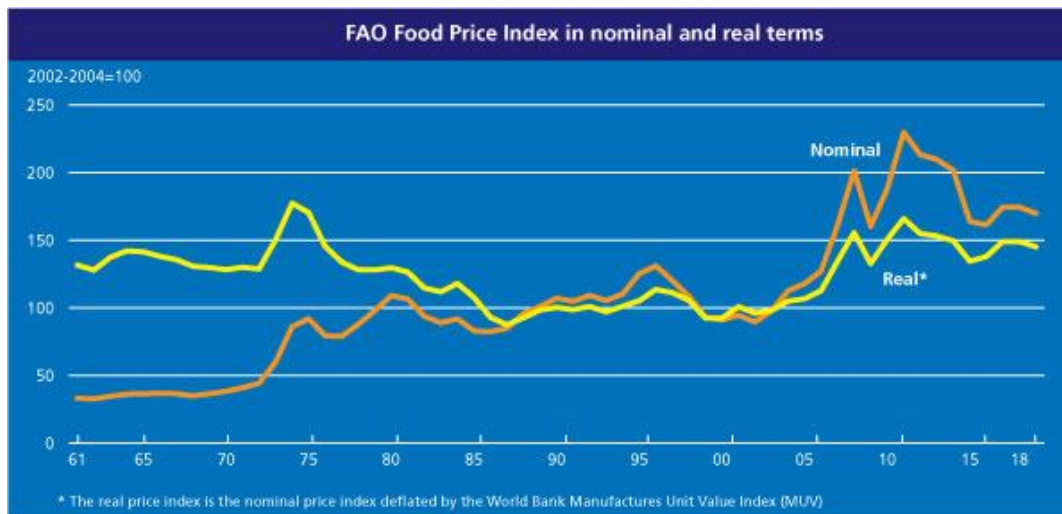
invests in agriculture or food production usually in a developing country. Foreign Agricultural Investment can be extremely beneficial to the recipient. A land grab on the other hand is defined by the

Land Grabbing has been intensely defined throughout various debates however one of the largest definitions, written in the Tirana Declaration, mostly focusses on large-scale land grabbing. This definition leaves out critical elements and leaves out the sociopolitical context and international political dimensions that have been connected to land grabbing in recent years. A more complete if less neutral definition came from the Tirana conference of the International Land Coalition in 2011 which defined land grabbing as “land acquisitions that are in violation of human rights, without prior consent of the preexisting land users, and with no consideration of the social and environmental impacts.” Overall we can say that most land grabbing is:

- A. Takes place on a large scale
- B. Displaces rural poor and disaffected populations
- C. Lacks proper compensation for the landholders
- D. Destroys local ecology in the affected area

This land is then generally used for biofuels or agricultural food production.² Some definitions argue that the impacts of land grabbing are not negative as land grabbing integrates previously underdeveloped agricultural lands into the global economy. Overall although there is no one definition of land grabbing when the topic is to be understood foreign interests acquiring large amounts of land without careful consideration should be considered.

History of the land grabbing crises:



Global Food Price Index 1961-2018³

- *The 2007-2008 food crisis*

The issue of land grabbing, although occurring for decades, mostly became popular after the 2007-2008 food crisis⁴. The 2007 food crisis occurred when the price of basic agricultural commodities rose to a three decade high in 2007. This caused severe problems around the developing world as food riots broke out in many countries and poverty reduction efforts were stifled. Specific instances of civil unrest related to the crises occurred in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Peru, Senegal, Uzbekistan and Yemen.⁵ This crisis was caused by a culmination of many factors; among the man-made ones were agricultural market speculation, and increased demand for food for the creation of biofuels in Europe and the United States.

- *2008 Financial crisis*

After the 2008 financial crisis, investment in developing countries' land grew exponentially. Because funds from these developed countries used for land purchases were considered more secure than assets, which had

³ <http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/>

⁴ <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/rwss/docs/2011/chapter4.pdf>

⁵ idib.



previously collapsed, they were a focus for overseas investors following the crisis. As a report by SIF and TANY, two large Madagascan NGOs, described the situation:

As far as these players are concerned, they don't always seize land for farming. Growing global competition for agrofuel and large-scale food production is only one side of the story; several new international investors are acquiring land as a guarantee against inflation or as a way to access new markets and hold dominant or monopolistic positions in them as they expect those markets to become very lucrative in the near future⁶

This means that international organisations are taking the means of production from large groups of small farmers which are less connected to international markets and transferring them to large multinational organisations disconnected from the local economy and susceptible to sudden fluctuations in the international economy.

- *2010-2012 Food Price Crisis*

Another food price crisis occurred in 2010 when prices soared even higher with the recovery from the 2008 financial crisis. This especially affected countries in West Africa as it occurred simultaneously with a regional draught and multiple conflicts.⁷ This led to the formation of much of the UN Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land in May 2012, one of the major UN Land Grabbing guidelines issued by the Committee on World Food Security.

2012 onwards, the problem continues

Since 2012 the problem of food security has continued even as it has gained less attention from the international media due to the lack of another sudden food price crisis. Multinational companies have continued to purchase large amounts of land in developing countries and switch production from food production to more valuable cash crops while governments have also continued to participate in land grabbing. This has created the potential for an even greater crisis than those seen in 2008.

Countries involved in land grabbing

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<https://bit.ly/2GqeoyP>

7
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/graphic/2012/mar/09/sahel-food-crisis-map>



A variety of countries around the world are involved in land grabbing either directly through state sponsored practices or indirectly through private enterprises. Below is a list of countries that have been accused of major land grabs although it is important to note that as there are many definitions of land grabbing, what NGOs and journalists might label as a destructive land grab Will likely be considered by the organisations involved as a mutually beneficial foreign agricultural investment.

- *Investing countries*

1. Western European and North American investment funds

Many Western Investment funds, especially from the United Kingdom and the United States have engaged in large scale land acquisitions in the developing world. These account for as much a quarter of all land grabs to date. These purchases are often focused on increasing production of biofuels to meet lower emissions targets.⁸

1. China

China has been involved in a significant amount of foreign agricultural investments that many have considered as land grabs.⁹ China has been especially engaged in acquiring land as it as has an extremely large population but a relatively small percentage of the world's arable landmass.¹⁰ Chinese land acquisition is also difficult to classify as state based or private due to the complicated relationships Chinese cooperations have with the state.

2. Gulf States

Many Gulf states especially the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar are investing in foreign agricultural land as a way to insulate themselves from price fluctuations of food staples which they are largely forced to import due to their lack of arable land.¹¹

3. India

The case of Indian land acquisition is distinct because India is both the recipient of foreign agricultural investment and involved in what many consider land grabbing activities.¹² Alleged Indian land grabbing occurs

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<http://www.ibtimes.com/western-investors-buying-african-farming-properties-land-grab-report-289401>

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<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2009/jul/03/africa-land-grab>

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<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/305354463>

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<https://www.thenational.ae/arts-culture/inside-the-uae-s-quest-for-food-security-and-why-the-west-is-wrong-about-land-acquisitions-1.164463>



mostly through the private sector but is supported by the Indian government.¹³ One of the main African countries India has been involved with is Ethiopia where Indian companies own more than 600,000 hectares of arable land.

4. South Korea

One South Korean company was infamously offered half of Madagascar's arable land for no payment whatsoever which eventually toppled the Madagascar government which had agreed to it.¹⁴ Like China or the UAE, South Korea also engages in large scale foreign agricultural acquisitions due to its large population and relatively small portion of arable land.

Definition of the key words

Foreign Agricultural Investment

An investment in animal or plant production in a foreign country. This often gives the recipient access to new technology and resources which facilitate development also connecting previously independent agricultural producers to foreign financial markets.

Land Tenure

"the relationship, whether legally or customarily defined, among people, as individuals or groups, with respect to land"¹⁵. Land tenure can also be the rules on a society which control who can use land, how long they can use it and what they can do with it. Land tenure can usually be broken down into four addition subcategories: **state land, communal land, private land** and **open access** land.

Agricultural Development

Agricultural Development is the concept of development of more advanced food production and farming techniques. This concept is closely related to land grabbing and many instances of land grabbing are labeled as agricultural development. A way to distinguish between agricultural development and land grabbing is to observe its impact on local stakeholders.

Biofuel

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<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2013/feb/25/indian-land-grabs-ethiopia>

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idib.

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<https://www.economist.com/node/18648855>

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<http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/y4307e/y4307e05.htm>



A Biofuel is “a fuel (such as wood or ethanol) composed of or produced from biological raw materials”¹⁶. These are increasingly used in developed countries in order to meet environmental goals and reduce carbon emissions

Land Reform

Land reform generally involves redistributing land from a small landowning elite to a larger section of society or the people who are actually using it and working on it. Depending on the circumstances of the individual scenario this is done with or without compensation for the actual land owners.

Food speculation

Food speculation is when investors buy and sell futures, the ability to buy a certain amount of an item in the future, of food commodities. This can cause the food market to fluctuate wildly as large amounts of money flow into and out of the market.¹⁷

Previous International action

Since the start of addressing the issue in 2009, the UN has taken a variety of measure to combat the issue of irresponsible land acquisitions. Despite international calls for stronger action this response has mostly taken the form of statements on the issue and nonbinding guidelines from different UN Organisations. There is currently no specific organisation tasked with dealing with the issue of land grabbing. Past UN actions include:¹⁸

Committee on World Food Security:

- Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment and Food Systems, Committee on World Food Security (made up of FAO, IFAD and WFP), October 15th 2014
- Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, Committee on World Food Security (FAO), Rome, 2012
- Principles for responsible agricultural investment in the context of national food security and nutrition, also known as RAI by Committee on World Food Security, 2014

Other Organs and Affiliates:

- Large-scale land acquisitions and leases: a set of minimum principles and measures to address the human rights challenge, Thirteenth Session of the Human Rights Council, 28 December 2009

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<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/biofuel>

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<https://news.un.org/en/story/2012/07/414952-un-food-and-agriculture-agency-warns-about-negative-impact-food-speculation>

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https://www.iisd.org/sites/default/files/publications/global_response_foreign_investment_ag_en.pdf



- Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy In Africa, African Union Commission, UN Economic Commission for Africa and African Development Bank, 2010
- 17/4 Principles for Responsible Contracts, Human Rights Council, 16 June 2011
- Policy Framework for Investment in Agriculture, OECD (Not UN but important body for developed countries), 2013
- Guiding Principles on Large-Scale Land Based Investments in Africa, UN Economic Commission for Africa, African Union and African Development Bank, 2014

Possible Solutions

While many countries will be concerned with the problems of Land Grabbing they will seek to address it in a way that does not interfere with positive Foreign Agricultural Investment which has been called “the most important and most effective strategy for poverty reduction in rural areas”.¹⁹ If the developing world simply bans foreign investment in land they are cutting off their access to an important source of development support which can be essential to their economic, state growth and poverty reduction. In some cases, developing countries have instead opted to limit the amount of land that foreign investors can acquire.

The problem of land grabbing can also be turned into a powerful tool for local empowerment. Therefore, countries must seek creative solutions from the UN, which seek to encourage investment while ensuring that the local peoples who actually used the land are either fairly compensated or maintain ownership.

In addition to this, the UN will need to consider how to deal with the impacts of land grabbing on the 17 sustainable development goals. SDGs specifically affected by this topic are number 2 Zero Hunger, 10 reduced inequalities, 12 Responsible Consumption and Production and 13 climate action.²⁰

In order to address these goals, the UN may consider drafting new guidelines on the issue, working with governments to monitor land acquisitions, creating funds to compensate victims of land grabbing, and finding ways to encourage investment in local agricultural production through current stakeholders rather than direct

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<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3900e.pdf>

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<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>



land acquisition. Finally the UN should consider whether or not it should create a new subgroup in order to address the topic of land grabbing in particular.

Research topics to focus on

- What benefits and harm does foreign direct investment of land bring?
- What legal legislation currently exists or should exist to protect land from harmful investment?
- The breadth and depth that land grabbing has in relation to corruption
- Environmental protection in relation to land grabbing
- How current compensation is given to those suffering from land grabbing

Further Reading

Please Review the first two documents below as part of this study guide.

1. UN Food and agriculture organisation “IMPACTS OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES”

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3900e.pdf>

2. “Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible Governance of tenure of land” UN Food and agriculture organisation

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i2801e/i2801e.pdf>

3. What Is Land Grabbing?

<http://www.cornell-landproject.org/what-is-land-grabbing/>

4. Tirana Declaration from the 2011 conference of the International Land coalition

<http://www.landcoalition.org/sites/default/files/documents/resources/tiranadeclaration.pdf>

5. Academic Article outlining what land grabbing is

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03066150.2011.559005>

6. UN official discusses the need for land grabbing guidelines

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2011/10/390162-guidelines-prevent-land-grabbing-crucial-food-security-un-expert-warns>

7. Map of global land grabs

<http://www.landmatrix.org/en/get-the-idea/global-map-investments/>

8. UN guidelines

<http://www.fao.org/tenure/voluntary-guidelines/en/>

9. Report on Land Grab in Africa

<http://www.fao.org/tempref/docrep/fao/011/ak241e/ak241e.pdf>

Topic B: Ensuring Food security in Conflict Zones

Food and Nutrition Insecurity & Civil Conflict

- Significant cross-country correlation between the Global Hunger Index and violent civil conflict events (0.30) and conflict fatalities (0.37) in Africa.

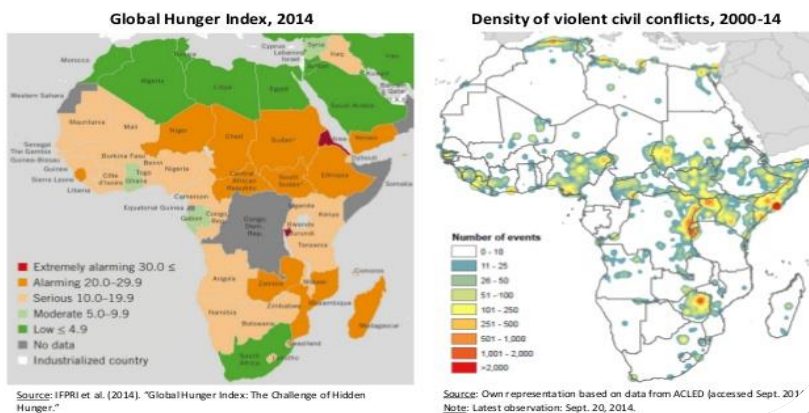


Figure 1 Source : <https://www.slideshare.net/IFPRIMENA/building-resilience-through-food-security-policies-and-programs-ecker-17-1014>

History of the topic:

The proliferation of violent conflicts following the end of the Cold War has been accompanied by a recent increase in food insecurity: today, 11 per cent of the world population is in an alarming situation of hunger, malnutrition, or other grave degrees of starvation.

Napoleon once said: *"an army marches on its stomach"*, implying that proper access to food is an essential factor in a conflict. Indeed, food insecurity and conflicts have always possessed reciprocal links: one is the obvious consequence of the other, as we tend to observe the highest levels of malnutrition in the areas affected by conflicts or that have just emerged from a conflict. Statistics show that a correlation exists between the degree of institutional fragility of a State and its proportion of malnourished citizens. Thus, a hungry State is more likely to wage war.

Though the examples of India and Niger, it can be remarked that there are countries which suffer from food insecurity but aren't involved in a conflict, it is relevant to note that conflict and hunger are two driving forces influencing one another. In Sudan for example, that is still facing several conflicts - especially in Darfur - 3,5 million people are considered food insecure (WFP, 2015). Furthermore, the level of hunger in those countries is often responsible of a global humanitarian catastrophe: countries such as Yemen or South Sudan, most affected by hunger, suffer a global social and economic chaos linked to the lack of fulfillment of basic



nutritional needs of their citizens. This issue does not affect one region in particular: it is a widespread phenomenon, but each case should be addressed individually - depending on the nature and the intensity of the conflict.

Not only can conflicts deteriorate local supply in food and aggravate an already existing state of food insecurity, but hunger can as well be used conscientiously as a weapon in order to weaken a civilian population. It often creates internal displacement of populations and food scarcity.

The will to access food resources can also be an incentive to start a conflict, or a motivation to join an armed group. This was the case during the Second World War, an episode known as the “rice battle” in Vietnam: in the Mekong region, the French and Japanese troops wanted to control rice exploitations and deprive the local population of this basic product, which eventually led to the famine of 1945.

In developing countries, the agricultural sector often prevails in the overall economy (World Bank, 2003), and it is also the main livelihood of local populations. To undermine it, armed groups **DELIBERATELY** damage the crops, and use food insecurity as leverage in their fight - a means of pressure against their adversaries.

Besides, food insecurity can have an irreversible impact on life expectancy and children’s physical growth. These trends are aggravated for the populations living in zones of conflict, for they are submitted to permanent risks, and therefore more vulnerable to any change in their environment. Children are more vulnerable to the shortages, and suffer most from chronic malnutrition, which represents an obstacle for a proper development of their organism. Therefore, their situation appears particularly worrying.

The aim of this debate will be to figure out a long-term solution that would break this vicious cycle and eventually resolve the food crisis, by focusing on its root causes.

Definition of the key words:

- *Conflict Zones*

A conflict can be defined as a struggle or contest between people with opposing needs, ideas, beliefs, values, or goals. In broadest terms, conflict denotes the incompatibility of subject positions and is sometimes characterized by violence.

Two types of conflicts exist: international and non-international armed conflicts. The former implies a conflict between two or more States, while the latter supposes a confrontation between State forces and paramilitary groups within the territory of one country.



Figure 2 Photo by AFP

Therefore, a conflict zone is a territory on which a conflict is ongoing, meaning its civilian population is directly or indirectly involved in it, or suffers from its collateral damages.

- *Food insecurity*

Food security means both the availability of food resources and the physical ability to acquire them. Therefore, food insecurity lies in the absence of one of these elements. More broadly, it refers to the social and economic problem of lack of food due to resource or other constraints, not voluntary fasting or dieting, or because of illness, or for other reasons²¹

However, there are several nuances in the concept of food insecurity itself: a distinction shall be made between hunger, malnutrition and undernourishment.

First, hunger is a possible consequence of food insecurity, the “painful sensation caused by the lack of food” and can result in illness and weakness.

Second, undernourishment is one type of malnutrition - a critical disease linked to insufficient nutrients and not meeting daily energy requirements. In 2015, there were 793 million undernourished in the world, which represents 13% of the world’s population.

- *Food war*

Food wars are usually defined as *“the deliberate use of hunger as a weapon or hunger suffered as a consequence of armed conflict”* (Messer, 1990)

There are various ways through which a food war can be conducted: displacing farmer populations, disrupting seasonal crops or prevent the food to be transported to the conflict zone²².

Direct destruction of the crops can be used as an efficient means to achieve this goal, as well as contamination of food that makes it improper for consumption.

“Food wars” are usually used in asymmetric conflicts, as a non-conventional means of warfare supposed to compensate the military superiority of a State and attack it where it is not prepared.

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<https://www.nap.edu/read/11578/chapter/5#44>

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<https://www.encyclopedia.com/food/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/food-weapon-war>

Contemporary discussion

- *Major stakes of the topic*

From an economic perspective, conflicts discourage investment, and thus provoke a disruption in the global economic development of the country. Infrastructures are destroyed, which leads to supply shortages and massive penuries. All these elements combined are responsible of a rapid contraction of the economy: food prices become extremely volatile and a black market appears, encouraging criminality.

The State, then, relies entirely on international assistance and imports, which creates a strong dependence and prevents an autonomous management of its food resources.

This phenomenon is often accompanied by an increased inequality in the access to food, leading to social grievances, and sometimes a competition for access to resources - to which the State is unable to provide an adequate response. As such, it can be understood that hunger can contribute to a conflict (as a vector



Figure 3 Source: Tobin Jones 2013

of instability), but is also aggravated by a conflict: the priority in the debate concerning hunger and conflict will thus be preventing the already complicated situation to deteriorate because of a conflict.

One of the most urging Sustainable Development Goals the UN is committed to achieve is “eradicating hunger around the world by 2025”. The main focus has to be conflict zones because conflicts provoke a reaction in chain:

- Contraction of food production: countries experiencing conflict on average produced 12.4 percent less food per capita than during peacetime
- Reduced access to food supply for the population
- Provokes massive shortages and explosion of prices
- Leads to malnutrition/ famine
- Development issues and humanitarian catastrophe

On the contrary, an effective agricultural system and stabilized food prices can contribute to a sustainable peace and prevent conflicts²³, since the opportunity cost of engaging into a conflict will be too high



and it will be preferable to avoid it. In this perspective, peace and stability have to be considered as vectors of food security: humanitarian aid should be combined with collective efforts meant to prevent *a priori* or resolve conflicts *a posteriori*, and with rural development programmes directed on the long-term. As such, focusing on conflict areas is a priority when it comes to dealing with ensuring food security around the world.

Potential solutions to this topic

In times of conflict, the human capacity to produce food is being reduced: concretely, the crops are either physically destroyed, or controlled by the armed groups. To avoid this, there is a strong need to enhance agricultural productivity: empowering women²⁴, small farmers, giving them access to modern technology such as machinery, fertilizers or systems of micro-irrigation. It might be relevant to adopt the model of export crop agriculture, attracting Transnational Companies which will be likely to invest more and thus reduce the level of extreme poverty.

Furthermore, a diversification of cash crops is indispensable in order to ensure the availability of various food resources, and not a monoculture.

On a larger scale, a political solution should be provided. There is a strong need to build resilience to shocks, implementing mechanisms of “good governance” and improving prevention both from natural disasters and from voluntary destruction during armed conflicts. A particular attention should be paid to aggravating factors, such as consequences of climate change in the conflict area, unemployment, poverty, marginalization of minorities and latent antagonisms within the society.

Under Secretary General M. Lowcock²⁵ has emphasized the crucial role the Security Council should have in dealing with this hunger-conflict cycle. Indeed, the Security Council should ensure that there are no obstacles to access humanitarian help in precarious areas, and that local populations can benefit from international assistance without constraints. As such, compliance with international humanitarian law will have to be guaranteed in these conflict zones.

The response to food insecurity in conflict zones should be gradual and articulated into several phases: prevention, immediate help and post-conflict monitoring. To be efficiently carried out, these different stages require a coordinated action between the States, NGO mediators, and can even involve the private sector to work in a spirit of synergy.

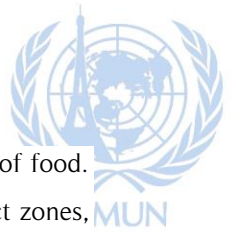
The civil society and the economic actors on the ground have to also be involved, in order to create positive dynamics, to boost agricultural progress and investment, and reduce the level of famine and poverty, which will eventually prevent conflicts. On the other hand, in order to be able to offer adequate emergency help, NGOs

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<https://www.sida.se/English/how-we-work/our-fields-of-work/conflict-resolution-peace-and-security/>

25

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13262.doc.htm>



and non-state actors should have access to concrete data concerning the needs of the country in terms of food. However, due to the lack of transparency and the fact that the State often doesn't control these conflict zones, they cannot properly evaluate the actual amount of food to provide.

Finally, international organizations should pursue peace building efforts alongside the concerned State, which would be the post conflict commitment and monitoring.

Previous International Action

Monitoring food security in countries with conflict situations: A joint FAO/WFP update for the United Nations Security Council (June 2017): report on food insecurity in conflict-affected areas, monitored by the UNSC.

- *United Nations Security Council Presidential statement S/PRST/2017/14: this statement acknowledges the relation between hunger and conflicts and reaffirms UNSC's commitment to work with the FAO to solve those crises.*
- *United Nations Security Council Resolution S/RES/1325 (2000): tackling the vulnerability of women during conflicts and the need of their empowerment*
- *General Assembly Resolution 70/262: it promotes "an integrated and coherent approach to peacebuilding", taking into account the food security component*

Bloc Positions

Whilst no state would declare itself in favor of food insecurity or conflict, it is important to note the differences states would advocate in order to solve such issues in the world at large. Even so, direct solutions or positions might be challenging, make sure to look at how a country encourages aid in general, as this would affect how they would look at resolving food security in conflict zones

Africa

Unfortunately, regions in Africa has experienced the worst crises when it comes to food security and conflicts. Despite the strong global food support that is being sent to regions in Africa, the localized issues of conflicts, drought and flooding exacerbate these issues. In Africa, a report in late 2017 notes that 29 out of 37 countries in need of external food assistance are in Africa, with the report noting the number of people suffering. A cautionary list includes some 1.1 million people in the Central African Republic, 7.7 million in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 3 million in Nigeria, 4.8 million in South Sudan and 3.1 million in Somalia. The rapid increase in people requires resolutions to focus on the particular difficulties these areas have as well as criticize current solutions, especially in how cost-efficient they may be. With the youngest population of any continent on earth, solutions must look at how easily they can be brought to people as quickly as possible, without negating the long term vision any solution needs. Dependency is also a notable problem as countries must retain



control of their agricultural system soon after resolution and with purely international support this becomes harder than it seems.

Asia-Pacific

The rapid expansion and growth of Asian economies have left many behind with stark contrasts in food security, yet relatively little conflict luckily. Still, issues of corruption and lack of political will are prevalent which hinder the efforts of the international community in places where this food aid is needed. Most states in the region prefer international support to be economical in nature, with interventionism being strongly opposed by many in the region. Being a very export-heavy region the restructuring and recreation of independent and reliable governments and agricultural systems is high on the agenda, as has a long history in the region itself.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

With an incredibly large range of natural, economic and social diversity, the problems the region faces need solutions as equally diverse. Whilst ECA countries have experienced tremendous success from the 1990s to 2015, it is clear that the lessons that peace in the region have taught could easily be useful in this topic. Still conflict rages in some areas such as Syria with incredibly harsh consequences on the people. The establishment of national strategies on security programs should be consulted and more cooperation with regional and bilateral organisations serves many countries well. Searching for how these organisations help tackle the four pillars of food security (availability, access, utilization and stability) should be the most important to look at.

Latin American and Caribbean

This region encompasses some of the largest agricultural systems in the world, all of which have served well to reduce the amount of food insecurity the region has faced. With immense conflicts over the past decades the area has worked together in order to reconcile its differences and restore peace to the area. Nations here should put great emphasis on the need for an efficient and custom agricultural system that works for all, no matter what the conditions. The state plays a strong role in many of these systems in the region and so looking at the transition states took away from international dependency is something delegates would do well to inquire.

Western Europe and Others

Lastly this region has provided huge support to lots of states tackling this issue, but it should also look more strongly as to how they can wean states away from dependency and towards their own efficient non-corrupt agricultural systems. Being in a fortuitous position of relative wealth the position many here take should be of sharing, not lecturing. It is easy to fall into a privileged trap of a western nation, yet the UN takes a strong stance against this, and delegates should too. Without a doubt there is a lot of help these countries can give, so working out how best to supply this through international coalitions will be of top priority.

Research topics to focus on

- Empowering civilians in conflict zones
- Possible solutions within the political framework of conflict zones
- Specific actions the international community can take to defend food aid
- Introducing the private sector into the issue
- Restarting effective agricultural systems in post-conflict zones
- Protecting vulnerable people and their access to food aid





Further Reading

- Food and Agriculture Organization, *“Hunger in conflict zones continues to intensify”*
<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1099260/icode/>
- UN News: *“Hunger continues to intensify in conflict zones, UN agencies report to the Security Council”*
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/01/1001471>
- Ellen Messer, *“Conflict as a cause of hunger”*
<http://archive.unu.edu/unupress/unupbooks/uu22we/uu22we0j.htm>
- Clemens Breisinger, Olivier Ecker, and Jean Francois Trinh Tan, *“Global Food policy report”. Chapter7: Conflict and food insecurity*
https://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/gfpr/2015/feature_3086.html
- Food and Agriculture organization: *FAO Welcomes UN Security Council Recognition of Conflict-Famine Link*
<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1029956/icode/>
- Encyclopaedia for Food and Culture, *“Food as a weapon of war”*
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/food/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/food-weapon-war>
- Food and Agriculture organization: *Peace, Conflict and Food security*
[http://asvis.it/public/asvis/files/a-i5521e\(1\).pdf](http://asvis.it/public/asvis/files/a-i5521e(1).pdf)
- Ellen Messer and Marc. J. Cohen, *FCND Discussion Paper 206: “Conflict, Food Insecurity, and Globalization”*
<https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/55898/2/fcndp206.pdf>
- UN Press, *“Security Council Should Play Greater Role in Breaking Link between Hunger, Conflict, Stresses Under-Secretary-General, World Food Programme Head”*
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13262.doc.htm>
- UN agriculture agency, *Conflicts, drought drive hunger despite strong global food supply*



<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/12/conflicts-drought-drive-hunger-despite-strong-global-food-supply-un-agriculture-agency/>

