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SECRETARIAT GENERAL.....WILLIAM WALSH, BRYAN SOLER
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FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION

TOPIC 1: ACQUISITION OF FOOD IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY
TOPIC 2: CONSERVING AND DISTRIBUTING CLEAN WATER
CHAIR: PAUL MLODGENSKI
CO-CHAIR: CHRISTIAN LEE

Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of all of this year's staff, we would like to welcome to Fifth Annual Christian Brothers Academy Model United Nations Conference! We are Paul Mlodgenski and Christian Lee, your Chair and Co-Chair. The Food and Agricultural Organization is a critical committee within the greater United Nations and we hope you display its importance during this conference. Enabling access to sanitary water and maintaining access to a stable food supply is a current focus within the United Nations. As such, our conference will be taking place during the present year. We have provided the following information as a general summary to the plethora of information found within the topics and information surrounding our committee. Even though this prepared guide provides these issues in historical context, delegates are required to prepare additional research to have success during our conference. Delegates will be challenged to research current solutions to the issues presented in this background guide. We hope you will be prepared with primary and secondary sources of research for your reference use. As a conclusion to our preparations, we are enthusiastic about the information you will bring this November. Our goal is to provide an engaging, informational debate that encourages participation in Model UN beyond your years in middle school. If you have any questions regarding committee procedure or your country's role, feel free to email either of us. We would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Paul Mlodgenski - Chair, Christian Brothers Academy '18

(pmlodgenski18@cbastudents.org)

Christian Lee - Co-Chair, Christian Brothers Academy '20

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History of FAO

The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations emerged in 1943 when forty-four governments sought a permanent organization to ensure stability for people in regards to hunger, access to clean water, and various other human needs. In 1945, the first true session of the FAO was held in Quebec City, Canada. For the next 47 years, all the following meetings would lay the foundation for possible solutions to the ambitious goals of the FAO. Nearly fifty years later, in 1992, the FAO gathered for their first global conference. Devoted to addressing the world's nutrition problems, all governments involved made a pledge to explore the issues of hunger. In this mock committee session, your country's commitment to that pledge made 25 years ago will be tested.

Topic 1: Acquisition of Food in the Twenty-First Century

With an increasing global population, food in the twenty-first century is hard to obtain in some parts of the world. Some of the numerous goals of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations include: the eradication of hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition, as well as, the elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all people. The FAO seeks to fix current issues around the world. Three specific ways it is trying to fix global problems are sustaining the future of agriculture, finding solutions for the reduction of food, ensuring sustainable fishing practices, and protecting South Sudan's livestock.

To increase access to food for future generations, the FAO has taken an aggressive approach in the future of agriculture. The FAO states, “By merging the priorities and work plans of different government departments, the approach brought together programmes that were never connected before.”¹ This demonstrates that the FAO is attempting to merge visceral efforts on a common goal. If the cooperating governments make a united effort, agricultural future can be seen in a better light. An example of the FAO’s achievements is the building of a marketplace highlighting local produce. Local markets promote economic stability in the immediate area. Additionally, when goods are imported, it presents multiple issues because it can not only be expensive, but the products risk being damaged.

Furthermore, an additional approach the FAO is taking to fight hunger and agriculture instability is to ensure sustainability in the fishing industry. For example, with the help of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the FAO has made critical ideas that may finalize the important rules of fishing commercially. For instance, “It is increasingly about ensuring that the food that is produced is consumed or utilized, or in the case of fishing, that the fish that are caught are eaten. Anything that a fisher does not intend to catch but that still ends up in the net or gear, is a perfect example of a potential loss of food and natural resources that can be turned into a gain with the right practices and management.” Fishermen waste substantial amounts of fish. This could deprive much needed nourishment. *Delegate Tip: How do commercial fishing practices affect your nation? Would your*

¹ “Sustaining the Future of Agriculture in the Land of a Thousand Hills.” *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*, www.fao.org/in-action/sustaining-future-agriculture-in-rwanda/en/.

2. “Protecting Livestock of Internally Displaced Families in Sudan.” *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*, www.fao.org/in-action/protecting-livestock-of-internally-displaced-families-in-sudan/en/.

3. “Solutions for Reducing Food Loss and Ensuring Sustainable Fishing Livelihoods.” *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*, www.fao.org/in-action/bycatch-solutions-latin-america-caribbean/en/.

nation benefit from different regulations relating to commercial fishing? Does your nation suffer from ships from other nations taking fish from your waters (in your exclusive economic zone)?

Moreover, the FAO is fighting hunger by protecting livestock of families, for example, in Sudan the Sudanese government and the FAO have both distributed a sum of money to vaccinate and feed the malnourished livestock. This program was “made possible thanks to a US\$ 400,000 grant from United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which allowed the provision of supplementary feed and vaccines for the livestock of newly displaced people in Sortony and Tawilla. The distribution of the animal aliment was overseen by members of newly established camp committees, comprised of ten IDP beneficiaries from the two IDP camps.” Raising healthier livestock can improvement their market value. In summation, there are many solutions to world hunger and agriculture problems. One of numerous solutions includes helping agricultural problems in foreign nations. Another example is assisting the fishing industry prevent bycatch- the unwanted fish and other marine creatures caught during commercial fishing for a different species. As a delegate, you will be challenged to research and delve deeper into other solutions of the FAO.

Topic 2: Conserving and Distributing Clean Water

With the world’s population rising, more and more people require access to clean water. However, our consumption of water is increasing at an even greater rate. Since 1940, the world’s population has doubled, but our water usage has quadrupled. Water usage is required for drinking, sanitation, agricultural, commercial, and hygiene purposes. Water is even used for recreation and religious purposes. Seventy percent of our water is used for agricultural purposes, with 26 gallons required to grow one pound of cherry tomatoes.

Water is used for virtually all industries on Earth, therefore most commercial production companies depend on a clean stable water supply. Water is naturally recycled, but contaminated water is become more prevalent in current times.

Clean water is a requirement for all individuals, however, its availability is not widespread. Eight hundred forty-four million people, one in ten, do not have a stable access to clean water. Eight hundred children under five die every day from the effects of contaminated and unsanitary water. Nearly one half of all patients currently in hospitals are suffering from illness spread through water. At current rates of progress, all people living in countries below the global poverty line, will be unable to access clean water until 2039. Around the world, 31% of schools provide unsanitary water to their students. Life expectancy rates are significantly lower in developing countries without a sanitary water supply. Contagious disease, spread through the bacterial infested waterways, kills millions each year.



A stable sanitary water supply is an economic benefit to a majority of nations. Significant wealth rides upon the water industry.

Water is sold as a grocery in bottled form and is used in the production and growth of nearly all food products. However, one third of what the world spends on bottled water would pay for clean water for 780 million people without access. Governments can also benefit from stable supplies of clean water, for they receive capital through sewer taxes. These taxes can be used to improve underdeveloped sewers and water treatment plants. This issue is ongoing, lasting from prehistory to

modern times. Statistics show that more people own a cell phone than have access to clean water from a sanitation plant.

The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations works with countries around the world ensuring that water is used in a responsible way, and that irrigation does not negatively affect the surrounding environment. In efforts to protect water quality, the FAO has enacted legislations banning toxic substances from areas surrounding water and the disposal of litter in waterways. Despite these regulations, the problem is ongoing. Water continues to become polluted, specifically with plastics. Plastics photodegrade, meaning they break down into smaller particles known as nurdles, but never completely decompose. These particles are microscopic and are present in some drinking waters and are consumed by aquatic organisms. Due to this issue, pollution water enters the human body.

The FAO has been continually working toward solving many of the current issues regarding water and the hydrologic cycle. For example, per capita availability of sources of freshwater in North Africa and the Middle East has drastically plummeted, a two-thirds reduction, over the past forty years. Environmentalists and environmental scientists have shared their concern over the degradation of water quality and its impact on global climate change. To improve current standings, in June 2013 the FAO has launched the pilot phase initiative, affecting Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia and Yemen. This initiative has reviewed the current standing of water accessibility and usage, as well as the potential for additional agriculturalization. The action plan planned to identify, rank, and study food supply in relation to its water-requirement costs, examining the performance of farming irrigation management and politics on environmental impacts.

Questions to Consider:

Will my nation be providing aid or receiving it?

If receiving, how can my nation convince other members that aid is necessary?

What is the state of my nation regarding the two issues presented above?

How has my nation worked to solve these issues?

How can my nation work to eradicate hunger?

Is it the responsibility of government to ensure water quality?

Should commercial fishing be more regulated? How so?

How can pollution and disposal be regulated to protect waterways?

How can individual nations protect water quality?

Suggested Reading

<http://www.fao.org/north-america/fao-in-north-america/about-us/en/>

<http://www.fao.org/partnerships/en/>

<http://www.fao.org/themes/en/>

<http://www.fao.org/about/en/>

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/en/>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1955FAO.pdf>

Works Cited

<http://www.fao.org/about/en/>

<http://www.wateraid.org/what-we-do/the-crisis/statistics>

https://thewaterproject.org/water-scarcity/water_stats

Good luck researching, we look forward to seeing you at the conference!