

Valdosta State University Model United Nations Conference General Assembly Plenary Background Guide

Delegates,

We are excited to welcome you to the 2020 Valdosta State University Model United Nations High School Conference! Thank you for your participation at this annual gathering for students who value cooperation and international approaches to solving world issues. My name is Kayla Henneberry, and I am a senior Political Science major at Valdosta State University minoring in Economics and pursuing a certificate in European Union Studies. Model United Nations has been a hallmark of my collegiate career; no other experience fully encapsulates the importance of public speaking, teamwork, and the intricate details of world affairs and the United Nations. I'm excited to follow the work you do in committee and read what solutions you come up with your fellow delegates.

The General Assembly is the core organ of the United Nations (UN) and deliberates on issues pertaining to international peace and security. They meet at the UN headquarters from September to December to discuss solutions to the world's most pressing issues. Each country is given one vote in proceedings. Founded in 1945, the General Assembly is the hallmark of diplomatic efforts represented by the UN as a whole.

The topics for the General Assembly Plenary are:

- I. Strengthening the Provision of Humanitarian Aid After Natural Disasters
- II. Protecting the Rights of Journalists and Freedom of the Press
- III. Creating Sustainable Agriculture in Developing Countries

The first topic discusses the importance of countries receiving aid from regional and UN agencies in the aftermath of natural disasters to aid in the distribution of resources and care for victims. The second topic provides an in depth look at the importance of a free press and how it is key to a healthy and functioning democracy. Lastly, the third topic highlights the role agriculture plays in the economy, especially in developing countries, and the tools that must be utilized to ensure the sector thrives.

This background guide should give you ample information to sufficiently prepare for conference. I wish you luck studying the topics for conference and look forward to seeing your hard work pay off March 4th.

Sincerely,
Hayley Bird
Erika Chukwura
Kayla Henneberry
Nick Hulfeld
Emily Johnson
Alexis Smith

General Assembly Plenary: History

The Charter of the United Nations, written in 1945, details the importance of the General Assembly (GA) as a central policymaking organ of the United Nations under Chapter IV. The Charter of the United Nations gives the General Assembly the authority to:

- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States;
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General;
- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament;
- Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it;
- Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields;
- Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among countries;
- Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs. (CITE)

One-hundred ninety-three Member States participate in the GA, each equipped with one vote. The GA sets standards of international norms and arranges the regulation of international laws. Among the powers of the General Assembly listed in the Charter of the United Nations is its ability to commence meaningful action to aid regions of the world suffering from human rights violations, war-torn areas, and nations negatively affected by natural disasters or climate change.

A key role the GA plays is electing the ten non-permanent members of the Security Council. The original five members of the Security Council (the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Russia, and China) have veto power, meaning they are able to throw out a draft resolution with a simple no vote even if the rest of the Security Council votes in favor of it. However, the non-permanent members of the Security Council play an important role in maintaining the credibility of the institution; hence, the General Assembly's choice is of the consequence.

One of the hallmark events held by the General Assembly has historically been the “General Debate.” Held at the United Nations’ headquarters in New York City, New York, the General Debate brings together a host of influential world leaders to discuss their country’s stances on any given issue and the relationship their nation has with the UN. The General Debate this past year was held from September 24th-30th and its theme was: “Galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion.” The theme sets the tone for the negotiation and diplomacy that follows during the session.

One of the most recent notable accomplishments by the General Assembly was the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. Of the seventeen goals decided upon, the objectives include no poverty, gender equality, affordable and clean energy, and climate action by 2030. The SDG’s are often cited when discussing the work the UN does on any given issue.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, set in 1948, is another key framework and accomplishment produced by the General Assembly. This declaration has aided in the UN’s determination of what does and does not constitute as human rights. Additionally, it has provided many countries with a gauge as to what should and should not occur in a healthy society.

The General Assembly has a long and healthy history of providing landmark documents to the UN and making significant changes in the way we view international order. Moving forward the General Assembly hopes to continue to make progress on the issues that come before them in session at the United Nations.

I. Strengthening the Provision of Humanitarian Aid After Natural Disasters

“While natural disasters capture headlines and national attention short-term, the work of recovery and rebuilding is long-term.” Sylvia Matthews Burwell

Introduction & History

Natural disasters can come in many forms and cause overwhelming destruction in its wake. How regions recover from severe natural disasters is key to watch, as the economy and social structure are sure to suffer. The United Nations ensures that civilians affected have water, food, and shelter, among other important resources. The UN sends aid through multiple agencies.

In 2001, the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction was set for the second Wednesday in October to galvanize awareness and strategic thinking on methods to aid those suffering in the wake of natural disasters. The *International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction* embraces mechanisms to implement in disaster-prone countries to allow aid into disaster zones quicker than ever before. Additionally, this legislation detailed strategies to clean the environment in hopes of reducing the number of natural disasters over time. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) keeps track of the work done by

different committees within the UN, UN agencies, regional actors, and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to strengthen humanitarian aid in the aftermath of natural disasters.

Under the United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) plays an important role in the international emergency response system. UNDAC typically deploys during the first phase of a disaster within forty-eight hours. Once UN agencies deploy to a disaster zone, the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in the area play a key role in ensuring resources are found quickly and civilians are swiftly helped. UNDAC's preparedness, specifically when it comes to earthquakes and other natural disasters, is encouraged by General Assembly Resolution 57/150 (2002) which focuses on making search and rescue missions more effective.

As a natural disaster hits one part of the world, OCHA monitors all responses made within the UN. Various agencies implement strategies to aid in the immediate aftermath of a tragedy. However, it is critical that the UN stay in these regions to help those affected rebuild their infrastructure. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) created the Early Recovery Cluster that hones in on the devastation of long-term damage and humanitarian needs after natural disasters.

Background Information

From damaging hurricanes to massive wildfires, climate change has been the main factor in these destructive disasters. Natural disasters are events that cause great damage or loss of life. Floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, hurricanes, wildfires and droughts are all considered natural disasters. There are many countries that experience such atrocities and don't have the necessary funds or aid to help with the aftermath. Natural Disasters have always been a damaging situation that can displace families from each other at times of such tragedy. Nations like Haiti that experience 7.0 magnitude earthquakes and strong hurricanes have a hard time in the recovery process, due to communications being limited from the 2010 earthquake. Haiti is more prepared 9 years post-earthquake, but had the nation had a better aid system for post disaster, it would not have taken 9 years to rebuild. A category 5 hurricane can affect a whole population and cause a negative impact on those families who were not prepared or did not evacuate. Natural Disasters can cause homelessness to families who lost everything and don't have the funds to rebuild, as well as causing a huge public health scare. Post natural disaster, many countries who are struggling to regain their infrastructure back are most likely to have an impact on different health issues.

The United Nations created 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SGD), goals 6, 11, and 13 all relating to natural disasters. Goal 6 is focused on Clean Water and Sanitation. The most important goal for any country is to have safe and clean water for all citizens. After a natural disaster occurs, the quality of water can become poor and have a huge impact on families who depend on accessibility to clean water. Goal 11 ensures that sustainable cities and communities are well prepared for any challenges that comes their way. Cities that are growing rapidly experience air pollution, waste within the cities, poverty and other factors that the city has to

consider. When a disaster hits a city that is underdeveloped, they have to carefully make a strategic plan on what to do post disaster. Cities must be able to have humanitarian aid on standby in case of any destructions to infrastructure. Goal 13 focuses on Climate Action. Climate change is a strong factor when it comes to natural disasters. With weather patterns constantly changing, climate change has a vast effect on the way natural disasters play out.

Natural disasters are completely out of human control, and for those who are affected by such a disaster, they will experience different consequences. In most countries, it can take years to redevelop. There are certain risk factors that are taken into consideration. Those who are prone to experiencing natural disasters should consider prevention plans, preparedness strategies, and relief plans for how to better assist those affected after the natural disaster has occurred. The United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) is an international response system for those countries that experience emergency disasters. It is a free assistance that any country can use on a short notice. UNDAC meets annually to discuss how the funds are used and different strategies in times of a natural disaster. Humanitarian aid efforts are vital to manmade and natural disasters. People want to ensure that they will be taken care of in times of emergencies. Humanitarian aid is defined as assistance to people who need help, whether that is short term or long term. The UN tackles many humanitarian issues at the forefront and are always prepared when an immediate emergency takes place. Humanitarian aid is a safeguard for many nations and a key to making sure that post natural disaster that there is immediate action to address disease outbreak, family displacement, homelessness, etc.

Current Situation

As stated earlier, every year all throughout the world, natural disasters such as hurricanes, tsunamis, wildfires, flash floods, and earthquakes devastate thousands of people. These sporadic natural acts come with harmful and destructive consequences for many nations around the globe.

The United Nations defines a natural disaster as “the consequences of events triggered by natural hazards that overwhelm local response capacity and severely affect the social and economic development of a region.” Throughout history millions of people have been severely injured or even lost their lives due to a natural disaster. In 2018 alone, hundreds of thousands of people were either killed, injured, or displaced because of a devastating natural disaster. The 2018 top 10 deadliest natural disasters go as follows:

1. Indonesia: Tsunami- 2783 deaths
2. Indonesia: Earthquake- 468 deaths
3. Guatemala: Volcanic Eruption- 425 deaths
4. India: Floods- 361 deaths
5. Japan: Floods- 220 deaths
6. Nigeria: Floods- 200 deaths

7. Pakistan: Heat Wave- 180 deaths
8. North Korea: Floods- 151 deaths
9. Papua New Guinea: Earthquake- 145 deaths
10. Greece: Wildfires- 126 deaths

Through just these 10 events, over 5,000 people have lost their lives. Situations such as these devastating natural events are not taken lightly. Many countries throughout the world viewed these catastrophes as a major issue and knew it must be handled and brought to the forefront immediately. For these reasons the United Nations created The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). This office is a part of the UN Secretariat and is responsible for aiding nations in times of emergency. The way in which this is handled is through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. This committee's members are from the UN bodies who are most responsible for supplying the emergency relief funding. The UN also created the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) which is managed by OCHA. As time has progressed, it has become one of the most efficient and effective ways to give humanitarian aid during crises caused by natural disasters. It is capable of this through voluntary contributions given to the CERF thus distributing humanitarian aid throughout the world.

There are other great programs, agencies, and funds that help combat the pressing issues that follow natural disasters. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) coordinates actions on an international level to protect refugees and help resolve refugee problems across the globe. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has been able to help children around the world survive large threats on their lives and encourage governments to protect children at all costs. A few other highly efficient and helpful programs are the World Food Program (WFP) which aids natural disaster victims by providing food supplies and the World Health Organization which is in charge of the international response to humanitarian health emergencies. Through progressive programs such as these the world has been able to help with aiding those affected by natural disasters.

UN Actions to Date

One of the United Nations main goals is to shape the future through humanitarian efforts. Natural Disasters are prone to disrupting people's lifestyles. There are many actions the United Nations is implementing to ensure of a healthy and safe lifestyle post natural disaster.

The United Nations General Assembly has adopted A/RES/72/132, which focuses on humanitarian assistance post natural disasters from relief to development. This resolution was designed for all Member States to have international cooperation when it comes time for either manmade or natural disaster. Because of this resolution, the UN is ready to handle the outcome of any disaster, whether an infectious disease or helping the rural and urban communities in the developing world that experience harsh impacts post disaster.

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is a highly effective way to help with humanitarian assistance to those who are in a crisis. This fund is able to act quickly and

efficiently at any time when a country is going through a disaster. This UN led fund is able to plan out operations with the necessary funds. Over \$5.5 billion was delivered to the fund to help assist over 100 countries and territories.

The office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) comes from the GA Resolution 46/182 in 1991. OCHA ensures Member States have the resources to prepare rapid and critical responses for those affected by natural disasters and other emergencies. Throughout all of their preparedness for emergencies, their main goal is to ensure that the people who are affected receive assistance and protection as soon as possible.

The United Nations stresses the fact that they are ready for Member States to work together to ensure each nation's safety post-natural disaster. The UN is currently addressing the ever growing threat of climate change and its huge effect on the intensity of natural disasters worldwide.

Committee Directive/Questions to Consider

Since this topic is of the utmost importance and critical for human survival, we strongly encourage all Member States to make collaborative efforts to conquer this pressing issue. The horrifying and devastating effects natural disasters have on nations is disheartening and tragic. We urge Member States to focus their efforts to strengthen provisions for humanitarian aid after natural disasters, and further create policies as well as organizations that could help these nations recover from these tragedies. No nation's people should suffer because of natural disasters. Some critical questions to consider would be: What other types of organizations could aid nations affected by natural disasters? How can the UN better fund such organizations? Could more committees be created to further help aid those affected by natural disasters? How would said committees be funded? What policies or resolutions could be considered to increase humanitarian aid for those affected by natural disasters?

II. Protecting the Rights of Journalists and Freedom of the Press

Introduction & History

The United Nations (UN) recognizes freedom of the press and information to be the foundations of democracy, development and communication as well as the foundation necessary to protect human rights. In correlation to these beliefs, the General Assembly (GA) created the agency known as the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on November 16th, 1945. UNESCO is responsible for following all topics debated within the GA with a deliberate focus on education, culture, science, communication, information and prioritize the protection of journalists.

Journalists are at high risk for being attacked, harassed, detained, wrongfully imprisoned or killed while carrying out their work. The UN chief stated that "when journalists are targeted, societies as a whole pay a price" as "no democracy is complete without press freedom".

Since 1992, with the protection of free press in mind, UNESCO has developed close relations with a wide range of international media organizations and press freedom advocacy groups. While developing these relationships, UNESCO implemented the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), an organization that prioritizes “defending and promoting freedom of expression as a fundamental human right”. In 1993, the GA declared May 3rd as “World Press Freedom Day” with the intention to bring more awareness to terrifying realities faced by journalists.

The UN, UNESCO, as well as professional organizations and independent local media, will continue to strive to provide and defend the accessibility of non-partisan information and the values of peaceful coexistence. In order to promote and protect democracy and human rights, protecting the rights of journalists and freedom of the press is essential.

Background Information

Journalists are often the targets of brutal violence and intimidation for exerting their fundamental right to freedom of expression. All over the world, journalists become the victims of murder, kidnapping, harassment, arbitrary detention and torture. Female journalists are also specifically at risk of sexual assault. Journalists also face abuse and harassment online through hate speech and exposure of private information. Over 90% of journalist’s murders are never solved, and this impunity is perhaps the largest obstacle when it comes to protecting journalists. These crimes are often left uninvestigated due to fear of retribution from criminal networks, weak judicial systems, lack of political and capital resources towards local law enforcement, and government corruption. There is also the issue of censorship, which stifles the voice of journalists, and can distort the intent of their work. Many journalists feel that they must avoid certain topics in order to protect themselves from becoming victims of the aforementioned crimes. Government surveillance of emails, telephone conversations, text messaging, makes researching controversial topics difficult for journalists in parts of the world where they do not have protections. A 2017 survey by the Council of Europe found that 15% of investigative journalists abandon covering sensitive, yet crucial topics, while 31% tone down coverage, and 23% withhold information for fear of violence against them in Europe.

Despite these obstacles, committed journalists still work to report on injustices with the intent of exposing truths.

Current Situation

Just over the last 10 years more than 1,000 journalists have been killed while carrying out their work as journalists. Many of the people that committed these crimes were not accountable for their actions. Non-democratic governments oversee strict control to access information, as it is critical to keep power over their people. The freedom of the press is based on Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers."

Upholding the right to freedom of expression is one of the bedrocks of society and is crucial for advancing democracy, development and peace.

The United Nations created an agency that specifically deals with freedom of expression, freedom of speech and freedom of information. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) knows that these rights are a fundamental foundation for the future. As this organization supports independent journalists and journalism. UNESCO fights for trying to put resources into legal and regulatory legislation when it comes to the freedom of the press and expression on the internet. Only 10 percent of journalists' murders between 2006-2016 have been officially resolved according to the most recent World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development Report published by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its partners. Forty-five percent of the population lives in countries where the media environment is controlled and is not free to report. The world's 10 worst-rated countries and territories were Azerbaijan, Crimea, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Syria, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The freedom of the media globally is further threatened by the rise of the internet. Online content is being controlled by a handful of internet companies whose processes "lack transparency", commercial pressure on news providers has led to redundancies and cuts in investment, and the "vast majority" of countries, including China, restrict access to a range of websites. Many elected leaders used the lack of freedom of the press for their own benefit such as Russia's Vladimir Putin, Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and many socialist Presidents of Venezuela, Ecuador, and Bolivia, who use their power to intimidate independent journalists and make it nearly impossible for them to function. A report found that 259 journalists were jailed last year and 79 were killed. Areas of concern include the vulnerability of journalists reporting on or criticizing the "war on drugs" in the Philippines, Mexico and Honduras, and intimidation and malicious charges against opposing voices to the Erdogan regime in Turkey. The rise of many elected leaders, Vladimir Putin from Russia, Recep Erogan from Turkey and other leaders from Venezuela, Ecuador, and Bolivia use their power to intimidate independent journalists and make it difficult to spread news. Seven of the 10 most censored countries-Eritrea, Ethiopia, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, Iran, China, and Myanmar-are also among the top 10 worst jailers of journalists worldwide, according to CPJ's annual prison census. Many countries that control the media also have control of the internet and who has access to a cellphone. Also, the government uses intimidation to censor journalists and implements laws such as Ethiopia's 2009 anti-terrorism law, which criminalizes any reporting that authorities deem to "encourage" or "provide moral support" to banned groups, has been levied against many of the 17 journalists in jail there. Vietnam uses a vague law against "abusing democratic freedom" to jail bloggers, and Myanmar relies on its 1923 Official Secrets Act to prevent critical reporting on its military.

UN Actions to Date

Since 2012, the United Nations has passed 12 resolutions regarding the safety of journalists.

In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/68/163, which officially declared November 2nd the *International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against*

Journalists. The intention of proclaiming this international holiday was to promote a broader understanding of the issue of impunity and to encourage an international commitment to ensuring a safer worldwide environment for journalists to practice their work.

The safety of journalists is also mentioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Goal 16 outlines the need for peaceful and inclusive societies, which requires access to justice for all.

In December 2015, the General Assembly passed resolution A/70/125 which recognized serious threats to freedom of expression, calling for the protection of journalists and other media workers.

Resolutions A/69/28, A/HRC/30/68, and A/72/290 focus on producing reports on impunity and journalist safety.

Committee Directive/Questions to Consider

Delegates, with this critical topic, we encourage fellow Member States to work together to help create ways to help increase the freedom of journalists and the press around the world. When it comes to getting information out for fellow citizens it is critical for people to get the truth. Member States are strongly advised to create laws to help stop the violence against independent journalists and holding the government to a standard of not intervening with the press. Should further findings of governments censoring or interfering with journalists and the press be penalized by the United Nations? What policies could be made to improve on this issue? In what ways will you make sure the rights of journalists are protected? What policies or laws will be implemented to keep the government and its leaders from censoring the press?

III. Creating Sustainable Agriculture in Developing Countries

Introduction & History

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) defines sustainable agriculture as “the management and conservation of the natural resource base, and the orientation of technological and institutional change in such a manner as to ensure the attainment and continued satisfaction of human needs for the present and future generations”. Ever since the General Assembly was established in 1945, the UN has prioritized the goal to “achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.”

With this goal in mind, the GA focuses on improving the overall well-being of people in society, in other words, sustainable development. As the world has advanced, the definition of sustainable development has followed suit; Member States have agreed to expand the general term to include “development that promotes economic prosperity and economic opportunity, greater social well-being, and protection of the environment”. Extreme poverty is defined by

the UN as “a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information”, therefore, extreme poverty does not only depend on income but also on access to services. The World Bank refers to extreme poverty making less than \$1.90 a day. Two decades ago, almost 40 percent of people in the global south were classified to be living in extreme poverty.

In reaction to this statistic, the UN implemented the Minimum Development Goals which was a significant contributor to cutting the amount of people classified as living in extreme poverty by half. The UN did not stop there; the UN adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the intention to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. At the Sustainable Development Summit in 2015 the United Nations launched 2015 Time for Global Action for People and Planet. This commitment acknowledges climate change as a major threat to sustainable development and the well-being of people living in extreme poverty. The UN’s agriculture agency chief stated that there will be “no sustainable future without eradicating poverty and hunger,” climate change will negatively impact many regions of the world--hitting countries located in the southern hemisphere the hardest. The UN has estimated that the world must be able to produce 50 percent more food, compared to 2012, by 2050. In order to meet the expectation held for food supplies, climate change must be on the forefront. The Director-General stated: “unless we take urgent action to combat climate change, we can expect to see a very different global picture. Developing and implementing policies that shift global agricultural production onto a more sustainable path, protect the most vulnerable countries and regions... will be key if we are to see a world free of hunger and malnutrition by 2030”; many steps have been taken by the UN to positively influence sustainable agriculture in developing countries--but the work is not even remotely finished.

Background Information

The goal of sustainable agriculture is to meet humanity’s needs for food and textiles without jeopardizing the ability of subsequent generations to meet their own needs. There are three objectives to sustainable agriculture: a healthy environment, economic profitability, and social & fiscal equity. There are several methods employed by people participating in sustainable agriculture. For farmers, it is important to improve soil health, reduce water use, and lower pollution levels on their farms. Companies that choose to pursue sustainable agricultural production should place focus on the wellbeing of their farmworkers, environmentally friendly farming methods, and strengthening their local economies.

The consequences of modern and traditional agricultural techniques include: groundwater contamination, topsoil depletion, degradation of rural communities, poor conditions for farmworkers, and increased production costs. The decline of several ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia, the Mediterranean region, pre-Columbian southwest North America, and Central America was largely caused by natural resource degradation from non-sustainable farming and forestry practices. The most frequent issues involving water quality are the salinization and contamination of water by pesticides, nitrates, and selenium. There is also the issue of disturbing natural riparian habitats within watersheds, which can decimate wildlife through erosion, sedimentation, the effects of pesticides, removal of riparian plants, and the disruption of the natural flow of water.

Proper soil management is key to healthy and sustainable agriculture. Crop management systems that damage the quality of soil often have a greater need for water, nutrients, pesticides, and energy in order to maintain normal growth. Soil that is kept healthy will produce plants that are stronger, produce higher yields, and are less susceptible to pests. Methods to protect and strengthen soil include using cover crops, compost, and reducing tillage.

Land is a finite resource. As the world's human population continues to grow exponentially, it's important for farmers to focus on reducing the amount of land that they use, while still maximizing production.

Sustainable agriculture is crucial to creating a thriving, healthy future for the planet.

Current Situation

The current situation pertaining agriculture over the decades is very complex. The ability to meet the demand for food and agricultural systems need to become more productive rather than wasteful. There is critical need to provide decent amount of income for farmers and ensuring fruitful wages are earned. A healthy agricultural industry creates more jobs in rural areas and upholds labor standards. It also provides other ecoservices such as water provisions, maintaining soil fertility, and other resources. The UN encourages Member States to become less dependent on fossil fuels in order to attain sustainable agricultural systems.

Increasing the levels of investment in agricultural research is a key step to help the development in technological and diverse practices when it comes to sustainable agriculture. Having a variety of crops and different breeding stocks will help enable farmers to deal with changes in production and weather and environmental changes in the future. By creating a set of requirements for these policies, farmers will be incentivized, and agricultural businesses that will adopt consistent technological practices. A key observation of the 2009 International Assessment on Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) is that "agriculture operates within complex social, economic and environmental systems and so should be seen as multifunctional in its nature". Creating sustainable agriculture can be a diverse thing not only in food production but also in social issues when it comes to land, resources and local markets.

There are many different opinions when it comes to sustainable agricultural strategies or technological solutions therefore much of the blueprint when it comes to these solutions for sustainable agriculture is based on the "Agenda 21". The outcome of the Rio Earth Summit of 1992, in which nations acknowledged: "Major adjustments are needed in agricultural, environmental and macroeconomic policy, at both national and international levels, in developed as well as developing countries, to create the conditions for sustainable agriculture and rural development (SARD). The major objective of SARD is to increase food production in a sustainable way and enhance food security." This is something that can help many issues when it comes to creating sustainable Agriculture today. The United Nations has helped with this issue by one of the Sustainable Development goals "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture" (SDG2). The SDGs recognize

the inter linkages among supporting sustainable agriculture, empowering small farmers, promoting gender equality, ending rural poverty, ensuring healthy lifestyles, and tackling climate change.

UN Actions to Date

The development of sustainable agriculture in developing countries is a very significant situation that the UN takes seriously. There have been many actions that the United Nations has implemented for developing countries to access sustainable agriculture:

The UN has created 17 Sustainable Development Goals, otherwise known as SDG's, to promote the 2030 Agenda and endorse a healthy and peaceful life for people around the world. The 2030 Agenda was adopted by all UN Member States in 2015. Goal number 2 is Sustainable Development to end hunger and achieve food security. This goal is to help world leaders come together and ensure that every person has access to safe food choices. The United Nations uses the 2030 agenda to work alongside various governments and businesses to continue create plans for food systems and agriculture that can have easy access for people and the planet.

In 2012, the Zero Hunger Challenge was introduced at the World Conference on Sustainable Development. The objective of this conference is to work towards a hunger free world within a generation. This organization plans to have 100% adequate access to food all year round, have zero loss or waste of food and ensuring all food systems are sustainable,

World Food Programme (WFP) is another NGO that makes sure they have the necessary assistance in providing over 80 million people in 80 countries, while also responding to emergencies. The goal of WFP is to save lives and change lives, all while fighting world hunger in developing countries. World Food Programme partners with over 1,000 national and international NGO's in providing food assistance and handling the main issues of hunger.

The United Nations also works closely with the World Bank to discuss their achieved results. The World Bank consists of 189 member countries that come together to discuss sustainable solutions to reduce poverty and increase prosperity in developing countries. The main goal is to to end extreme poverty and increase incomes to 40% of people in every country.

The United Nations works closely with the above organizations and many more in order to fight for sustainable agriculture in developing countries. The UN has passed several resolutions on ways for fellow Member States to work together to end world hunger. Nations should continue to have conventions, meetings, create initiatives, etc. to promote a healthy lifestyle and make sure that people in developing countries are gaining the necessary nutrition that are needed to survive.

Committee Directive/Questions to Consider

Taking into consideration the importance of this topic, we appeal to all Member States to collectively combine forces to find sustainable solutions to the pressing issue of creating sustainable agriculture in developing countries. Due to sustainable agriculture being a highly important topic, it should be addressed and treated as such. We implore Member States to dig deep to come up with fresh ideas, policies and ultimately solutions to address countries current agricultural needs without subjecting future generations need. Member States should join together to find solutions that will keep the environment healthy, promote a profitable economy, as well as social and fiscal equity. Bearing this in mind, we urge Member States to ponder questions such as; What types of programs could be established to promote better sustainable agriculture in developing countries? How can the UN help developing countries fund better programs? What can be done to incentivise developing nations to invest in better agricultural methods? How will developing nations gain access to better technologies to promote sustainable agriculture?

Resources

History of the General Assembly

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml>

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/09/what-is-the-un-general-assembly-and-what-does-it-do/>

I. Strengthening the Provision of Humanitarian Aid After Natural Disasters

<https://research.un.org/en/disaster/un-resources>

<http://www.un-spider.org/risks-and-disasters/the-un-and-disaster-management>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2004/ga10295.doc.htm>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/ga12106.doc.htm>

<https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/thematic-areas/international-law-courts-tribunals/humanitarian-assistance/>

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/deliver-humanitarian-aid/>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/10/569202-un-urged-help-countries-devastated-recent-natural-disasters-build-back-better>

<http://www.globalissues.org/issue/522/natural-disasters>

<https://www.brookings.edu/on-the-record/natural-disasters-conflict-and-human-rights-tracing-the-connections/>

<http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/en/topics/humanitarian-affairs.html>

<https://www.unocha.org/about-us/who-we-are>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/10/569202-un-urged-help-countries-devastated-recent-natural-disasters-build-back-better>

<https://wtop.com/world/2018/11/10-of-the-deadliest-natural-disasters-in-2018/>

<https://www.unocha.org/our-work/coordination/un-disaster-assessment-and-coordination-undac>

II. Protecting the Rights of Journalists and Freedom of the Press

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/world-press-freedom-day/previous-celebrations/worldpressfreedomday20090000/freedom-of-information-and-the-press/>

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session20/A-HRC-20-17_en.pdf

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco-liaison-office-in-new-york/areas-of-action/communication-and-information/freedom-of-expression-press-freedom-and-protection-of-journalists/>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/05/1008862>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/02/1033552>

III. Creating Sustainable Agriculture in Developing Countries

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

<https://en.unesco.org/sdgs>

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/poverty/>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/09/1019552>

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/food/index.html>

<https://www.wfp.org/overview>

<https://www.worldbank.org/>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/foodagriculture>