

RENMUN VI

Finding Solace in Solidarity



March 6 – 7, 2021

CHAIR REPORT

Economic and Social Council

Chair Introduction

Hey there! This is Grace Tai, your head chair for ECOSOC. I am more than honoured to be joined by Heer to be chairing you all for this conference. Apart from engaging in quality debate, I hope we all can truly enjoy ourselves in the process too. So Heer and I are here to help you if you need anything.

Hello! I'm Heer Jhaveri, your deputy chair for RENMUN VI ECOSOC and I am absolutely ecstatic for the fruitful and engaging debate that is to come. I'm hoping to create fond memories and valuable experiences that allow you to fully express your passion for MUN during the conference.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council was established in 1945. 75 years later it's still thriving. ECOSOC focuses on social issues that require effective solutions and the utmost importance. The facilitation of international cultural exchange, educational cooperation, the continuation of respect and the encouraging of those around us help us to lead better lives. This is what ECOSOC is. It's about improving the standard and quality of life. ECOSOC is a committee that strives to create change especially in the economical and social industry.

As chairs, we are looking forward to seeing your placards raised everytime you wish to ask a POI. We are highly anticipating debate that is to come, and we wish for all delegates to actively participate and enjoy committee sessions on the topics we are gathered to discuss. Please do not hesitate and feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding the conference or the topics we will be debating. Feel free to contact us through email at Grace Tai (sp20187491@spcc.edu.hk) or Heer Jhaveri (jhaveh1@rchk.edu.hk)

Implementing measures to protect food security in regards to climate change

One of the biggest challenges our world faces is world hunger. In 2019, almost 690 million people are chronically malnourished and hungry. If these statistics persist, and food security continues to be a global problem by 2030, 840 million people will be chronically hungry by 2030. The COVID-19 pandemic is adding to these numbers, as it is harder to sustain a good quality of life. Approximately 2 billion people do not have regular access to safe nutritious food, the abundance of food is the catalyst for this problem. In 2019, 144 million children under five were stunted with growth problems due to the lack of nutritious food. Looking at this spectrum from another lens, 13% of the world's adult population are obese, this is due to the lack of diet quality. Although food is available at hand their diets consist of unhealthy food that contribute to their unhealthy lifestyle. Healthy diets are simply unaffordable because of the ingredients used in the meals. Diet-Related health costs could be more than 1.3 trillion US dollars a year, and diet related greenhouse gas emissions could be over 1.7 trillion US dollars a year.

For people that suffer from chronic malnourishment and chronic hunger, climate change simply adds to the difficulty. Since 1990, the number of weather-related natural disasters has doubled, and this has hugely affected the agricultural industry. The toll on the agricultural industry affects the increase in food prices and the decrease in income. The natural disaster has harmed people that live on a low-income and their access to food has been reduced. Climate change plays a huge role in the growing of crops as several factors affect the proficiency of it. Climate models predict higher temperatures in land and ocean regions, and hotter extremes in inhabited regions, there is prediction of heavy precipitation and increasing probability of drought. All these climate-related factors play a big part in the access to food and healthy diets.

Key Terms

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| Malnutrition | Deficiencies, excesses, or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and/or nutrients. |
| Agriculture | The science and art of cultivating plants and livestock. |
| Food Security | The state of having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. |
| Climate | The weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period. |
| Chronic | Persistent for a long time or constantly recurring. |
| Inhabitant | A person, animal or group that resides at a certain place. |

Background Information

Food Security

The history of modern agriculture is heavily associated with the end of the Second World War as economies stabilised and countries gained independence from their colonisers. As World War 2 ended the population started increasing, and therefore their political trade increased. In order for their country to survive they relied on self-sufficient food production, this helped to resolve and avoid some of the food supply problems they were facing. Not only did this affect poor countries that massively suffered from the War, it affected rich countries that worked through the World War. This is known as the first agricultural revolution, it was where the importance of agriculture was really highlighted and they put emphasis on this in all countries. What's considered to be the second agricultural revolution is the industrialised nations increasing the amount of plants grown by farmers, and investing in this field. This is also known as the green revolution. The green revolution is related in regards to the paddy fields of central Asia, however this revolution originated in Mexico. The green revolution was around during 1945 to 1970. The use of technology and new techniques to effectively and efficiently

carry out farming was researched and extremely useful in this stage, as the agricultural industry could mass produce, and they would achieve results faster.

“Super Wheat” is a term used to describe Mexico and its succession with food security. The green revolution helped to make Mexico self-sufficient, which means they didn’t really have to rely on other countries for their imported vegetables and materials. Mexico then used its resources and imported it to other countries, they exported about half a million tons of wheat, this then spread to Asia and they were much more proficient in the food security aspect. The techniques Mexico used to self-sufficiently produce wheat was utilized by other countries, and in fact their success was indeed replicated by other countries. In 1966 India imported 18,000 tons of wheat and harvested about 16.5 million tons of wheat in about two years. Countries were able to double their wheat productions because of this method.

Looking at existing examples of food security in regards to climate change, it is imperative to look at global warming as a prevalent and up and coming issue. Global warming is the long-term heating of the earth’s climate caused primarily by greenhouse gases but also caused by diminishing agricultural activity as a result of human consumption. Currently as the earth is warming up more and more the climate creates a huge impact on food security. A hotter climate will increase the rate of evaporation and transpiration this has a massive impact on the agricultural industry.

For instance, because the climate is getting hotter, the crops in Australia will be needing more water, and unfortunately a hotter climate due to the current circumstances means that there is reduced precipitation in some areas. That means that there isn’t an adequate amount of water for the crops to grow. This issue as a whole puts pressure on farmers. In regards to current statistics for Australia 2019 was the driest year in the last 119 years. The national total rainfall significantly decreased, in fact it was 40% below the 1961-1990 average national rainfall. This shows how the precipitation rates are intensely decreasing, and it can hugely impact the agricultural industry in Australia. Furthermore, there has been a massive crop reduction that has severely impacted farmers. Climate change has in fact cut Australia’s farming profits from up to 22% annually. This shows that the reduced precipitation is directly affecting the crops that are

growing. Facts and statistics strongly prove that Australia is in fact, getting hotter. To be specific they have warmed on average by 1.44 ± 0.24 °C since national records began in 1910, with most warming occurring since 1950 and every decade since then being warmer than the ones before. These staggering results demonstrate how the planet is getting warmer and climate change can have a huge impact on various factors. The increase in heat for Australia also makes it more prone to natural disasters including bushfires and droughts and floods. This is an example of how currently climate change is affecting food security.

Climate Change

Climate change is a prevalent problem that will massively affect our global quality of life in the future. The history of the scientific discovery that is associated with climate change was first found in the 19th century. Scientists discovered that the human emissions of greenhouse gases could ultimately change the climate and this could eventually contribute to the destruction of planet earth, and what's being built of it. During the 1970's scientific research heavily favoured the warming of the earth and as mentioned the destruction of natural resources that are necessary for humans to continue with the standard of living that we are on right now. Years passed by, and climate change was heavily backed up by scientific research, and now awareness is at its utmost importance, companies are heavily struggling to deal with the benefit of their company and the degradation of the environment. Climate change's history heavily ties to food production, because it is a factor that plays with the discovery of climate change in the first place.

Potential Clashes

It's rare for a country to have a strong opposing stance on food security. However, different countries have different methods to combat climate change, and this can be considered a potential clash. On the food security aspect, clashes that occur are between the political party and the agricultural industry. As mentioned previously the amount of need and want for natural crops and grown vegetables on the farm is decreasing due to the lesser want for a healthy diet, therefore the consumer demand is decreasing and supply is not as imperative. Countries do have different priorities regarding food security, countries with a vast amount of resources consider food security as less of a priority than those that struggle to provide enough food and resources to grow food.

Climate change is without a doubt a global concern with temperatures projected to rise between 2.5–10 degrees Fahrenheit. It is imperative for us to take action and step up. As previously stated, climate change is a huge factor that contributes to food security. Potential clashes can result from the solutions and actions different countries have taken on this issue. Denmark, Norway, and Finland are currently the leading countries in initiatives against climate change. Countries that have a lower GDP and are considered 'poor' countries struggle more to carry out solutions and instigate change for this issue because they don't have the access to resources and money has to be fairly allocated into different areas that is in the best interest of the country.

For example, renewable energy is far more expensive than non-renewable resources and energy; therefore, it is easier and makes more sense for poor countries to use non-renewable resources. Richer countries are higher on the scale for those doing the most to fight climate change, and this is primarily due to the resources they have at hand, with more money they are able to organise and create more sustainable choices to improve the world's situation regarding climate change. However, resources are scarce in different countries, and because developing and "richer" countries often have more access to resources, a potential clash can occur between poor and rich countries because they face different circumstances, and poor countries cannot contribute as much to solving this global concern. Below is a list of countries that are working the most and least to protect the environment. The environment is a main factor for the protection of food security; therefore, it is imperative to investigate this amongst countries.

Singapore

In 10 years, Singapore's emissions from fossil fuel consumption dropped by 19%. Unfortunately, due to this, their carbon emissions skyrocketed. Compared to the rest of South East Asia, they are still making the biggest changes, majorly due to the education and awareness efforts made in schools.

United States

Although they withdrew from the international Paris Agreement, they rank among the 10 countries that are doing the most to protect the environment; the US has

protected reserves that helps to reduce the population and places that are exposed to unsafe levels of air pollution.

Denmark

They are currently the number one ranked country that is protecting the environment. They are lowering the amount of places and people that are exposed to unsafe levels of air pollution, they continue to fulfill and set ambitious goals relating to the reduction of energy consumption, and the usage of renewable resources.

Australia

They have the second highest percentage in protected marine and terrestrial areas, they initiated the plastic bag ban, and they more importantly halved food waste.

Peru

Population is exposed to unsafe air pollution levels, and Peru established its first specialised environmental court that primarily focuses on solving environment-related problems, and they deal with situations that involve deforestation, poaching, trade in wildlife and hazardous waste.

Iraq

Less than 2% of the land in Iraq is protected by the government, and these protected lands contain reserves with limited access, due to the several years of turmoil they have experienced their environment is significantly damaged, the country in certain places face water quality and shortage issues.

Sierra Leone

Once again the government of Sierra Leone has protected only 3.3% of the country's territory from environmental damage, this means that natural disasters can heavily impact Sierra Leone's environment because not everything is protected.

Uganda

Uganda is struggling with environmental protection efforts, the concentration of unhealthy chemicals in the air is significantly the atmosphere and environment

that natural plants and trees can grow in. Rapid population growth is also leading the country to mass deforestation, and it is harder for them to switch to renewable sources because they have a lack of access to those resources.

Key Stakeholders

These are groups that have a strong involvement in the issue and have the ability to create both good and bad changes within this issue. They can also impact food security globally with their objectives and aims.

| Stakeholder | Involvement with the Issue |
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| Agricultural Industry | The agricultural industry has immense involvement with the issue at hand, this is because food security has to do a great deal with the farms, and the fields that the crops grow in. The agricultural industry used to be one of the most important industries, it's what really kickstarted the economy in a lot of countries including China. The agricultural industry essentially brings the nutritious food to people's homes but because of the changing generations and the changing lifestyle of those in this modern day generation, fresh fruits and vegetables are being consumed less. This has a direct affect on the businesses and the farms that grow these products. Climate change also affects this industry and its involvement, one of the most dependent factors about growing crops in fields and farms is the weather conditions, because climate change is having such a strong effect on the weather and the precipitation rates the growth of the crops is also completely dependent, and it is hard to rely on these farms for the growth of the fruits and vegetables. |
| Government | The government also plays a role in this issue because they have the ability to provide reliable |

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| | <p>access to a sufficient quantity of affordable and nutritious food through their access to resources. Ultimately they have the power to provide food and reliable access to food to their citizens, and they essentially also have some control over the agricultural industry, because of the distribution of land. Government policies also strongly impact the agricultural industry, this creates a chain of impacts that eventually has a strong effect on food security in regards to climate change.</p> |
| Consumer Associations | <p>Consumer associations are also key stakeholders in food security, because although the definition of food security is to have nutritious food, consumers may not want nutritious food, and because of this companies are less likely to produce foods that are unwanted by consumers. To balance out the production costs, they increase the price of these foods, this is why healthier foods and diets are more expensive. If consumer associations do not want healthier and nutritious food options, they are increasingly going to become less affordable and more expensive. This relates to the supply and demand economic scheme.</p> |
| Environmental Groups + Non-Governmental Organisations | <p>Environmental groups are key stakeholders in this issue, this is because they can drive agricultural industries to create a better living environment for the animals at the farm, and they can help to spread awareness and advocacy about the different products that contribute to the destruction of the environment. These groups have the support and ability to influence agricultural industries to make changes that perhaps are less efficient, they can also drive the consumer association to make healthier decisions based on their diet. Awareness is the biggest strength and tool environment groups</p> |

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| | <p>have, this is the reason they hold involvement in this issue. Non-governmental organisations also come in this same category because they can also spread awareness eventually raising influence and changing the consumer wants.</p> |
| Food Manufacturers | <p>Food manufactures connect to the consumer association, they are important because ultimately they are the suppliers of the food. Food security can only be established if there is food from producers. Because they produce the food they control what food to produce, if they do not have the consumer's needs, then they cannot benefit in business. Food manufacturers can produce more or less quantities of specific foods based on how the specific products are selling with consumers. Because healthier foods and meals are less popular with consumers, food manufactures can decide to lessen the amount of healthy food they produce.</p> |

Possible Solutions

Possible solutions heavily connect to the key stakeholders of this issue.

The global fight on hunger and malnutrition, countries have to transform food systems, and increase the affordability of healthy diets, climate costs reduced by 74%. The transformation of food systems is a very long process, and it requires a lot of systematic change. Healthy diets need to be made more affordable, so that consumers can choose these diets over foods that don't possess appropriate and balanced nutritious ingredients. Climate change is an imperative issue connected to this, and therefore it would be ideal for climate costs to be reduced and the

environment to be less affected and harmed. This would directly impact food security.

Past Actions

Food Security and Nutrition – UN Past Actions

1943 | Initial UN Conference on Food and Agriculture, the conference led to the establishment of a permanent organization on the topic of food and agriculture.

1945 | The Food and Agriculture Organization was established and they held their first session.

1961 | The World Food Programme was established, this was essentially a food aid programme, they worked with the general assembly to initiate this.

1974 | This was when the first world food conference was held, and in the duration of the conference they examined the global problem regarding food consumption and production.

1979 | The food and agricultural committee made a plan of action that they would plan to stick to and continue establishing.

1992 | The first international conference on nutrition took place, and essentially they continued the plan of action for nutrition, they also collaborated with the world health organization (WHO).

1996 | The World Food Summit was held, and world leaders were assembled to respond to the nutrition related statistics, they renewed their commitment to end world hunger.

2000–2002 | The UN Millennium Declaration was adopted. This was a global partnership to reduce poverty and hunger, and their goal was to decrease the amount of people who suffered from hunger by 50%. During this time, they also held their 5th World Food Summit.

2012 | The first food assistance convention was held, and it addressed the food and nutritional needs of the most vulnerable populations, the UN Secretary General also initiated the Zero hunger challenge, which aimed for all countries to work for a future where everyone had access to nutritional food and food security.

2014-Present | Between this time, they had several conferences on nutrition, and Milan had a declaration on improving food security and climate adaptation in smaller countries, it showed different perspectives on this topic, they also posted new goals on the battle against world hunger. The eventual plan is to implement the United Nations decade of action on nutrition, and the eradication of world hunger and extreme poverty.

Guiding Questions

- Statistically how much of an impact does climate change have on food security?
- What are the positive and negative implications of climate change?
- How does food security impact the agricultural industry?
- Would healthier diets be beneficial for the agricultural sector, and how much would this affect the production business of these foods
- How much of an influence can environmental organizations have on the consumer association, does this play a big role in the change of production?
- Does a free economic market impact the food industry?
- What different approaches do countries take to persuade their general population to eat healthier

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