



Mission Viejo High School Model United Nations
29th Annual Conference
“Through the Fire the Spirit is Forged”



G-20 Summit

Global Food Security

I. Background

Over one billion people suffer from malnourishment each year, killing more people than malaria, TB, and AIDS combined. In other words, every 3.6 seconds somewhere in the world starves to death; shockingly, over 75 percent of those are children under the age of 5. It is expected that key food staples are expected to increase by 120%-180% by 2030.

The instability of the global economy has emerging market-countries panicked about global food security. Now, there is not only a food shortage, but also concerns with increasing food prices and lack of funding for food programs in developing nations. In the past century, the catastrophic fall in production has been hand in hand with the current financial crisis. The supply and demand in agricultural markets got thrown off due to a lack of credit and low commodity prices. Small import-dependent countries, especially in Africa were hit hard while larger countries, though safety nets and specific trade policies increased prices on an international level. The rising global food prices are contributing to overall food inflation.

This crisis is not only morally wrong, but infringes on sustainable social and economic development. Poverty, war, limited technology, climate change, disease, and poor planning can all cause food insecurity. Improper farming techniques have degraded the land so it is no longer viable. Food Stockpiles are disturbingly low, and a scramble for food is now beginning. The world food crisis in 2008 brought soaring food prices, riots, and an even greater increase in world hunger. The crisis erased major steps forward in reducing hunger and poverty as stated in the Millennium Development Goals. There have always been food deficits and famines, but with an estimated 9 billion people on Earth in 2050, global development groups have called on the G20 committee to provide solutions for global food security. Even though food production has



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been a national issue in the past, with a dim future ahead, an independent mediator is necessary for stabilization of global food security, the world economy for food price volatility, and setting agricultural regulations.

II. UN Involvement

In 2000 the Millennium Development Goals listed eradication of extreme poverty and hunger tops on top of the list. There have been few specific resolutions, as the international community is still formulating solutions. While the G-20 committee was created to promote financial stability of the world and achieve development and growth in the economy, it has been pressured by NGO's such as Oxfam and the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBCA) to come up with solutions. The Chief Executive Board for Coordination developed a task force under the Secretary General on the Global Food Crisis. The task force strives to promote a unified response to the global food price challenge, food-aid, social protection, and agricultural boosts. The Food and Agricultural Organization launched a program in 1994 called the Special Programme for Food Security. Along with their National Programme for Food Security, they recommend to adjust policies to benefit poor communities, invest in infrastructure, bring together the public sector and civil society, and promote partnerships among international and bilateral aid agencies that share similar goals. In May 2008, ECOSOC held a Special Meeting on the Global Food Crisis. In this meeting a coalition of the UN system, NGO's, the scientific community, and development banks discussed new trade regimes, re-examination of development in relation to farmland, and farmer subsidies. Also in 2008, the World Bank collaborated with the International Money Fund and the World Food Program to bring the Global Food Crisis Response Programme. This took action to ensure farmers of their next harvest, support the government on sustainable policies, and provides countries with assistance



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components relevant to their situation. In 2011 the 37th CFS Plenary Session created the Committee on World Food Security that reviews policies concerning world food.

III. Possible Solutions

The committee needs to try to limit the damage to food markets domestic politics are creating, make the food markets work better, and strengthen stability to give households and farmers better ways of adapting to price volatility. Investment is the key to success. Public investments in research and development for climate change-resistant and continuous farming and trade agreements will contribute to solving this complicated issue. The G-20 proposal is to implement new agricultural systems, establish stocks in select locations, and regulating hedge funds investing in commodities. Many groups have suggested investing smallholder farming to increase production. Smallholdings are farms with cash crops and subsistence farming. This provides a lot of food for a low price. Reductions on subsidies and increased tariffs can be implemented so cheap food from developed countries will not bring unfair competition. On the other hand, reductions of tariffs will relief consumers in developing countries. Food price policy and stabilization solutions include impact assessments, managing food prices through market-based instruments, and trade policies. Another solution would be to engage the private sector by partnerships countries to build political coalitions and mobilize financial support. The market for seeds and fertilizer to assist farmers can be developed with access to finance and risk management tools for farmers. These are a few solutions to this ever-growing problem.

IV. Bloc Positions



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This is an issue on a global scale. Different blocs may have different solutions, but in committee you will need to work together to create a solution because it *is* a global market that needs to be fixed.

North America: The US and Canada help finance programs and have to choose what to invest in whether it be the private sector, evaluate government subsidies, and energy policies that create agricultural problems.

Latin: Introduced safety net programs, money transfers to families

African: The continent has the most developing countries of any bloc and support smallholding farms. Trade negotiations, farm subsidies, safety nets, and food aid.

Asian: Greater privatization, subsidies, which have impacted smallholders. Go back to the roots of the problem and fix the system of agriculture. Reinforced sustainable development. Right now they are keeping prices high. Provide equal farm access to women and irrigation to the middle east for arable land.

European: Step up investment in sustainable agriculture and improve access to nutritious foods.

Enshrine millennium goals. They believe food should be secure for all.

V. Guiding Questions (/_/5)



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1. To what degree should public investments go into stabilizing the global food situation?
Private investments?
2. What measures will your county take to improve agricultural production and productivity?
3. What agricultural model does your country use? What initiatives will it take to improve global policies?
4. Should economic social programs be implemented in countries that need it?
5. Does your country support small hold farming methods?

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/GlobalFoodSecurity/>

<http://www.worldbank.org/foodcrisis/>

<http://www.weforum.org/news/forum-g20-task-force-group-presents-recommendations-food-security>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=137&Body=food+crisis&Body1>

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SOCIALPROTECTION/Resources/280558->

[1138289492561/2158434-1215439855252/Delgado_GFRP.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SOCIALPROTECTION/Resources/280558-1138289492561/2158434-1215439855252/Delgado_GFRP.pdf)

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

<http://www.g20.org/>

<http://un-foodsecurity.org/>