



Students' Movement for International Organization (MSOI)
Youth branch of the Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI)
Italian Member of WFUNA-Youth



The Food and Agriculture Organization

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, or ONUAA for French: Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. FAO was established on 16th of October 1945, in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. In 1951, its headquarters were moved from Washington, D.C., United States, to Rome, Italy. It has 191 Member Nations, two associate members and one member organization, the European Union. It is also a United Nations specialized agency, accountable to the FAO Conference of member governments. FAO also participates in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which coordinates economic, social and related work of the 14 UN specialized agencies as well as regional commissions. Concerning its composition, it consists of seven departments: Agriculture and Consumer Protection; Economic and Social Development; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Forestry; Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance; Natural Resources Management and Environment; and Technical Cooperation.

FAO is the United Nations agency responsible for collecting, analyzing, interpreting and disseminating information relating to food, nutrition, agriculture and related subjects. FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. It serves as a knowledge network and it uses the expertise of its own staff - agronomists, foresters, fisheries and livestock specialists, nutritionists, social scientists, economists, statisticians and other professionals - to collect, analyze and disseminate data that aid development. FAO mobilizes and manages millions of dollars provided by industrialized countries, development banks and other sources to make sure the projects achieve their goals. Moreover, it provides the technical know-how and in a few cases is a limited source of funds. In crisis situations, we work side-by-side with the World Food Program and other humanitarian agencies to protect rural livelihoods and help people rebuild their lives.

Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. It is additionally a source of knowledge and information, and helps developing countries and countries in transition to modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, ensuring good nutrition and food security for all.



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The food crisis in the Horn of Africa

On September 5, the United Nations declared famine in another region of southern Somalia, bringing the total number of regions experiencing famine to six. The Horn of Africa is now experiencing a major humanitarian crisis due to drought. The worst humanitarian crisis the world has seen this century continues to escalate in the area, where 13.3 million people are currently in urgent need of life-saving humanitarian assistance. Women and children in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Djibouti and Somalia have been particularly hit hard. An estimated 2.23 million children are acutely malnourished and some 564,220 children are considered to be suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Of the people in need of humanitarian assistance, an estimated 360,000 are pregnant women. One in five women of reproductive age in Somalia – where six regions have reached famine levels – is acutely malnourished, compromising a mother's own health during pregnancy and contributing to the high prevalence of low birth weight of children.

A post-harvest assessment showed this year's cereal crop was the lowest in 17 years. Dwindling stocks of local cereals have sent cereal prices soaring by 300 percent over the past year, and nearly half a million acutely malnourished children across Somalia require urgent nutritional treatment. The crisis is a combined result of two consecutive years of drought, increasing food prices, underdevelopment, and – especially in Somalia – poor governance, conflict, insecurity and limited humanitarian access. FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf in 24th of September 2011, in New York, called for “adequate and predictable” financial resources to resolve the crisis in the Horn of Africa. This crisis has put in a humanitarian emergency situation a severe number of countries and what RoMUN 2011 has as its main goal, is to find solutions that can overcome hunger, the problems created by poor rainy seasons and to build a “political momentum” for a famine-free Horn of Africa.