



Students' Movement for International Organization (MSOI)

Youth branch of the Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI)

Italian Member of WFUNA-Youth



What is food security?

Nowadays, securing world food security is one of the most important challenges that the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations are facing. As stated by the FAO, in order to achieve the purpose of food security, all people, at all times, should have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

What are the activities of the Committee on World Food Security?

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) was established in 1974 by the first World Food Conference in the aftermath of the food crisis of the 1970's. Its main purpose is reviewing and following up on policies concerning world food security.

Since the FAO summit held in October and November 2008, the CFS has been undergoing a reform process. Finally, during the latest World Summit on Food Security held in Rome, in November 2009, the FAO Conference decided to strengthen the CFS. The renewed Committee is composed of Members, Participants, and Observers. Members have the prerogative of voting and decisions taking, while Participants take part in the work of the Committee with the right to intervene in discussions, to submit formal proposals and to prepare meeting documents and agendas. The category of Participants is a brand-new category that is open to representatives of UN agencies, Civil society and NGOs, in order to include in the decision-making process the relevant stakeholders affected by the issue of food security.

How can biofuels affect food prices?

Since their first appearance in recent years, biofuels have been considered a renewable energy resource with a huge potential in the field of energy security. The idea that the use and production of biofuels could support agricultural producers and become an alternative resource to oil spread out all over the world. For these reasons, many governments committed themselves to implement the production of biofuels, especially liquid biofuels, based on agricultural commodities.

However, recent analysis showed that the increasing demand for agricultural commodities as feedstock for the production of biofuels reduces the availability of food commodities on the market, affecting it in a negative way. The result is soaring food prices and food insecurity.

A wide range of FAO and CFS reports highlight that since 2006 food prices have begun to soar due to different factors, such as the expansion of biofuel production and high oil prices. The situation worsened



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during the financial and economic crisis in 2009.

Notwithstanding the negative effects of biofuels production, the vast majority of developing Countries (that are the most important producers of biofuels) are not facing this situation with adequate measures. We need to strengthen the governance on world food security.

As Jacques Diouf, FAO Director General, said, “we urgently need to forge an international consensus on the rapid and final eradication of hunger and a plan of action”.