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Second Committee – Economic and Financial

This group wants to help the poor. They do this by trying to improve the world economy. They discuss how national, regional and international markets affect the world. Also, they focus on states that have special needs. Some examples are the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) or the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

This group believes people in poverty can improve their lives. By helping the economies of developing states people live better. They might discuss how to help states get access to money. Or, they might find ways technology can help states progress faster. They also find direct ways to help people in poverty. For example, they might encourage traditional farming techniques. Or, they might encourage healthy eating. They see the connection between health and the economy.

This committee works closely with the UN Economic and Social Council. They have passed resolutions on sustainable development, harmony with nature, and migration.

Agenda Item 26 – Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition

History

Hunger is one of the world's biggest problems. Every day, 1 in 9 people do not eat enough. This means they do not get enough nutrients. This will stop them from living a healthy life. This causes problems in young children. They can become stunted. This means they do not grow properly. People who do not get enough food and/or nutrients are at risk of getting sick.

Beginning in the 1930s there was a Green Revolution. During this time the food output of many states increased. This was due to new farming technologies. Farmers improved how they grew crops. Scientists made new types of seeds. They also made new fertilizers and pesticides. Most improvements happened in the developing world. These changes saved over 1 billion lives.

The Green Revolution helped many states. But, in Africa many states did not improve. There are many theories for this. Some are corruption, different types of soils and landscape. Africa is one of the areas of focus for agriculture development.

In 2000 world leaders at the UN created the MDGs. One of these goals was to get rid of extreme hunger and poverty by 2015. The amount of undernourished people was cut in half. This shows we can fix the problem. If we work together we can end hunger.

In 2016, the UN adopted the SDGs. The second goal is to end hunger, achieve food security, and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. They hope to reach these goals by 2030.

- In 1992, the African Rice Center made a new type of rice. They call it NERICA. This rice grows well and makes more grains. Not enough farmers are using the seeds.
- In 2003, 5 out of 6 Inuit families in Canada were food insecure.
- In 2005 Malawi started the *Agriculture Input Subsidy Program*. This program was a huge success. They had the largest maize harvest in the country's history.
- In the U.S. six billion pounds of produce rots in the fields. Worldwide, 32% of all food is lost or wasted.
- Half of the world relies on rice for food.
- Micronutrient deficiency affects more than 2 billion children. Not enough Vitamin A is a main cause of death.
- Not all people think the Green Revolution was good. Farmers grow less of a variety of crops. Some people think this has made our diet worse.
- World food prices went up in 2007. The price of wheat doubled. The price of rice reached a ten-year high. There were riots and unrest around the world.
- Over 41 million children are overweight. Many states are facing three problems: undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and obesity. The causes are linked. In fact, undernourished people are more likely to become overweight.
- Some foods are used to make biofuel. It is cheaper and better for the environment. An example is corn. If states use corn to make fuel it means less food for people. It also raises the price of grain.
- Droughts make growing food hard. In 2015, North Korea said they had a drought. South Africa is in a drought. Also, Brazil has a drought. This means these countries might need to import food.

Global Nutrition for Growth Compact

- ✓ Began in 2013. The UK, Brazil and the CIFF hosted the event.
- ✓ States, businesses and NGOs work together.
- ✓ 94 groups signed the agreement.
- ✓ Every year a conference is held to note any improvements.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- ✓ Began in 2016 to replace the MDGs. They are broader and tackle the causes of poverty.
- ✓ The second goal is to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable farming.
- ✓ States will work together to reach the goals by 2030.

Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme

- ✓ Began in 2003 to show how farming can reduce poverty.
- ✓ Wants states to spend 10% of public money on agriculture.
- ✓ Will create jobs for women and youth.

Zero Hunger Challenge

- ✓ UN SG Ban Ki-moon started this in 2012.
- ✓ Companies, farmers, states, schools and the UN work together to end hunger.
- ✓ Inspired by Brazil's Fome Zero program. Started in 2004, this program brought millions of people out of poverty.

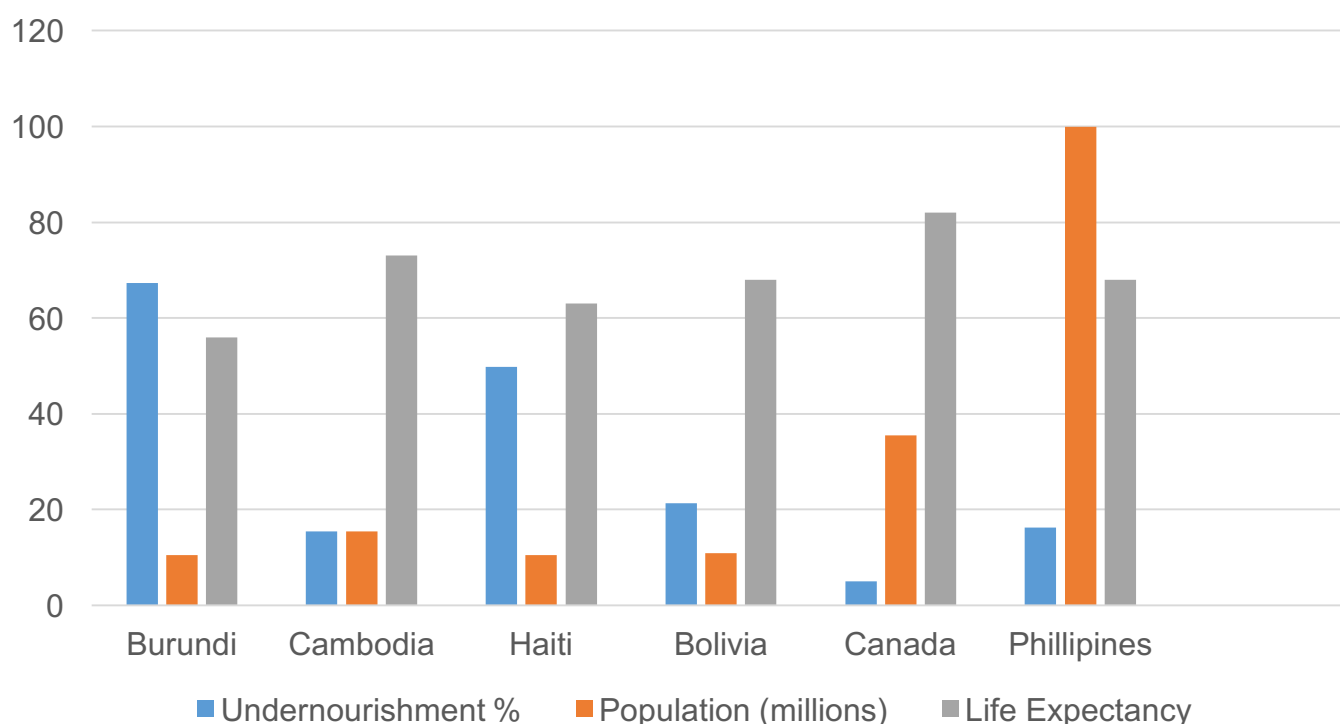
Rome Declaration on Nutrition

- ✓ Was created in November 2014.
- ✓ Poverty is a major reason for malnutrition.
- ✓ States that overweight and obesity is becoming a problem.
- ✓ People need access to healthy food year round.

Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems

- ✓ Started in 2002 to protect historical ways of producing food.
- ✓ Supports sustainable agriculture. Many of the ways of making food in the past worked with nature.
- ✓ This program supports biodiversity.

Undernourishment, Population and Life Expectancy



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What connects these three issues?

¹ "Global Health Observatory Data Repository: Life Expectancy." *World Health Organization*. WHO, 2016. Web. 18 April 2016.

² "Explore Countries." *Food Security Index*. The Economist Intelligence Unit, 2016. Web. 18 April 2016.

Guiding Questions

1. Can your country feed itself? Where are important agriculture areas? Is it in a drought?
2. How do natural disasters affect food security? In your country? In your region? How does climate change affect food security?
3. Many states have a problem with obesity. How is undernutrition and obesity linked? What is more of a problem in your country? What can we do to combat these problems?
4. Most problems with food security and nutrition are in Africa. However, other regions are affected as well. How can food security be improved outside Africa? Do they have the same solutions?
5. The SDG for hunger wants to meet these targets: <http://bit.ly/1Qk5cql>. How can states help?
6. How can agriculture development help women? How can it help young people? Why is this important?
7. How can we protect biodiversity and increase food output?

Resources

Title	Hyperlink	How is it helpful?
<i>The Life You Can Save</i>	http://www.thelifeyoucansave.org	Charities that are working to solve problems. Gives background info on these problems.
<i>International Food Policy Institute</i>	http://www.ifpri.org	“Topics” section has a lot of background information.
<i>Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN</i>	http://www.fao.org/home/en	Broad information on what the UN is doing.
<i>Reuters - As Crops Rot, Millions Go Hungry in India</i>	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-wheat-idUSBRE8600KD20120701	Article about how food rots in fields before farmers harvest it.
<i>Global Food Security Index</i>	http://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/Country	A world map that shows food security levels.
<i>Action 2020</i>	http://action2020.org/business-solutions/reducing-food-loss-and-waste	The WBCSD wants businesses to work for a more sustainable future by 2020.
<i>Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems</i>	http://www.fao.org/giahs/giahs/en	A map that shows agriculture heritage systems around the world.
<i>UNICEF - Nutrition</i>	http://www.unicef.org/nutrition/	An overview of nutrition problems.
<i>3rd World Farmer</i>	http://3rdworldfarmer.com/	An online video game. You can explore some of the problems faced by farmers in the developing world.