

National Model United Nations **Week A**

March 17 – March 21, 2013



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Documentation

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Committee Staff

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|--------------------|-----------------------|
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Agenda

1. Food Security: Agriculture and Trade
2. Concrete measures to promote South-South Cooperation for Development
3. Harnessing Resource Extraction for Further Development Gains

Resolutions adopted by the committee

| Document Code | Topic | Vote (Y/ N/ Abstention/ Non-Voting) |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| RS 1/1 | Food Security: Agriculture and Trade | (72/21/23/15) |
| RS 1/2 | Food Security: Agriculture and Trade | (67/24/22/18) |
| RS 1/3 | Food Security: Agriculture and Trade | (66/10/34/31) |
| RS 1/4 | Food Security: Agriculture and Trade | (73/12/24/22) |
| RS 1/5 | Food Security: Agriculture and Trade | (53/25/29/24) |
| RS 1/6 | Food Security: Agriculture and Trade | (49/23/32/27) |
| RS 1/7 | Food Security: Agriculture and Trade | (51/16/39/25) |
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Summary Report

After much deliberation, delegations decided to set the agenda in the order of: Topic 3) *Food Security: Agriculture and Trade*; Topic 1) *Concrete Measure to Promote South-South Cooperation for Development*; and Topic 2) *Harnessing Resources Extraction for Further Development Gains*.

The Monday session began by opening debate on the topic of Food Security: Agriculture and Trade. Immediately, groups formed to discuss specific components of the issue education, technology, and micro-financing. Entering the evening session, several regionally-based groups began drafting working papers. Before the day's final suspension, one group presented a working paper specifically geared toward sustaining agriculture through the practice of organic farming.

Fourteen working papers were developed on the second day of conference. Many of them emphasized the significance of organic farming, advanced infrastructure, and education as a means to attain food security as well as devising strategic methods to combat the matter of food waste. Several groups that shared concerns on the same sub-topics merged and prepared working papers for each sub-topic. During the last session of the day, two groups combined to focus on the sub-topic of small-scale farming while another three groups joined to concentrate on financing. By the day's end, two new working papers had emerged from the collaborative efforts of delegates.

During the seventh session, groups merged together and eight working papers were formally introduced as draft report segments. Delegates also voted on a motion to close the speaker's list, and this motion passed. Towards the end of the seventh session, one draft report segment was approved by the dais and five friendly amendments were proposed.

Throughout the eighth session, the body saw a total of eleven draft on the floor for discussion. Delegations acknowledged that little time remained in the committee session. Therefore, delegates passed the motion to close debate, moving committee into voting bloc.

Voting bloc had one Roll Call vote on report segment 1/1 which failed to pass. The following draft report segments were successfully passed to be included into the report: 1/3, 1/5, 1/7, 1/8, 1/9, 1/10 and 1/11. All report segments were combined to form the UNCTAD Report on Food Security: Agriculture and Trade.

I. Introduction

A. PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES

1. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development encourages the establishment of a link between resource sovereignty and the promotion of development. Referencing the 1962 Declaration on Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resource and acknowledging Article 17 paragraph 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UNCTAD stresses that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.
2. Natural resources and their utilization are essential to form strong and reliable national economies. They provide employment opportunities, a strong export sector and in the case of agricultural commodities, decreased dependency on external actors. Natural resource endowment can thus serve as the backbone of economic and social growth and development. However, at least as important as their extraction is the manner within which they are extracted. Non-sustainable practices, particularly in the agricultural sector, can lead to short-term improvements and long-term detriments. Further, a high abundance of resources has been linked to increased corruption, a higher risk of civil war and can serve as a destabilizing factor of nations, thus safeguards, preventing asymmetric economic development are necessary. Additionally, without sound, long-term strategies, economic and social development can be stunted. Sectoral economic strength has been linked to changes in currency rates that negatively impact other sectors.

B. CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND GREEN DEVELOPMENT

3. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development acknowledges the potentially detrimental effects of climate change on the procurement of both local and global food security, while also emphasizing the specific situation of Small Island States and applauding their efforts taken through the Barbados Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation decided upon in 2005. UNCTAD applauds the effort and their cooperation within the inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development and is committed to continued support to the Small Island States.
4. As population is on the rise, food production will have to increase by 70 percent by 2050 to meet rising demand, this Conference bears in mind the potential of Climate Smart Agriculture as formulated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), promoted by the Partnership for Climate Smart Agriculture and further outlined during the Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (AFC) in procuring food security in times of desertification, deforestation,

drought and increased natural disasters as consequences of climate change. UNCTAD also supports the work of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) as stated in A/RES/53/242 and encourages it to continue their environmental assessment research in order to enhance inter-agency coordination in the field of environment in the context of agriculture as to promote future food security. We recognize the importance of training, education and technology-sharing in order to increase overall production efficiency and secure a more inclusive global growth. UNCTAD fully supports on this matter the work done by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) especially the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

5. UNCTAD has previously worked and continues to address green development, pioneering ways to create frameworks that will promote sustainability on a long-term basis, such as the "Cobra Project" which attempts to improve seed quality and breeding activities. Currently, the Marine Stewardship Council encourages continuing efforts in addressing the ongoing problem of overfished seas and its implications for food security. This creates economic potential in the global community and should be explored further. As stated under the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security (2009), Green Development is a cornerstone in order to foster food security as it guarantees that agricultural procedures also take into consideration domestic concerns. Bearing in mind the affect climate change has on food security and developing nations, this body supports the work done by member states, private investor and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) in the establishment of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF). Acknowledged and highlighted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, these funds—known as the Strategic Technology Fund (CTF) and Strategic Climate Fund (SCF). Also, UNCTAD's ideals align with those of The Doha Round of Negotiations (DOHA) to integrate farmers into local, regional, and international markets in the context of the Doha Mandate, placing emphasis on Least Developed Countries. By focusing on both domestic concerns paired with the integration of economies on an international level, nations would be able to promote sustainable economies and development through empowerment.
6. UNCTAD has previously supported research into the usage of GMOs with a specific focus on expanding research into the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). This body continues to recognize the need for LDCs to increase internal capacity to combat malnutrition and to expand agricultural production. Not all Member states support the use of GMOs, and this body recognizes the risks posed by their continuing use while acknowledging their prevalence in the global south.

II. Mandate

1. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was created in 1964 by the General Assembly. General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) specified that the Conference should promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic development. In exercising this function, the Conference was tasked to formulate principles and policies on international trade and related problems of economic

development, and to make proposals for putting the said principles and policies into effect, with a special regard to differences in economic systems and stages of development. In addition, the resolution called for UNCTAD to generally review and facilitate the co-ordination of activities of other institutions within the UN System in the field of international trade and related problems of economic development, and in this regard, to co-operate with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with respect to the performance of their responsibilities for co-ordination under the Charter of the United Nations. The Conference was further tasked to initiate action, where appropriate, in cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations for the negotiation and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with due regard to the adequacy of existing organs of negotiation and to be available as a centre for harmonizing the trade and related development policies of Governments and regional economic groupings in pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter.

2. UNCTAD continually adapts its mandate to reflect current global economic conditions. The Thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIII), held in 2012 in Doha, Qatar, called for UNCTAD to continue to play its role in the evolution of a stronger global consensus on issues falling within its mandate, to contribute to discussions within the United Nations system on green economy and other models in the context of sustainable development and resilience to climate change, to continue research and analysis on the prospects of, and impact on, developing countries in matters of trade and development, in light of the global economic and financial crisis, to continue to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective and to continue taking into consideration particularly the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) across all areas of its mandate in accordance with the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as address the special concerns and needs of Africa, including as articulated in the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The Doha Mandate equally called for further consideration of the special trade, investment and development needs of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), including through continuing its support for effective implementation of the Almaty Ministerial Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries Within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, and its review in 2014. The Doha Mandate also called for UNCTAD to implement and follow up, as appropriate, relevant outcomes from global conferences and summits on development.

III. Conclusions and Recommendations

A. NATURAL RESOURCES AND FOOD SECURITY

1. Recognizing the New International Economic Order, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1974 under A/RES/S-6/3201, the UNCTAD recommends that the international community, through the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, must be entitled to oversee the activities of multinational corporations operating within a Member State's domestic territory. Naturally, in order for this goal to be

accomplished, incentives must be created to ensure developed nations do not ignore the recommendations made by the UNCTAD. In order to ensure that more developed countries yield a positive return on investment, the annual rates least developed countries (LDCs) receive for loans must be structured so LDCs do not default on their payments. The UNCTAD believes foreign direct investment (FDI) improves sovereign debt management, as multinational corporations seek to invest in infrastructure within foreign Member States, resulting in less restricting and distortive trade barriers. The global economy will increase substantially, resulting in a higher level of sustainable development for food security.

2. Aware of the dangers of asymmetric economic development, UNCTAD suggests the creation of international benchmarks concerning the extractive resource sector. Multilateral agreements such as the National Resource Charter can serve as inspiration and guidelines for substantive structural reform of the resource sector of developing countries.
3. To enable smooth transitions into sustainability and disseminate highly efficient farming techniques, the Conference recommends the creation of a database of best practices to facilitate bi- and multilateral cooperation.
4. The Conference further emphasizes the dangers of non-transparent resource policies and highlights the immense economic benefits transparency and public fiscal management initiatives have on national and international trade. Inspiration should be drawn from the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the current projects in place between Australia, New Zealand and the Small Pacific Island Nations, such as Mauritius, Micronesia and the Solomon Islands.

B. CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, GREEN DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

1. UNCTAD advises cooperation between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on organic farming and green development strategies for training, education and technology sharing and sees the Network of Centers of Excellence as an essential element in order to achieve constructive collaboration and procure future food security. In this way nations could employ emissaries to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) predicated on technology sharing and teaching organic farming techniques. UNCTAD applauds the fruitful collaboration with NEPAD and their CAADP and suggests other nations to implement similar South South cooperation initiatives in the context of organic farming, green technology transfers and education pertaining to new sustainable innovations and agricultural practices such as the Global Green Growth Initiative (GGGI), sustainable and effective harvesting methods and counteracting desertification and deforestation.
2. The Member States of UNCTAD advise the General Assembly to thoroughly discuss the relation between agriculture and climate change, particularly on:

- a. The promotion of sustainable farming techniques while climate and soil conditions are taken into consideration.
 - b. The enhancement crop diversification through the usage of natural seed banks in order to coordinate further seed and information exchange with developing nations in projects such as the Tigray Community Seed Bank Project, Ethiopia.
 - c. The reduction of the dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides in order to decrease environmental derogation and health risks.
 - i. A reduction in the use of toxic chemicals in food production will result in a less polluted water supply. Thus, we propose the endorsement of UN Water in order to promote fresh water sanitation and mechanisms to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the use of worldwide water supplies.
 - ii. Decreased chemical fertilizer usage will lead to an increased independence of small scale farmers from multinational agricultural companies.
 - iii. These recommendations also alleviate further soil erosion in susceptible areas.
 - e. Support for the efforts of the Marine Stewardship Council, as this body encourages continuing efforts in addressing the ongoing problem of overfished seas and its implications for food security and economic potential in the global community.
 - i. Promote awareness of sustainable fishing given the fragile nature of this vital resource as the majority of African, South American and South East Asian nations and especially the Small Island States depend on fish as a primary protein source.
 - f. The UNCTAD suggests that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council:
 - i. Dispersing funds for participatory adoption
 - ii. Financing climate resilient infrastructure in developing nations
 - iii. Funding climate related projects and programs for specific, strategic support in developing nations, where funds are supported by grants, highly concessional loans, and risk management instruments.
 - g. Support the development of research and technologies for climate resilient and sustainable agriculture in LDCs, such as the Agricultural Meteorology Programme and its efforts to support food and agricultural production, while encouraging the use of early warning systems.
3. The Conference advises FAO to remain working on a comprehensive framework for Climate Smart Agriculture because of the potential it has in enabling nations to

sustainably increase their food production in the face of increased uncertainty due to climate change. UNCTAD believes the expansion and mainstreaming of Climate Smart Agriculture into policy support initiatives will buttress the sustainable and green development of agriculture and decrease the vulnerabilities of developing economies and commends FAO and the Partnership for Climate Smart Agriculture to deepen and broaden their work on the topic.

4. We encourage further research in the risks and appeal posed by the use of GMOs. Realizing an urgent need to prevent the potential harm posed by GMOs in their current state of use, UNCTAD supports the creation of knowledge-based institutions aimed at advising LDCs on the uses, risks, and any perceived advantages of GMOs. One exceptional body that has expanded the research on GMOs is the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). This organization has spearheaded much of the current scholarship and development of genetically modified seeds in the context of food security in Africa. We encourage nations to look into NEPAD, as well as the development of new knowledge-based institutions.

1 **I. Introduction**

2
3 **A. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**

4
5 1. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recognizes that
6 sustainable agriculture is at the cornerstone of food security, making it the most necessary focus
7 in addressing problems of malnutrition and hunger. Thus, it is vital for Member States to focus
8 on organic, sustainable agriculture as an economically pressing issue, as a country cannot
9 develop without a healthy population. By encompassing organic agriculture through
10 strengthening of existing structures, promoting education on sustainability in relation to food
11 security, informing and aiding small-scale farmers, and securing water supply in the poorest
12 nations, UNCTAD can successfully tackle food security in relation to severe hunger.
13 Additionally, the Organic Agriculture and Food Security in Africa Report (2008) and Sustainable
14 Agriculture and Food Security in Least Developed Countries Report (2011) by UNCTAD
15 recognize organic farming as the most sustainable solution to addressing food security.

16
17 2. As a foundation for success in addressing food security, the UK's Organic Farming (OFS)
18 provides payments to help farmers with additional costs that occur during the conversion period
19 to organic production. UNCTAD highlights the importance of supporting bodies of UN in
20 encouraging Member States to take into consideration programs like the OFS, which will protect
21 and enhance the rural environment and help producers meet consumer demand for organic
22 produce.

23
24 3. UNCTAD acknowledges the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, which is a secure seed bank located
25 off the coast of Norway. This seed vault holds 1,400 different types of seeds. The purpose of this
26 vault is to insure against the loss of seeds during natural disasters. In addition, the vault's
27 location is ideal as the environment keeps the vault at -18 degrees Celsius. This seed vault is an
28 attempt to insure against the loss of seed and plant life throughout the world. This is a voluntary
29 resource available to countries that decide to participate to help support emergency relief to
30 countries experiencing hardships and/or natural disasters.

31
32 4. Absent and inadequate education on organic farming and overall sustainability pose
33 challenges such as a lack of human capital and are detrimental to the implementation of organic
34 practices, as pointed out by the OAFS.

35
36 5. This body also emphasizes the 32 Best Practices for Organic Farming, which aims to promote
37 trade in organic agriculture commodities. Through identifying best practices in the developing
38 and developed countries, it seeks to aid governments interested in organic farming through
39 addressing the governmental policies within the state. The practices seek protection of natural
40 resources and improvement of soil, which in turn improves health in the developing countries.
41 The initiative recognizes the potential of organic agriculture to alleviate poverty in developing

42 states, as they are dependent on agriculture. This report was conducted by UNCTAD in order to
43 aid developing nations in transitioning to organic farming within their country.

44
45 6. UNCTAD supports the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) established
46 in 2009 by the G20. This program addresses the underfunding of country and regional
47 agriculture and food security strategic investment plans already being developed by countries in
48 consultation with donors and other stakeholders at the country-level. This makes aid
49 contributions toward the achievement of MDG 1 to cut hunger and poverty by half before 2015
50 more practical.

51
52 7. This body recognizes the Namibian School Food Program, which has evolved into one of the
53 largest food safety net programs in Africa, feeding over 250,000 vulnerable students.

54
55 8. Likewise, the Clinical Class in Rwanda ensures food to children who are malnourished and
56 acts as a leading body within country to feed future generations.

57
58 9. Furthermore, UNCTAD recognizes the Asian-German Better Rice Initiative, which provides
59 machines to work the agriculture land to get better rice for children in schools and rural
60 populations. This deals specifically with small-scale farmers and future farming generations on
61 the local level, making sure the rural population is healthy and able to succeed.

62
63 10. UNCTAD is deeply concerned about the existence of fallow, arable farmland which offers
64 opportunities to both the local population as well as to the world community regarding the
65 cultivation of products, the eradication of hunger worldwide by way of counteracting against
66 price volatility of international food markets and treating the needs of local civilians as a top
67 priority.

68
69 11. Recognizing the Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which reduces the use of chemical
70 pesticides and reaches a more efficient and sustainable agriculture environment for small-scale
71 farmers to succeed.

72
73 12. UNCTAD realizes that it is pressing for governments to address food security on a domestic
74 level with the help of the international community.

75
76 13. As emphasized by the OFS, this body must “encourage and assist farmers to convert to
77 organic farming in order to enhance the rural environment.”

78
79 14. UN-Water is a mechanism of the United Nations, endorsed in 2003 for the follow-up process
80 of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. Its purpose is to support states in their
81 water-related efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals. UN-Water strengthens
82 coordination and coherence among UN agencies that work on all aspects of freshwater and
83 sanitation. This includes surface and groundwater resources, the interface between freshwater
84 and seawater and water-related disasters. UN-Water aims at improving the cooperation between
85 relevant governing bodies and development organizations. It is responsible for the annual World
86 Water Day as well as for the UN Water decade."

87 15. UNCTAD recognizes the initiatives of the EU Water Framework Directive as well as the

88 UN Watercourses Convention as a successful way to promote organic agriculture that endorses
 89 sanitary water and collaboration with water sources throughout the world. The UN Water
 90 Organization is a facet of the UN that supports the success of these programs.

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94 **II. Mandate**

95

96 2. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was created in 1964
 97 by the General Assembly. General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) specified that UNCTAD
 98 should promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic
 99 development. In exercising this function, UNCTAD was tasked to formulate principles and
 100 policies on international trade and related problems of economic development, and to make
 101 proposals for putting the said principles and policies into effect, with a special regard to
 102 differences in economic systems and stages of development. In addition, the resolution called for
 103 UNCTAD to generally review and facilitate the co-ordination of activities of other institutions
 104 within the UN System in the field of international trade and related problems of economic
 105 development, and in this regard, to co-operate with the General Assembly and the Economic and
 106 Social Council with respect to the performance of their responsibilities for co-ordination under
 107 the Charter of the United Nations. UNCTAD was further tasked to initiate action, where
 108 appropriate, in cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations for the negotiation
 109 and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with due regard to the
 110 adequacy of existing organs of negotiation and to be available as a centre for harmonizing the
 111 trade and related development policies of Governments and regional economic groupings in
 112 pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter.

113

114 3. UNCTAD continually adapts its mandate to reflect current global economic conditions. The
 115 Thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
 116 (UNCTAD XIII), held in 2012 in Doha, Qatar, called for UNCTAD to continue to play its role in
 117 the evolution of a stronger global consensus on issues falling within its mandate, to contribute to
 118 discussions within the United Nations system on green economy and other models in the context
 119 of sustainable development and resilience to climate change, to continue research and analysis on
 120 the prospects of, and impact on, developing countries in matters of trade and development, in
 121 light of the global economic and financial crisis, to continue to monitor and assess the evolution
 122 of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective and to continue
 123 taking into consideration particularly the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) across all
 124 areas of its mandate in accordance with the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as address the
 125 special concerns and needs of Africa, including as articulated in the New Partnership for Africa's
 126 Development. The Doha Mandate equally called for further consideration of the special trade,
 127 investment and development needs of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), including
 128 through continuing its support for effective implementation of the Almaty Ministerial
 129 Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked
 130 Developing Countries Within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for
 131 Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, and its review in 2014. The Doha Mandate also
 132 called for UNCTAD to implement and follow up, as appropriate, relevant outcomes from global
 133 conferences and summits on development.

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III. Conclusions and Recommendations

A. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

4. UNCTAD is convinced that food security can only be effectively addressed in long-term, sustainable initiatives that focus specifically on organic agriculture through small-scale farming, as this is the cornerstone for addressing food security and consequences that arise from it.

5. This body recommends strengthening existing structures to enhance governance and cooperation, in order for leaders to address the specific concerns of their country.

6. UNCTAD recommends long-term solutions to food security through three outlining solutions: increasing awareness of the need for organic agriculture, informing and aiding small-scale farmers and poor communities, providing education on organic and sustainable agriculture to farmers, and ensuring a secure water supply. These three goals can be achieved through programs such as the UK’s Organic Farming Scheme and the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in cases of extreme need for food and aid, in order to make aware the benefits of using organic farming methods. This body recommends the UNDP to promote these programs. These solutions are best in the focus on small-scale farmers and poor communities.

7. UNCTAD advises relevant UN bodies to develop efficient and competent intraregional programs, ranging from grass root institutions to water utilities at the operational level where technical cooperation offers consulting and advisory services on complex change processes.

8. This body recommends the World Bank and IMF, who have existing financing programs to support water security and invest in economic and social infrastructure and to efficiently promote financial systems, agriculture, and resource conservation

9. UNCTAD recommends UN-Water to cooperate with local authorities and governments to exercise their functions in the field of water management, water supply, water waste and refuses disposal services, contributing in the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goal 8: “Develop a global partnership for development.” In efforts to accomplish this goal, the UN released the UN Watercourses Convention with the objective to supplement, facilitate, and sustain trans-boundary water cooperation at all levels. In collaboration with the UN, the EU introduced the EU Water Framework This directive focuses on the importance of water security. In addition, the UN Water Organization focuses on all facets of water security in the global community.

10. This body supports the Global Organic Research Network (IGORN), which was announced in June 2012 as a platform for increased discussion and communication between all Member States. UNCTAD recommends speeding up the process of this program through implementing it in 2015, rather than the planned date of 2020.

178 a. This body promotes the awareness and usage of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault
179 voluntarily. Each country has the ability to use this form of seed storage in
180 conjunction with Norway to be able to store and preserve the world seed population.
181

182 11. UNCTAD encourages a specific focus on addressing the needs of small-scale farmers and
183 poor communities, which are most vulnerable in the realm of food security.
184

185 a. UNCTAD suggests maintaining investments for rural development through ensuring
186 the world economy is stable and small farmers have equal market access by
187 mitigating price volatility and barriers to market entry. This international involvement
188 of stable investments can be done through existing public foreign investments to
189 support organic farming technology and techniques, and reducing rural poverty. This
190 provides incentives and solutions to the private sector do address their problems more
191 domestically and fairly rather than receiving unnecessary amounts and poor quality of
192 aid from other nations. Ultimately, small scale farmers will have the incentive and
193 support to specialize in organic farming techniques.
194

195 b. Furthermore, this body encourages supporting bodies of the UN to promote
196 transparency in disbursements of funds provided for aid, as seen in the UK's
197 International Aid Transparency Initiative and the international Agreement on
198 Agriculture. As stated in the Agreement on Agriculture, this body realizes the need to
199 fully liberalize trade in agriculture products in order for countries to specialize and
200 deal with economic issues on a domestic level.
201

202 12. UNCTAD encourages ECOSOC to promote the adoption of recommendation 32 made in the
203 Best Practices for Organic Policy Report (2008) previously recommended by this body to
204 include organic agriculture in primary, and secondary education.
205

206 a. To increase education in organic farming for rural farmers in developing regions, this
207 body suggests that ECOSOC encourage Member States to support existing programs
208 enhancing crop diversification. Through state collaborations with international bodies
209 such as the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), rural farmers will be able to
210 increase crop production through organic agricultural practices which will diversify
211 commodity-based regional trade and increase soil longevity.
212

213 b. UNCTAD realizes that Member States within the South do not have adequate funding
214 in place to establish educational systems on organic agriculture. Thus, this body
215 encourages international organizations and supporting NGOs s to become involved in
216 established initiatives that specifically deal with education in order to overcome food
217 security. Examples of such programs are The Global Agriculture and Food Security
218 Program established by the G20 and the L'Aquila Food Initiative, which consists of
219 EU donors such as the European Council, France, Germany, and the UK.
220

221 13. Highlighting the important role of the World Food Program (WFP) to work closely with
222 Member States and distribute emergency food reserves primarily through government channels,

223 but also expressing the importance of the private sector and NGOs. Involving these initiatives
224 will aid in the issue of malnutrition, which is a detrimental roadblock to organic agriculture.

- 225
- 226 a. Encourages the close cooperation between the WFP and the World Meteorological
227 Organization (WMO) in order to predict natural disasters and prepare for food
228 shortages more effectively.
 - 229
 - 230 | b. Suggests that the WFP promote the further improvement of school feeding programs,
231 such as the Clinical Class in Rwanda, Namibian School Food Program, and the
232 Asian-German Better Rice Initiative as a model in order to nourish future generations.
 - 233
 - 234 | ~~b.c.~~ In addition, this body further urges the combination of these programs with initiatives
235 for iodized salt, which serves to reduce the effect of malnutrition, as well as the
236 distribution of vitamins among the population.
 - 237

238 14. Suggests that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) further develops existing
239 programs to work on grass root levels and provides technical support according to each state's
240 specific needs.

- 241
- 242 a. Encourages that the FAO supports closer cooperation on a local, national, and
243 regional basis.
 - 244

245 | 15. UNCTAD encourages the provision of emergency seeds, farming materials, and the
246 necessary training to assist farmers in need.

247

248 16. UNCTAD encourages concentration on ensuring accessible water for agricultural use in
249 order to combat malnutrition. International support for these issues is necessary for ensuring
250 proper collaboration in efforts to relieve the survival stresses of developing countries.

- 251
- 252 a. UNCTAD urges other international bodies to study the ideas of the UN Watercourses
253 Convention to promote cooperation on transboundary issues to promote fair access to
254 water. This will ensure the security of water and equally allocate resources to small-
255 scale farmers who want to shift to organic agriculture.
 - 256

- 257 b. This body recommends the study of the EU Water Framework Directive that works in
258 conjunction with Water for Life and Peace, a facet of the UN Watercourses
259 Convention, to implement a strong security program for water specifically.
- 260

261 | 17. Furthermore, UNCTAD recommends the UNDP to encourage frameworks concerning
262 foreign fallow farmland acquisition. Thus, UNCTAD wishes that this system be implemented
263 within existing UN organizations. An example of this would be collaborating with the FAO.

264

265 18. UNCTAD highlights the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to encourage the use of natural
266 pest control mechanisms to reduce the overall use of chemical pesticides.

267

268 a. Integrated pest management (IPM) is a broad based approach that integrates a range
269 of practices for economic control of pests. The Food and Agriculture Organization of
270 the UN defines IPM as "the careful consideration of all available pest control
271 techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the
272 development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels
273 that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and the
274 environment. IPM allows for a safer means of controlling pests. IPM emphasizes the
275 growth of a healthy crop with the least possible disruption to agro-ecosystems and
276 encourages natural pest control mechanisms."
277

278 19. In like manner, UNCTAD encourages fund such as the Kuwait Fund for Arab Development
279 (KFAED), which assist developing countries in their economies providing loans to finance
280 development projects. The Fund's operations are focused primarily on the sectors of agriculture
281 and irrigation.

1 **I. Introduction**

2
3 **A. DESERTIFICATION**

- 4
5 1. The changing agricultural conditions hamper access to food and harm agricultural
6 productivity in many areas across the globe. Desertification, threatens the livelihood of
7 nearly two billion people around the world, thus diminishes the amount of arable land
8 and erodes the basis of agricultural production. In this regard UNCTAD lauds the
9 previous Qatari-led initiative to establish the Global Dry Land Alliance (GDLA), which
10 as a forum and a network fosters the transfer of knowledge projects.

11
12 **B. BIODIVERSITY**

- 13
14 2. UNCTAD acknowledges the potential advantage of agrochemicals, but stresses the
15 importance of agro-ecological food production in order to protect biodiversity and fragile
16 food ecosystems. Research from the World Health Organization demonstrates that nearly
17 40% of pesticides are absorbed in Western countries. In addition, pesticide and fertilizer
18 use is expensive and ineffective; in the long-term run both types of chemicals destroy soil
19 quality. In this regard, it is necessary to lower dependency on pesticides and fertilizers
20 and instead to promote experimentation and research on organic culture of food
21 production. UNCTAD thus appreciates proven practices of international bodies on
22 organic agriculture such as: the International Federation of Organic Agriculture
23 Movement (IFOAM), the Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and the Organic Research
24 Centres Alliance (ORCA).

25
26 **C. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

- 27
28 3. Bearing in mind the problem of the loss of arable land, UNCTAD praises the transfer of
29 knowledge through initiatives that emphasize assisting developing countries to adapt to
30 natural challenges. Accordingly, UNCTAD highlights the benefits of South-South
31 Cooperation and triangulation, and its counterpart of North-South cooperation.

32
33
34
35 **D. WATER**

- 36
37 4. UNCTAD strongly emphasizes the integral role of water security in all Member States in
38 improving agriculture and maintaining food security in states; the lack of water can
39 devastate a nation in every aspect, as water scarcity highly affects the availability of food.
40 The United Nations believes that it is critical for industrial, local, and small farming
41 industries to have continued access to water. It is estimated that by 2050, over 40% of the
42 world water resources will be under severe stress. UNCTAD advises Member Nations to

43 take actions necessary to alleviate the situation. The United Nations understands that
44 alleviating issues of water scarcity will require highly innovative measures and
45 techniques, as well as a global effort to promote conservation. In this regard UNCTAD
46 welcomes research projects, similar to the Climate Proofing Rice Production Systems
47 Based on Nuclear Applications project implemented in Asian Pacific regions, that
48 enhance water resource management in agrarian development by identifying replenishing
49 aquifers for continuous farming practices, which is a vital component in enhancing
50 sustainable agricultural development.

51 52 53 **II. Mandate**

- 54
- 55 5. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was created in
56 1964 by the General Assembly. General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) specified that
57 the Conference should promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating
58 economic development. In exercising this function, the Conference was tasked to
59 formulate principles and policies on international trade and related problems of economic
60 development, and to make proposals for putting the said principles and policies into
61 effect, with a special regard to differences in economic systems and stages of
62 development. In addition, the resolution called for UNCTAD to generally review and
63 facilitate the co-ordination of activities of other institutions within the UN System in the
64 field of international trade and related problems of economic development, and in this
65 regard, to co-operate with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council
66 with respect to the performance of their responsibilities for co-ordination under the
67 Charter of the United Nations. The Conference was further tasked to initiate action,
68 where appropriate, in cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations for
69 the negotiation and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with
70 due regard to the adequacy of existing organs of negotiation and to be available as a
71 centre for harmonizing the trade and related development policies of Governments and
72 regional economic groupings in pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter.
73
 - 74 6. UNCTAD continually adapts its mandate to reflect current global economic conditions.
75 The Thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and
76 Development (UNCTAD XIII), held in 2012 in Doha, Qatar, called for UNCTAD to
77 continue to play its role in the evolution of a stronger global consensus on issues falling
78 within its mandate, to contribute to discussions within the United Nations system on
79 green economy and other models in the context of sustainable development and resilience
80 to change in agricultural conditions, to continue research and analysis on the prospects of,
81 and impact on, developing countries in matters of trade and development, in light of the
82 global economic and financial crisis, to continue to monitor and assess the evolution of
83 the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective and to
84 continue taking into consideration particularly the needs of Least Developed Countries
85 (LDCs) across all areas of its mandate in accordance with the Istanbul Programme of
86 Action as well as address the special concerns and needs of Africa, including as
87 articulated in the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The Doha Mandate equally
88 called for further consideration of the special trade, investment and development needs of

landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), including through continuing its support for effective implementation of the Almaty Ministerial Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries Within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, and its review in 2014. The Doha Mandate also called for UNCTAD to implement and follow up, as appropriate, relevant outcomes from global conferences and summits on development.

III. Conclusions and Recommendations

A. DESERTIFICATION

7. Bearing in mind increasing desertification and the need of proper food production in arid areas, UNCTAD recommends establishing the Global Dry Land Alliance (GDLA) as a forum for governments in arid areas and a research exchange network that additionally promotes partnerships with other states, regional and international organizations.

a. The GDLA shall remain in close contact with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), fostering common pilot projects which aim to adapt to desertification through sustainable agricultural production in states most in need. The International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Global Environment Facility would fund these pilot projects.

b. The GDLA, in cooperation with other organizations, shall provide for comprehensive initiatives and coordinated reactions to food crises by assisting food import-dependent dry-land countries to tackle trade imbalances by working towards stable, independent national economies.

B. BIODIVERSITY

8. UNCTAD recommends the Economic and Social Council to consider a resolution which shall encourage developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to reduce dependency and reliance on pesticides and fertilizers, to below the international standard of 225 kg per hectare, as suggested by UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Olivier de Schutter in 2011, and promotes the work of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which encourages the use of natural pest control mechanisms in order to reduce the overall use of chemical pesticides, in pursuit of achieving agro-ecological farming by:

a. Continuing with crop monoculture, while simultaneously, dedicating experimental arable land in order to shift towards a more diversified, pest-resistant crop plantation system;

b. Employing evidence-based agricultural techniques from CGIAR in agricultural development centres, such as:

- 134 i. push-pull technique, which consists of using cheap plants to attract and
135 repel pests from food and cash crops;
136
137 ii. crop rotation, which involves changing crops on the same plot of land
138 every plantation cycle to assist in renewing soil quality;
139
140 iii. nitrogen-fixing plant selection, which involves leguminous plants to
141 regenerate soil nutrients.
142
143 c. Drawing on biomasses, rather than crops, as bio-fuel, and as an alternative
144 sustainable energy source. This is to be achieved by promoting and increasing
145 agricultural demonstration centres, which serve as information and training hubs
146 for local communities of small farmers.
147

148 **C. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

149

- 150 9. Recognizes South-South Cooperation, in tandem with North-South Cooperation, as a tool
151 of choice for developing countries to tackle the issue of food insecurity.
152
153 a. In this regard UNCTAD recommends the United Nations Office for South-South
154 Cooperation to revise and modernize the Special Unit for South-South
155 Cooperation (SU/SSC) mandate.
156
157 i. Accordingly, UNCTAD considers proposals of streamlining the work of
158 the several UN agencies and affiliated organizations on South-South
159 Cooperation. UNCTAD recommends that the President of the Bureau of
160 the High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation and the Director
161 of the SU/ SSC deliver a report, including a catalogue of concrete
162 recommendations on how to streamline South-South Cooperation
163 institutionally. This catalogue will serve as the first step towards a
164 standard evaluation process of multilateral cooperation projects.
165
166 b. Furthermore, UNCTAD recommends appointing a Special Representative for
167 South-South Cooperation and Triangulation to facilitate coherence and synergy
168 effects between UN bodies and international organizations, as well as preventing
169 friction costs.
170
171 i. UNCTAD advises that the Special Representative shall attend the
172 meetings of the World Trade Organization's Director-General's Advisory
173 Group on Aid for Trade, UNCTAD's Trade and Development Board, the
174 UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, as well as co-chair the High-Level
175 Committee on South-South Cooperation (HLC).
176
177 ii. Moreover, the Special Representative shall stay in close contact with the
178 Director of SU/ SSC.
179

180 c. UNCTAD applauds initiatives such as the Community of Portuguese-Speaking
181 Countries (CPLP) highlighting the benefit of a shared community cooperating in
182 all possible areas, including food security. Together, CPLP members have
183 instituted the *Food and Nutritional Security Strategy*, which was highly lauded by
184 the FAO. The same model could apply to other language blocs, as common
185 language and possibly similar cultures could assist and increase the cooperation
186 among countries in these blocs. UNCTAD welcomes the sharing of CPLP's *Food
187 and Nutritional Security Strategy* to other food-insecure countries should states
188 find the said strategy beneficial.

189
190 d. UNCTAD underlines the idea of encouraging the implementation of scholarship
191 programs, internship programs, and bilateral agreements, with university student
192 exchange programs for agricultural and food science students. UNCTAD
193 encourages the United Nations Universities (UNU) to offer a greater curriculum
194 of food science and food management in collaboration with the UNU Institute of
195 Water, Environment and Health in order to create a global network among youth
196 interested in agriculture.

197
198
199

200 **D. WATER**

201

202 10. UNCTAD strongly emphasizes the importance of ensuring water for consumption and
203 agricultural purposes in both developed and developing countries through consistent and
204 increased cooperation on both the regional and international levels Therefore UNCTAD
205 recommends the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC)
206 and the FAO to consider common initiatives that enhance water management capabilities
207 by:

208

209 a. Providing of education and training of officials in water allocation, provision, and
210 distribution of clean water to promote efficiency which shall be achieved through;

211

212 i. technology and information sharing, specifically in water conservation and
213 organic farming;

214

215 ii. New methods such as re-allocating water to higher-value uses, and the
216 Drip Irrigation method as implemented by Israel, among others.

217

218 iii. Applying isotope hydrology within water management initiative for food
219 security efforts modeled after the Climate Proofing Rice Production
220 Systems Based on Nuclear Applications project implemented in Asian
221 Pacific regions.

Code: 1.8

Committee: United Nations Committee on Trade and Development

Subject: Food Security: Agriculture and Trade

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2
3 **ECONOMICS**

4
5 1. The United Nations Committee on Trade and Development sees the crucial importance of
6 family and smallholder farms to global agricultural development as there are half a billion-
7 smallholder farms tilling 80% of the farmlands in Africa and Asia. UNCTAD applauds
8 A/RES/66/222, which established 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming emphasizing
9 the importance of family and smallholder farms.

10
11 2. As the focal point for trade and development in the UN system, UNCTAD is extremely
12 concerned about the impacts of food insecurity on States' inherent sovereignty, economic
13 development, and the livelihoods of their people. There are many dimensions to this scourge.
14 Beyond indigenous factors such as resource scarcity, low productivity, and poor management,
15 the conference seeks to stress the impact of exogenous price volatility and market uncertainty.
16 These circumstances often disproportionately affect developing nations.

17
18 3. UNCTAD believes in the crucial part of Regional Development Banks (RDBs) are in food
19 security. The role of regional development banks in assisting LDC is of paramount importance,
20 especially in times of financial and fiscal crisis. Such banks continue to provide funds and other
21 financial supports while private banks are discouraged due to their economic interests. RDBs are
22 banks established with the purpose of providing investment capital for developing business,
23 industrial sector, and agricultural sector in a particular region. An important aspect of the RDBs
24 is that they are majority owned by regional Member States. This means that countries in the
25 region have great influence on how the bank's money would best be spent for the overall benefit
26 of people in the regions. Infrastructure development is the basis for agricultural production, food
27 transportation and storage. Additional financial investments are paramount and should be funded
28 through UN programs aimed at developing technology and farming techniques.

29
30
31 **ORGANIZATIONAL**

32
33 4. Noting that arable land is a vital resource that must be preserved, cultivated, and revitalized,
34 UNCTAD will intensify its efforts to promote more sustainable agricultural practices,
35 techniques, and technology. It is essential to enhance global cooperation on this matter, and
36 continue building upon current movements towards more green and sustainable land use
37 practices.

38
39 **GLOBAL FOOD LOSS**

40
41 5. UNCTAD recognizes the important work of the Food and Agriculture Organization, United
42 Nations Development Programme, Organization of American States in regards to Food loss and

43 food waste and reducing the 1.3 billion tons of yearly food loss. Preventing food loss globally
44 would result in lower food prices; maximize the local markets products, and decreased hunger
45 each year.

46 47 **EMERGENCY FOOD CRISIS RESPONSE**

48
49 6. It is generally acknowledged that the fundamental reasons underlying food emergencies are
50 natural disasters, suspension of normal supply lines due to economic, political, or military
51 reasons and increases in the price of imported food to a degree that makes food accessibility
52 economically impossible.

53
54 7. UNCTAD is aware of the regional specificities and the diverging regional needs when it
55 comes to food security. In case of emergency and natural disasters, there have been great positive
56 strides in terms of cooperation and collaboration. Exemplary regional emergency food programs
57 include ASEAN + 3's stockpiling of rice in order to alleviate regional starvation, and the African
58 Regional Emergency Reserve program. Many regions lack support, due to political or
59 economically reasons, the emergency reserve funds.

60 61 **II. MANDATE**

62
63 8. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was created in 1964
64 by the General Assembly. General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) specified that UNCTAD
65 should promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic
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68 proposals for putting the said principles and policies into effect, with a special regard to
69 differences in economic systems and stages of development. In addition, the resolution called for
70 UNCTAD to generally review and facilitate the co-ordination of activities of other institutions
71 within the UN System in the field of international trade and related problems of economic
72 development, and in this regard, to co-operate with the General Assembly and the Economic and
73 Social Council with respect to the performance of their responsibilities for co-ordination under
74 the Charter of the United Nations. The Conference was further tasked to initiate action, where
75 appropriate, in cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations for the negotiation
76 and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with due regard to the
77 adequacy of existing organs of negotiation and to be available as a centre for harmonizing the
78 trade and related development policies of s and regional economic groupings in pursuance of
79 Article 1 of the Charter.

80
81 9. UNCTAD continually adapts its mandate to reflect current global economic conditions. The
82 Thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
83 (UNCTAD XIII), held in 2012 in Doha, Qatar, called for UNCTAD to continue to play its role in
84 the evolution of a stronger global consensus on issues falling within its mandate, to contribute to
85 discussions within the United Nations system on green economy and other models in the context
86 of sustainable development and resilience to climate change, to continue research and analysis on
87 the prospects of, and impact on, developing countries in matters of trade and development, in
88 light of the global economic and financial crisis, to continue to monitor and assess the evolution

89 of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective and to continue
90 taking into consideration particularly the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) across all
91 areas of its mandate in accordance with the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as address the
92 special concerns and needs of Africa, including as articulated in the New Partnership for Africa's
93 Development. The Doha Mandate equally called for further consideration of the special trade,
94 investment and development needs of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), including
95 through continuing its support for effective implementation of the Almaty Ministerial
96 Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked
97 Developing Countries Within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for
98 Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, and its review in 2014. The Doha Mandate also
99 called for UNCTAD to implement and follow up, as appropriate, relevant outcomes from global
100 conferences and summits on development.

101

102 **III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

103

104 **ECONOMICS**

105

106 10. Member States invite foreign investment, however, rather than encouraging free trade alone,
107 developing countries would gain greater benefits from encouraging bilateral agreements where
108 respective countries can access goods for considerably lower tariffs. The agreements can bring
109 bilateral negotiations that will bring stable imports/exports, increase revenue for the state and
110 allow further development of the infrastructure. The agreements will simultaneously establish
111 protections for small farmers from price volatility and inflation in markets because there will be
112 stable movement of goods between the respective Member States.

113

114 11. UNCTAD stresses the importance of the development banks such as the Asian Development
115 Bank , African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, and encourages such banks to
116 implement their skills in order to provide technical financial assistance during the lifecycle of the
117 infrastructure building project and small-hold farming modernizations.

118

119 a. The development banks will be able to create a positive relationship with governments,
120 NGOs and companies, which will provide comprehensive infrastructure to developing
121 Member States, in order to obtain more agricultural logistical advantages.

122

123 b. Furthermore, the development banks will be able to focus on smallholding farmers
124 more by extending them loans in order to modernize their farming equipment in an
125 sustainable manner.

126

127 12. UNCTAD encourages the creation of a World Farming Conference on Green and Sustainable
128 Agriculture. This conference would provide a forum for members of the farming industry, as
129 well as all members of the international farming community, to discuss existing programs, with
130 the goal of improving green and sustainable practices. This forum would include education and
131 training programs focused on the impact of unsustainable land use practices. These issues could
132 range from: the effects of agrochemicals on water and air quality, declining crop yields, and the
133 erosion of ecosystems. This conference could serve as a remedy to many global agricultural

134 issues. UNCTAD recalls conventions such as Group 77's (G77) format and organization in
135 collaborating to address global issues.

136
137

138 **ORGANIZATIONAL**

139

140 13. UNCTAD applauds the ability of the regional food reserve funds to mitigate and alleviate
141 world hunger during times of crisis such as ASEAN +3 and the African Regional Emergency
142 Reserve Fund. There is a need to encourage the implementation of an emergency strategy for
143 regions, Member States and the international community.

144

145 **GLOBAL FOOD LOSS**

146

147 14. UNCTAD recognizes the importance of regional cooperation in ensuring food security and
148 access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food.

149

150 15. UNCTAD supports more FAO consumer studies being conducted in LCDs and developing
151 states.

152

153 16. UNCTAD suggests Member States to promote communication and cooperation between
154 farmers. Providing adequate information and enhancing cooperation among farmers could reduce
155 risk of overproduction by allowing surplus crops from one farm to solve a shortage of crops on
156 another in order to reduce the waste in the beginning of the production process.

157

158 17. For the most vulnerable population, the priority is to have access to food products that are
159 nutritious, safe and affordable. Thus, improving the efficiency of the food supply chain could
160 help to bring down the cost of food to the consumer and thus increase access. Given the
161 magnitude of food losses, making profitable investments in reducing losses could be one way of
162 reducing the cost of food.

163

164 **EMERGENCY FOOD CRISIS RESPONSE**

165

166 18. UNCTAD advise the strengthening of the Central Emergency Response Fund and creation of
167 a subunit, under the supervision of the FAO, beneath this fund to set the focus on food security to
168 serve starving population in times of humanitarian crisis. It would also allow Member States to
169 more efficiently weather external shocks to food prices, but more significantly it would promote
170 transparency and direct multilateral efforts among state and non-state actors in the event of
171 another global food crisis.

172

173 19. The Fund would be established under the auspices of the UN and the FAO and would operate
174 by supplementing existing regional food reserve emergency funds such as ASEAN + 3 and
175 encourage the purchasing of national surpluses from agricultural producers as a hedge against
176 potential future price swings. At the same time, release reserves into the market if shortages exist
177 in the hopes of eliminating major rises in price and ensuring access to basic agricultural goods
178 for the world's most needy, in addition the security of a stable price system will foster a greater
179 foundation for worldwide economic development.

180

181 20. The Fund and the FAO may also seek to coordinate with other relevant organizations of the
182 international community, such as the UNDP, Oxfam, and World Meteorological Organization
183 (WMO), and the Agricultural Market Information System to more accurately predict the
184 conditions leading to shortages, gluts, or other production factors. The information will allow
185 respective Member States and small farmers to plan accordingly. This will additionally aid in
186 timely and appropriate mobilization of resources and humanitarian packages in the case of
187 forecast natural disasters or drastic food insecurity.

188

189 21. UNCTAD stresses all countries to further their contribution to emergency food aid to the
190 World Food Programme and advocates commitments such as the Food Aid Convention,
191 guaranteeing concrete amounts of food aid during crises.

192

193 22. UNCTAD recommends the creation of Regional Emergency Disaster Relief Plans pursuant
194 to the immediate needs in food security. We suggest collaboration between regional experts,
195 WHO and WFP. Key areas that need to be addressed are emergency refrigeration and storage
196 plan.

Code: 1/9

Committee: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Subject: Food Security: Agriculture and Trade

Sponsors: Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lithuania, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Romania, San Marino, Seychelles, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom, Yemen

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1 **I. Introduction**

2
3 **A. MARKET STRATEGIES**

4
5 1. Regarding trade initiatives, UNCTAD supports exploring how tariffs and subsidies are
6 implemented in ways that best supports a diverse range of nations. During the World Summit on
7 Food Security in 2011, an agreement was created among Food and Agriculture Organization
8 (FAO) participant nations. In order to remove food export restrictions or extraordinary taxes for
9 food purchased for noncommercial humanitarian purposes. The World Bank is a major
10 contributor to the development of nations, and it is important to ensure the investments are
11 productive and effective. Many developing nations feel that subsidies serve to hinder food
12 production in order to achieve market stability. At a time when 25,000 people are dying every
13 day from starvation or hunger related afflictions, putting limits on the food supply is detrimental
14 to the advancements of the international community.

15
16
17 **B. WOMEN AND AGRICULTURE**

18
19 2. A 2010 report "*The State of Food and Agriculture*" from FAO shows that women in Sub-
20 Saharan African, South Eastern Asian, and Latin American countries contribute up to 50-60% of
21 agricultural labor. However, 1.1 billion of these women lack access to the productive resources
22 in agriculture, which has resulted in female farmers achieving yields of 20-30% less than male
23 farmers. In turn this severely limits the overall yields for consumption of men, women, and
24 children in these countries and across the world. An FAO study in Indonesia showed that over
25 one quarter of the most desperately poor households were headed by women farmers. Various
26 factors contributing to these gender-based asymmetries include: illiteracy, access to
27 technological advances and establishing credit, as well as land ownership. UNCTAD recognizes
28 another factor contributing to the gender disparity in agriculture which is the burden of
29 maintenance of the household which falls mainly on the shoulders of women in many developing
30 countries. An effect of the burden of household work is the limits on the ability of women to
31 pursue work in other industries (such as agriculture) in addition to the fact that they are also not
32 compensated for the work they do in the traditional household, which leaves them financially

33 depleted. This conference gives several recommendations on how to address these constraints on
 34 women. Aware that the agricultural sector is often-times hardest hit by natural disasters and
 35 conflicts, it is of particular importance to include possible initiatives educating women in these
 36 areas, to facilitate a more rapid and smoother economic recovery and security of food supply.

37
 38

39 **D. DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE**

40

41 3. Taking into consideration the UNCTAD 2011 report on Least Developed Countries (LDCs),
 42 during this session the conference aims to tackle food security through cooperation and fostering
 43 technological collaboration using research and development. There are currently existing FAO
 44 structures which are working to achieve this, such as the International System for Agricultural
 45 Science and Technology (AGRIS) or Technologies and Practices for Small Agricultural
 46 Producers (TECA), both of which are internet databases which support information sharing.
 47 Additionally, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
 48 currently has partnerships with universities, such as with the University of Nigeria, which has the
 49 purpose of conducting research on topics of special interest to the international community.
 50 Furthermore, as suggested within the 2010 UNCTAD Technology and Innovation Report,
 51 providing developing and developed states with efficient and effective technologies in
 52 sustainable agriculture is imperative in increasing food safety. This includes research into
 53 nonradioactive nuclear measures. The world's population growth calls for the need of higher
 54 output of agricultural products. This can mainly be achieved through agricultural research aimed
 55 on improving the efficiency of agricultural productivity. Previous partnerships on research, such
 56 as the African Food Security Initiative brought agricultural scientists together to work on higher
 57 yielding seeds. The Seeds Of Life program (SOL), initiated by Australia and the International
 58 Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD) is the first bilateral cooperation program that focuses
 59 on increasing food crops productivity in order to improve food security.

60
 61

62 4. Partnership among Member States is needed in order to achieve food security. There are
 63 several interregional projects such as the "German Initiative for Agribusiness and Food Security
 64 in Emerging and Developing Economies" (GIAF), which focuses on the promotion and
 65 improvement between the German private sector and the public sector of developing countries in
 66 order to increase sustainability through agricultural production and food sector in emerging and
 67 developing countries; and the "Asian German Better Rice Initiative" (AGBRI), which goal is to
 68 improve the rice production, distribution and nutrition in rice-consuming countries such as
 69 Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam (the main Southeast Asian rice-producing and -
 70 consuming countries) should be implemented and expanded to other regions and other countries
 71 around the world including African nations.

72

73 5. Recognizing the context of globalization, regional integration is imperative for the inclusive
 74 development in Africa. The 1980 Lagos Plan of Action has envisaged the African Economic
 75 Community (AEC), which categorized the African continent into five main regional areas: North,
 76 West, South, East, and Central Africa. The AEC is an organization of the African Union (AU)
 77 states establishing grounds for mutual development. Yet the present configuration of Regional
 78 Economic Communities (RECs) does not tally with the AEC regions, and many studies have

79 outlined the problems of multiple and overlapping memberships in RECs throughout Africa,
80 undermining the benefits of total integration. We recognize the 2008 communiqué of October 22
81 agreement calling for immediate steps to form one large African Economic Community (AEC),
82 and believes that concrete agreements need further attention, also including other RECs to extend
83 regional cooperation in fast-tracking agricultural innovation.
84

85 **II. Mandate**

86
87 6. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was created in 1964
88 by the General Assembly. General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) specified that the
89 Conference should promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic
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100 and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with due regard to the
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102 trade and related development policies of Governments and regional economic groupings in
103 pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter.
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109 discussions within the United Nations system on green economy and other models in the context
110 of sustainable development and resilience to climate change, to continue research and analysis on
111 the prospects of, and impact on, developing countries in matters of trade and development, in
112 light of the global economic and financial crisis, to continue to monitor and assess the evolution
113 of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective and to continue
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115 areas of its mandate in accordance with the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as address the
116 special concerns and needs of Africa, including as articulated in the New Partnership for Africa's
117 Development. The Doha Mandate equally called for further consideration of the special trade,
118 investment and development needs of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), including
119 through continuing its support for effective implementation of the Almaty Ministerial
120 Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked
121 Developing Countries Within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for
122 Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, and its review in 2014. The Doha Mandate also
123 called for UNCTAD to implement and follow up, as appropriate, relevant outcomes from global
124 conferences and summits on development.

125
126 **III. Conclusions and Recommendations**

127
128 **B. MARKET STRATEGIES**

129
130 8. National subsidies are often a valuable tool in promoting market stability. UNCTAD suggests
131 the General Assembly (GA) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) that a strong
132 focus should be placed upon subsidy alternatives for the purpose of stabilizing the agricultural
133 market.

134 a. Such alternatives would include the implementation of a program in which LDC's
135 could create contracts to purchase food at set prices for a given time period. For example,
136 an LDC can negotiate with one of their import countries to have a fixed import price for a
137 set amount of time regardless of market conditions. This way, the LDCs will be protected
138 from harmful price influxes and the market would be supplied by the increase of food
139 created due to better price controls.

140 9. Creating trade partnerships are crucial to ensuring equal food distribution. UNCTAD
141 recommends the unification, expansion, and revision of existing trade programs.

142 a. Include more agricultural products into the General System of Preferences (GSP) trade
143 list which is a World Trade Organization (WTO) based system. This system protects
144 LDC's from tariffs, while at the same time maintaining equal tariffs for more developed
145 countries. Such an inclusion would allow more flexibility to LDC's in choosing which
146 agricultural resources to develop. In addition, new agricultural market sectors would be
147 opened to these LDC's allowing more revenue to flow into their countries.

148 b. UNCTAD recommends the WTO to carefully monitor the trade in food between states
149 to prevent further occurrences of trade restrictions which increase the price volatility and
150 make trade unpredictable and less transparent.

151 c. UNCTAD recommends that the GA and the ECOSOC embrace the policies illustrated
152 in the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) which serves to assist and support
153 African LDC's in not only the Agricultural Trade Market, but other commodity markets
154 as well.

155 d. Follow the example set forth by the European Union through the implementation of the
156 Everything but Arms Act, which assists LDC's by allowing them immunity from tariffs
157 and quota restrictions. We recommend that all countries adopt this policy.

158 e. Furthermore, it is encouraged that UN organs such as the ECOSOC acknowledge the
159 importance of fair trade as well as the transparency of aid by partaking in initiatives such
160 as the United Kingdom's International Aid Transparency Initiative to help development
161 in ways that promote the most efficient and sustainable use of aid provided by many
162 developed countries.

163 f. UNCTAD acknowledges and highlights the job done by the United Nations Framework
164 Convention on Climate Change, these funds—known as the Strategic Technology Fund

165 (CTF) and Strategic Climate Fund (SCF), and suggests that these programs be used to
166 support afflicted nations by:

- 167 i. Dispersing funds for participatory adoption
- 168 ii. Financing climate resilient infrastructure
- 169 iii. Funding climate related projects and specific programs, where funds are
- 170 supported by grants, highly concessional loans, and risk management instruments.
- 171

172 g. UNCTAD also recognizes the need for close monitoring of regional climate conditions
173 in agricultural dominant states, and supports the development of research and
174 technologies for climate resilient and sustainable agriculture in LDCs, such as the
175 “Agricultural Meteorology Programme” and its efforts to support food and agricultural
176 production.

177

178 **C. WOMEN AND AGRICULTURE**

179

180 10. Women and agriculture are often overlooked in the world of reform. UNCTAD believes that
181 the cooperation between the two is crucial for the development and continuation of food security.
182 UNCTAD recommends a 5 step process to ensure the stability of women and agriculture for
183 future conferences to come.

184 a. To help solve illiteracy among the female demographic, UNCTAD
185 recommends the ECOSOC to create a programme which works closely with
186 NGO’s such as “Education without Borders” to create educational centers for
187 girls in countries most affected by gender inequality in agriculture. The access to
188 primary education for young girls will prove essential in allowing upward
189 mobility and putting young women in a position to achieve higher levels of wage
190 earning in agriculture and other industries.

191

192 b. To address the lack of access to new technology, UNCTAD recommends the
193 ECOSOC setting up a programme in collaboration with an NGO such as MADRE
194 which works with rural female farmers to educate them on effective farming
195 techniques, and provide access to market information and new agricultural
196 technology. An increase in female employment at higher skilled labor position as
197 opposed to the low-skilled position under which they are often employed will
198 occur as an effect of such training and information sharing.

199

200 c. Lack of land ownership of women is a large hindrance to gender equality and
201 further output of female farmers. Taken from the UNCTAD Report on LDC’s in
202 May 2011, a recommendation was made to increase female land ownership to
203 facilitate growth in production from female farmers. This conference suggests a
204 solution working with organizations like *CEDAW* (Convention on the Elimination
205 of all Forms of Discrimination against Women) and the *ILC* (International Land
206 Coalition) to promote discussion of women’s role in land ownership and
207 advocacy of gender equality in nations of unfavorable gender climates. In
208 addition, UNCTAD encourages working in unison with UN Women to implement

209 and raise public awareness of country-specific pilot programs aimed at increasing
210 participation of women in local farm associations and cooperatives. In programs
211 such as these women are introduced to the decision making process alongside
212 men, and positive financial and production results are immediately seen.

213
214 d. Lack of access to lines of credit, a natural effect of the inability to hold land,
215 can be established primarily through fixing the problem of land ownership
216 addressed above, and also through establishment of female agricultural unions
217 which can receive financing and credit lines jointly. Additionally, to facilitate
218 financial growth among female subsistence farmers, UNCTAD suggests a similar
219 project to the *Competitive Local Innovations of Small Scale Agriculture*
220 (CLISSA) implemented in Seychelles. A major component of this project
221 involves improving access to agricultural and rural finance through the provision
222 of credit for the financing of agricultural, fisheries and rural micro enterprises.

223
224 e. To alleviate the household burdens that women face, UNCTAD recommends a
225 similar initiative to the one established in Bangladesh in 2002 by a nonprofit
226 group, Building Resources Across Communities. It provided women with poultry
227 (easier to raise than pigs, cows, goats and sheep), subsidized legal and health
228 services, and distributed a temporary daily stipend to hold over extremely poor
229 women who were working so as to allow for the women to focus on farming.
230 Ensuring that children are -being enrolled in schools, as mentioned in the first
231 recommendation, will also allow for women to focus more on agriculture and less
232 on the task of caring for the children.

233
234 f. To meet the challenges post-conflict and post-disaster areas pose, UNCTAD
235 recommends extending measures on agricultural education into efforts of
236 stabilizing these societies. In collusion with UNESCO, the WHO and the
237 Interagency Network for Emergency Education, a comprehensive program
238 strengthening women's role in agriculture in post-conflict and post-disaster areas
239 would be suggested. This serves to facilitate a quicker economic recovery of the
240 agricultural sector.

241 242 243 244 **D. TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERCHANGE**

245
246 11. Agricultural technology provides an important means to increase production, thus addressing
247 one significant aspect of food insecurity. The benefits of improved agricultural technology need
248 to be spread through regional, triangular, and South-South cooperation, as was advocated for in
249 GA Resolution A/RES/64/222, such as by improved coordination systems and improved data
250 collection. As agricultural technology moves into areas and states suffering from food insecurity,
251 the increased production can alleviate suffering.

252
253 12. UNCTAD encourages further cooperation with the FAO in order to enhance research,
254 development, and collection of agricultural technologies, techniques, and practices.

255
 256 a. UNCTAD recommends using existing FAO programs, such as the Internet platforms,
 257 AGRIS and TECA, as a means to increase the flow of information in rural areas.
 258 Regional expert groups should be established in order to analyze the information from
 259 AGRIS and TECA. The experts would go into rural areas to train members of local
 260 communities on how to make efficient use of the Internet resources. In addition, the
 261 recommendation focuses on strengthening research and information sharing networks
 262 involved in technology transfers and biotechnological improvements, such as the “Seeds
 263 of Life” (SOL) program in Timor-Leste that help sustain rural communities during
 264 natural disasters.

265
 266 b. Cooperation of the FAO with universities for the purpose of creating a method to
 267 tangibly measure the need of access to technology by each member country and a
 268 research and development network devoted to reducing hunger. The universities will be
 269 responsible for research in agricultural technology and green development as has already
 270 been demonstrated by the successful model in Nigeria with the pairing of UNESCO and
 271 the University of Nigeria Nsukka, creating the International Institute of Biotechnology.
 272 Such cooperation should be mirrored where possible in the effort against food insecurity.
 273

274 c. Use existing structures which includes universities and other educational organizations
 275 to help develop and provide impartial advice to developing countries. This can be funded
 276 by additional investments from Member States that are able to contribute, direct foreign
 277 investments, private investments, and company investments. The beneficiaries would
 278 receive a multitude of optional supports depending on each country’s domestic need like
 279 job creation, and a more educated market.
 280

281 d. Furthermore, the UNCTAD calls upon the GA and the ECOSOC in improving the
 282 strength of research and information sharing networks involved in technology transfers
 283 and biotechnological improvements, such as the “Seeds of Life” (SOL) program in
 284 Timor-Leste that help Sustain rural communities, during natural disasters.
 285

286 13. Nuclear technologies are an effective tool in enhancing sustainable agriculture to eliminate
 287 food insecurity. Utilizing nuclear technologies under the Joint Food and Agriculture
 288 Organization-International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Programme will effectively provide a
 289 solution that ensure food safety, as addressed in the *5 Rome Principles for Sustainable Global*
 290 *Food Security*, and will enhance efficient agricultural practices within the international
 291 community. UNCTAD recommends the body addressing specific aspects when taking nuclear
 292 technology into consideration:
 293

294 a. Efficiently identifying soil composition will allow Member States to utilize
 295 biotechnologies to increase agricultural output for further crop growth, as seen in the
 296 Using Fallout Radionuclides and Stable Isotope Techniques to Asses Soil Quality and
 297 Dust Production for Enhanced Agricultural Land Productivity project applied in Iraq.
 298 Identifying soil composition will enable IAEA research analysts to collaborate
 299 alongside programs such as the EU Eco-innovation Action Plan, governments in

300 developing sustainable methods for farming techniques for crop growth and
301 longevity, therefore increasing food production and ensuring food security.

302
303 14. This forum suggests utilizing microorganisms to biologically fix nitrogen into the ground, as
304 it provides one of the only natural alternatives to chemically based fertilizers. This process will
305 incorporate microorganisms to biologically fix nitrogen within the crop rotation method, which
306 increases amount of nitrogen in ground necessary for crop growth. Applying this process within
307 arable land development projects, such as the Assessing and Improving the Assimilability of
308 Natural Phosphates Composted with Organic Matter in Marginal Soils through the Use of
309 Isotope and Nuclear Techniques for Improved Crop Nutrition applied in the Democratic
310 Republic of Congo, will assist Member States in striving to improve their land usage for farming
311 techniques that enhance food security and safety.

312
313 15. UNCTAD promotes the strengthening of the already existing programs which focus on the
314 needs of LDCs, such as the German Initiative for Agribusiness and Food Security in Emerging
315 and Developing Countries and the Asian-German Better Rice Initiative.

316
317 16. Through the revitalization of the African Economic Community (AEC) under the African
318 Union (AU). Through the combination of the Common Market for East and Southern African
319 States (COMESA), East Africa Community (EAC), and South African Development Community
320 (SADC) into one large African Tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA), regional coordination can be
321 better directed to fulfill continental concerns such as climate change and market integration, in
322 the midst of overlapping communities and regional blocs.

323
324 a. Recommends regional agricultural research centers located in COMESA, EAC, and
325 SADC spread agricultural, weather, and market information through workshops,
326 conferences, and initiatives in one African Economic Community Forum.

327 b. Advises the harmonization of basic standards and regulations be considered through
328 the AEC, in efforts to increase market incentives for smallholder farmers, supply
329 affordable to consumers, and ease the flow of trade for export-orientated economies

330 c. Encourages that COMESA, EAC, and SADC coordinate productive capacities and
331 infrastructure developments based on regional comparative advantage in projects linking
332 transportation, production, and communication systems, connecting isolated, rural
333 communities and landlocked regions.

Code: 1/10

Committee: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Subject: Food Security: Agriculture and Trade

1 **I. Introduction**

3 **A. FOOD SECURITY: AGRICULTURE AND TRADE**

5 1. Maintaining the tenants of national and cultural sovereignty, and promoting a bottom-up
6 approach to education and development solutions, this conference recommends the trans-
7 regional coordination of established institutions for agricultural education, technology sharing,
8 and development.

10 2. The UNCTAD acknowledges the efforts undertaken by various programs on the issue of
11 technology and information exchange. Exemplary programs include the Arab Organization for
12 Agricultural Development (AOAD), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development
13 Programme (CAADP), and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Regional
14 Programme for Food Security (RPFS) and other regional coordination groups for proliferating
15 technology and information exchange for development. These programs oversee efforts which
16 are vital to a coordinated approach on food security.

18 3. Other sources of data which can be valuable regarding coordination issues in the fight for food
19 security include Organizations like the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the World
20 Meteorological Organization (WMO) to enhance a global data base to coordinate emergency
21 relief plans in preparation of natural disasters.

23 4. The UNCTAD is linking the UNOSSC approach, which includes the SS- Academy, SS- Expo
24 and the SS-Gate with regional initiatives of the UN, mainly funded by the United Nations
25 Development Programme (UNDP). The South- South- Cooperation (SSC) program concentrates
26 on knowledge exchange and complements other approaches from the UN like the Millennium
27 Acceleration Framework (MAF) and private or public initiatives, including Non-Governmental
28 Organizations (NGOs) like the DAD, AGRIS, TECA and AMP databases to enable individual
29 countries to access data from programs worldwide. The access to such data has not been
30 effective in promoting cooperation between local actors or in transferring lessons learned from
31 previous experiences in the areas of agricultural practices and methods.

33 5. For funding purposes the Conference acknowledges the work of the World Bank and
34 International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) among others to ensure continuous
35 funding for development programs.

37 6. The UNCTAD also promotes the Conference on Science and Technologies (COSTIS), which
38 promotes technology sharing and transfers within the SSC framework as well as Triangular
39 Cooperation. The combination of such conferences and the generated data on the regional level
40 creates pillars for information exchange and agricultural education. Taking into consideration the
41 fact that education is a very important aspect of food security, UNCTAD has created several

42 effective measures in the past which includes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Scaling up
43 Nutritional Movement.

44
45 7. There has been a bold attempt by United Nations bodies to establish a communication
46 infrastructure connecting even the most rural areas and ensuring access to implement and spread
47 the best practices and methods promoting sustainable policies. Highlighting the importance of
48 rural access points in which UNCTAD welcomes the work of the United Nations Information
49 Centres (UNIC) worldwide. Other initiatives include Communal Multimedia Centers (CMC),
50 funded by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) or the
51 European Commission funded Euro- Solar Programme in Central America.

52
53 8. The Members of the Conference furthermore recall the already existing United Nations
54 network, established with the help of the ECOSOC and Programs like the Millennium
55 Development Goals (MDGs) A/RES/55/2, specifically the MAF and its data collection and
56 analysis mechanisms, which have created huge amounts of data on the issue of poverty and food
57 security specifically. Furthermore, trade and other cooperation groups, which combine regional
58 interests by promoting training and information on a local basis.

59
60 9. UNCTAD knows the importance of diversified production in order to achieve a healthier
61 lifestyle. A good example of this initiative is the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement which
62 encourages national leaders to prioritize efforts to address malnutrition. This movement
63 promotes the fortification of food, micronutrients supplementation, and treatment of severe
64 malnutrition.

65
66 10. Considering that only 8% of the people affected by hunger are victims of food emergencies,
67 structural an long term thinking are needed. That is exactly what education, not only to children
68 and student but also to agricultural workers, is providing. The Enhanced food security and
69 improved education are two interlinked and crucial concepts. Due to small famers' knowledge
70 becoming enlarged, productivity and thus local offer will increase. By doing so, stunting will be
71 reduced, enabling Least Developed Countries and developing countries to thrive thanks to more
72 healthier, smarter and productive citizens.

73
74 11. The Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN Movement), and the Integrated Pest Management
75 (IPM) further mentioned are participating to give the right training and knowledge to those who
76 most need it. The Sun movement, created in 2009 attempts to achieve long term reduction in
77 under-nutrition, with a special focus on maternal and child nutrition. The IPM, by implementing
78 not only pest methods control but also monitoring and prevention, try to avoid unacceptable
79 levels of pest damage.

80
81 12. As UNCTAD cannot improve education only through good principles and ideas, the funds
82 enabling the recommendations to be implemented should be found in Official Development Aid
83 (ODA), UN Fund for South-South Cooperation, and financial institutions such as the
84 International Monetary Fund (IMF).

85
86
87 **II. Mandate**

88
89 13. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was created in 1964
90 by the General Assembly. General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) specified that the
91 Conference should promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic
92 development. In exercising this function, the Conference was tasked to formulate principles and
93 policies on international trade and related problems of economic development, and to make
94 proposals for putting the said principles and policies into effect, with a special regard to
95 differences in economic systems and stages of development. In addition, the resolution called for
96 UNCTAD to generally review and facilitate the co-ordination of activities of other institutions
97 within the UN System in the field of international trade and related problems of economic
98 development, and in this regard, to co-operate with the General Assembly and the Economic and
99 Social Council with respect to the performance of their responsibilities for co-ordination under
100 the Charter of the United Nations. The Conference was further tasked to initiate action, where
101 appropriate, in cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations for the negotiation
102 and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with due regard to the
103 adequacy of existing organs of negotiation and to be available as a centre for harmonizing the
104 trade and related development policies of Governments and regional economic groupings in
105 pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter.
106

107 14. UNCTAD continually adapts its mandate to reflect current global economic conditions. The
108 Thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
109 (UNCTAD XIII), held in 2012 in Doha, Qatar, called for UNCTAD to continue to play its role in
110 the evolution of a stronger global consensus on issues falling within its mandate, to contribute to
111 discussions within the United Nations system on green economy and other models in the context
112 of sustainable development and resilience to climate change, to continue research and analysis on
113 the prospects of, and impact on, developing countries in matters of trade and development, in
114 light of the global economic and financial crisis, to continue to monitor and assess the evolution
115 of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective and to continue
116 taking into consideration particularly the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) across all
117 areas of its mandate in accordance with the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as address the
118 special concerns and needs of Africa, including as articulated in the New Partnership for Africa's
119 Development. The Doha Mandate equally called for further consideration of the special trade,
120 investment and development needs of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), including
121 through continuing its support for effective implementation of the Almaty Ministerial
122 Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked
123 Developing Countries Within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for
124 Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, and its review in 2014. The Doha Mandate also
125 called for UNCTAD to implement and follow up, as appropriate, relevant outcomes from global
126 conferences and summits on development.
127

128 **III. Conclusions and Recommendations**

129 **A. INFORMATION EXCHANGE, KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND INTERNATIONAL** 130 **DATABASES** 131

132
133

134 15. The UNCTAD strongly recommends to the UNDP the expansion of the SS- Gate mandate,
135 which should be utilized more efficiently and effectively for the purpose of creating trans-
136 regional means for technology and information exchange by coordinating the regional efforts of
137 nongovernmental and governmental organizations related to agricultural development, education
138 and technology sharing, such as the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD),
139 Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and ECO Regional
140 Programme for Food Security (RPFS).

141 a. The used and gathered data needs to be understood on an intermediate level, which
142 will be the main task of the SS-Gate initiative to be accomplished by 2020. The
143 outcome should be visible through a final report which summarizes and evaluates the
144 usability of a single platform and a streamlined approach to a complex topic. By the
145 end of the program the countries which have been the most vulnerable to food
146 security will show a decrease in risks towards social and economic instability by
147 being able to combat price volatility within their own means.

148
149 16. The UNCTAD encourages the work the United Nations Information Centres (UNIC)
150 worldwide and recommends the program to work together with regional programs on
151 information sharing, run by governments and NGOs for the creation of a uniform, general
152 consensus and understanding of information flow.

153 a. The approach should strengthen regional groups concerning farmer education and general
154 education to ensure that data which is gathered and communicated is understood and
155 useable to the areas in which it makes the most impacts and progressions.

156
157 17. UNCTAD recommends the UNDP to enhance the mutual cooperation between governments
158 of developing countries by creating training centers and specific courses for the farmers.

159 a. The courses should mainly focus on enhancing farmers' knowledge of the decision-
160 making process, pesticide use, nutrition facts, and community agenda setting.

161 b. The funding for this program would come from the UN Fund for South-South
162 Cooperation, the regional financial institutions, and Official Development Aid.

163
164 18. The Conference jointly recommends that SS-Gate adapts a diversification employment
165 policy, which includes experts in statistics, data evaluation and socioeconomic analysis. The
166 experts should be provided by the respective local and international bodies concerned with food
167 security, technology and knowledge transfers. The effective number of experts should be
168 proportional to the respective regional populations to guarantee the most accurate evaluation and
169 representation.

170
171 19. The UNCTAD encourages further cooperation through respective international bodies in
172 regards to sharing best practices and farming techniques that focus on sustainability and green
173 development in order to provide access to education about the best use of land and property to
174 farmers, on the basis of the collected data of SS-Gate.

175

176 **B. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

177
178 20. This conference suggests further multi and bilateral programs initiated by the IFAD and
179 developing governments in order to create further Seed of Life programs (SOL), which combine

180 maize storage facilities with higher yielding maize seeds, helping family farms in seasons of
181 distress. According to this the pioneering work of an already existing SOL program in Timor-
182 Leste could serve as a blueprint in increasing food security and productivity.

183
184 21. UNCTAD emphasizes the importance of collaboration between FAO and regional research
185 institutions in discovering ecological sustainable techniques to enhance agricultural production
186 that are more adaptable to climate change in efforts to combat the resurgence of food crises. The
187 conference proposes to the General Assembly the creation of an international Fund for the
188 Advancement of Agro-technology Research and Management (FAARM) within the FAO.

- 189 a. The FAARM organization would provide grants to universities, NGOs and other
190 research organizations in order to research, share and implement new technologies
191 regarding agricultural including but not limited to irrigation techniques, agricultural
192 and food storage, packing and cooling, integrated pest management, fertilizers,
193 holistic towards improving soil quality, indoor farming, livestock vaccines, organic
194 agricultural methods, seed banks and water saving.
- 195 b. The board of the FAARM would be regionally diverse in order to represent numerous
196 geographic interests. The board would be composed of rotating 3-year memberships
197 to allow for an inclusive body.
- 198 c. Once new methods of agricultural technology are developed, aforementioned
199 universities, NGOs, UNCTAD Centres of Excellence, and research organizations
200 would provide seminars and technical assistance for local farmers on implementation
201 of new techniques.
- 202 d. FAARM will utilize trust-funds, UNDP, United Nations Programmes, and
203 contributions from Member States on an opt-in basis, UNCTAD recommends that
204 UNDP and UN Regional Commissions be considered potential partners.
- 205 e. Utilizing FAARM, partners would disseminate best practices for farming and
206 sustainable agricultural techniques.
- 207 f. UNCTAD Evaluation and Monitoring Unit would observe the activities of the
208 FAARM and the publications of the organization's results in an annual report.

209
210

211 **C. EDUCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS**

212
213 22. UNCTAD recommends the ECOSOC to establish a joint framework between World Bank
214 and IFAD in frames of High Level Task Force for Global Agricultural Development to address
215 the infrastructural needs of developing countries by referring to the FAARM and SS- Gate
216 approaches. This will ensure that affected nations will have better access to skills and
217 organization, among others a broad range of financial services, transparent and competitive
218 markets for agricultural inputs and produce, and local and national policy and programming
219 processes.

220
221 23. The conference advices the ECOSOC to enhance international students and professionals
222 exchange in the sphere of agricultural between developed and developing Member States to
223 promote further development of farmers skills. Students' scholarships should be encouraged to
224 enhance the technology and know-how transfer between the host countries. These scholarships
225 would help students of developing countries to enhance their skills in order to increase

226 effectiveness of agricultural practices in these Member States.

227

228 24. UNCTAD also advises the UNDP to enhance the mutual cooperation between governments
229 of least developed and developing countries by creating training centers and specific courses for
230 the farmers in such countries. These courses would mainly focus on enhancing farmers’
231 knowledge on decision capabilities, pesticide use, nutrition facts, and community agenda setting.

232

233 25. UNCTAD reaffirms the importance of diversify production and culture rotation in order to
234 achieve a healthier lifestyle. Therefore, this conference recommends further researches and
235 publicity on the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement which by promoting the fortification of food,
236 micronutrients supplementation, and treatment of severe malnutrition, encourages national
237 leaders to prioritize efforts to address malnutrition.

238

239 26. This conference also encourages the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to continue its
240 efforts to encourage the use of natural pest control mechanisms to reduce the overall use of
241 chemical pesticides. This would allow promote sustainable development to all Member States.

242

243 27. UNCTAD advises UNESCO to facilitate appropriate access to genetic and genomic data,
244 scholarly publications, and germplasm collections, and to support the international treaty on plant
245 genetic resources for food and agriculture for conservations and sustainable use of plant genetic
246 resources.

247

248 28. This conference recommends to use the benefits of social media to promote awareness on
249 food security in order to create a more global and accessible dialogue to all citizens.

250

Code: 1/11

Committee: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Subject: Food Security: Agriculture and Trade

1 **I. Introduction**

3 **A. TRANSPORTATION**

5 1. As it is outlined in the Kazan Declaration which was recently signed by APEC Member States
6 and taking into consideration the Five Principles of Rome on Food Security, increasing
7 agricultural production and productivity, and facilitating trade and developing food markets are
8 crucial to promoting global food security and the achievement of the Millennium Development
9 Goals. Having these concepts in mind, UNCTAD suggests improvement in three main areas:
10 infrastructure, education and investment.

12 2. In agreement with *Accra Accord 121*, private sector investment in developing countries is
13 made more financially appealing by a pre-existing network of transport for goods. The resulting
14 investment in developing and least developed nations industry is mutually beneficial for both
15 economies and along with the encouragement of trade among nations via these routes, is
16 beneficial for neighboring nations as well.

18 3. UNCTAD's Liner Shipping Connectivity Index shows that Least Developed Countries
19 (LDCs) average ranking in 2009 was 109, compared to 76 for other developing countries and 68
20 for developed countries, where a higher ranking relates to a larger number of seaport connections
21 and therefore a more fluid, rapid, flow of trade.

23 4. Freight expenses via maritime trade routes are cheaper on a cost per pound basis than any
24 other means of transportation. *Doha Mandate 47* indicates this is often not true for developing
25 nations, the result of ineffective means of transportation. Expenses grow exponentially the longer
26 goods are in transport or are required to remain in warehouse while awaiting delivery.

28 5. Established by the World Bank to support the advancement of developing countries, the
29 International Development Association (IDA) seeks to bolster these under-performing countries
30 through loans and grants geared toward the improvement of roads, bridges, and water sanitation.
31 However, no emphasis has been placed on the advancement of the railway systems and seaports,
32 specifically optimizing the train gauge standards. Doing so could further progress the
33 infrastructure of developing countries, especially Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

35 6. UNCTAD recognizes the need to improve the infrastructure of food storage to assist in
36 survival between years of surplus and scarcity, specifically during times of drought.

38 7. Bearing in mind the challenges climate creates for underdeveloped regions, infrastructural
39 concerns should be addressed immediately in order to elevate said challenges, such as floods and
40 droughts.

42 **II. Mandate**

43
44 8. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was created in 1964
45 by the General Assembly. General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) specified that the
46 Conference should promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic
47 development. In exercising this function, the Conference was tasked to formulate principles and
48 policies on international trade and related problems of economic development, and to make
49 proposals for putting the said principles and policies into effect, with a special regard to
50 differences in economic systems and stages of development. In addition, the resolution called for
51 UNCTAD to generally review and facilitate the co-ordination of activities of other institutions
52 within the UN System in the field of international trade and related problems of economic
53 development, and in this regard, to co-operate with the General Assembly and the Economic and
54 Social Council with respect to the performance of their responsibilities for co-ordination under
55 the Charter of the United Nations. The Conference was further tasked to initiate action, where
56 appropriate, in cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations for the negotiation
57 and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with due regard to the
58 adequacy of existing organs of negotiation and to be available as a centre for harmonizing the
59 trade and related development policies of Governments and regional economic groupings in
60 pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter.

61
62 9. UNCTAD continually adapts its mandate to reflect current global economic conditions. The
63 Thirteenth Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
64 (UNCTAD XIII), held in 2012 in Doha, Qatar, called for UNCTAD to continue to play its role in
65 the evolution of a stronger global consensus on issues falling within its mandate, to contribute to
66 discussions within the United Nations system on green economy and other models in the context
67 of sustainable development and resilience to climate change, to continue research and analysis on
68 the prospects of, and impact on, developing countries in matters of trade and development, in
69 light of the global economic and financial crisis, to continue to monitor and assess the evolution
70 of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective and to continue
71 taking into consideration particularly the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) across all
72 areas of its mandate in accordance with the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as address the
73 special concerns and needs of Africa, including as articulated in the New Partnership for Africa's
74 Development. The Doha Mandate equally called for further consideration of the special trade,
75 investment and development needs of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), including
76 through continuing its support for effective implementation of the Almaty Ministerial
77 Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked
78 Developing Countries Within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for
79 Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, and its review in 2014. The Doha Mandate also
80 called for UNCTAD to implement and follow up, as appropriate, relevant outcomes from global
81 conferences and summits on development.

82 83 **III. Conclusions and Recommendations**

84 85 **A. TRANSPORTATION**

86

87 10. To ensure the maximum effectiveness of transportation infrastructure, UNCTAD strongly
88 recommends the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) establish a new organ tailored
89 towards the administration of international transportation. Said organ would be tasked with:
90

91 a. The creation of the International Railroad Administration for the objectives of
92 gathering equipment, conducting railroad operations in collaboration with sovereign
93 states that participate with the program, granting financial assistance, promoting
94 engineering qualifications and certifications, and guaranteeing workplace safety.
95

96 b. The creation of the International Maritime Administration for the objectives of
97 performing safety control of sea and fluvial ports, assisting financially prospective
98 states willing to develop their maritime trade, ensuring workplace safety, and promote
99 engineering qualifications and certifications.
100

101 c. Establishing a permanent collaborative effort with non-governmental organizations
102 (NGOs), i.e. the International Road Federation (IRF). The administration of
103 international transportation would also provide a wide base of expertise on road
104 development strategies and policies. It would also act as a link to external institutions
105 and agencies.
106

107 d. The establishment of new trade routes for the creation of quicker, less expensive and
108 safer maritime commerce. The reduction of these obstacles incentivizes sea borne
109 cargo transportation.
110

111 e. The integration of transnational information technology for the purpose of providing
112 accessible communication between transportation systems, such as road, rail and ship.
113

114 11. UNCTAD suggests that ECOSOC, through its regional commissions, establish an
115 organization for the standardization and coordination of transportation.
116

117 a. This organ would administer the allocating of IDA funds for the purpose of
118 standardizing train gauges in developing countries to comply with the universal train
119 gauge standard of 1,400 millimeters (mm) would eliminate the need of having to
120 change train gauges at each border crossing, thus enhance the flow of cargo between
121 all countries.
122

123 b. Additionally, said organ would provide ECOSOC yearly reports of the funds
124 channeled through this system, both public and private.
125

126 12. The Standardizing the train gauges would lead to a better accessibility in the international
127 trade flows and markets for developing countries, specifically LLDC. This establishes a path for
128 a higher participation in the world market on imports/exports for these countries. Additionally, a
129 better train gauge system could provide an easier flow of emergency goods during food crisis.
130

131 13. UNCTAD suggests the use of an international fleet of cargo transports consisting of
132 contributions from the world's leading merchant navies to provide the means for the

133 transportation of a growing quantity of developing countries' goods. This creation of trade via
134 the transportation capability of developed nations enables developing and least developed
135 countries to increase commerce within the continent without investing heavily in their own
136 means of sea borne transportation and solidifying the trade relationships of Member States'
137 countries with their continental neighbors.
138

139 14. UNCTAD calls upon the World Food Program and the FAO to support developing nations
140 and provide them with technical support in advancing their basic infrastructure, such as the
141 proposals put forth by the 2012 Global Infrastructure Initiative. Through development programs
142 that specifically focus on alleviating basic road and transportation conditions through
143 collaborating with local governments in designing road transportation technology and devices
144 and basic transportation systems and provide technical knowledge in food packaging, storage
145 and cooling facilities to prevent food contamination from volatile climatic conditions.
146

147 15. Investment in infrastructure and transportation is vital to the achievement of sustainable
148 agricultural practices.
149

150 a. Recommends that the General Assembly and ECOSOC improve the infrastructure via
151 roads, energy, and markets. This would attract more Foreign Direct Investments to
152 carry out infrastructure strategies.
153

154 b. UNCTAD encourages investment with the goal of improving transportation outlet
155 such as roads, railway lines and airports among others to facilitate quicker
156 transportation in order to foster future self-sufficiency.
157

158 c. Better transportation methods would allow for greater global trade avenues for
159 agricultural farmers.
160

161 16. International Organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, should
162 provide technical cooperation and assistance in order to develop better methods for storage and
163 maintenance.
164

165 a. Programs such as the "Special Program for Food Security" should be maintained in
166 order to keep the funding to construct food storage facilities in LDCs.

167 b. The FAO should continue to educate LDCs on the proper storage of such items as
168 dried foods because they are staples in LDCs.
169

170 c. UNCTAD suggests institutions such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination
171 of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to utilize Regional Food Security Clusters which
172 contribute to the establishment of feeding center. UNCTAD recommends Regional Food
173 Security Clusters to strengthen efforts to prevent waterborne diseases and improve access
174 to safe water involving chlorination and sanitation campaigns, re-drilling bore holes, and
175 upgrading hand-dug wells and rainwater catchments.
176

177 17. UNCTAD recommends the cooperation with Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste
178 Reduction, specifically with the improvement of road networks, transportation, and
179 communication.

180

181 18. To increase aid to climate afflicted regions, UNCTAD supports the use of programs such as
182 the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) to create ad hoc responses when issues arise. These funds,
183 recognized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, can be used in
184 support by:

185

186 a. Dispersing funds with the goal of participatory adaptation.

187

188 b. Financing climate resilient infrastructure in developing nations.

189

190 c. Funding climate related projects and programs for specific, strategic support in
191 developing nations.

192

193 d. These funds are crucial for supporting projects in rural areas that focus on
194 infrastructural issues caused by extreme weather conditions. Excessive flooding and
195 arid lands unsuitable for farming pose significant hindrances towards economic trade
196 and food security. UNCTAD supports these funds, and calls upon all willing and able
197 member states, private investors and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to
198 provide aid when available.