MS ECOSOC

Graded Model United Nations XI

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Introduction from the Chairs

Hello delegates,

My name is ***Sei Seo***, I am currently a senior studying at Graded - American School of São Paulo. I am more than excited to chair the 2026 GMUN conference. This conference is extremely special not only because my own school is hosting but especially because my first ever conference in fact was GMUN 2021. So welcome and make yourselves at home!

Chairing middle school committees, I notice unique personalities and backgrounds coming together. Some are first time delegates and others are very experienced. Yet, what each and every individual brings to the conference is truly all special and impactful. If you are a first time delegate it could be very overwhelming and it's totally ok! GMUN 2021 was a total chaos for me as well, but now I am loving MUN with all my heart. You will too love the experience regardless of your level of delegation. To those who are coming back to the MUN conference for the third, fourth, and fifth time, I am happy to see you guys loving MUN! We can all respect and help each other out just as the UN aims to do: bring agreements and support each other. So don't be afraid to voice up, bring passion, and creativity to the conference.

While debates do play a significant role, MUN is not only about that. Go ahead and make friends, create memories, and have fun!

You got this. If you need any help, don't hesitate to contact me through my email (gr360977@graded.br). I am more than excited to meet and talk to you guys!

My name is ***Francesca Piazza***, and I am currently a sophomore studying at St Nicholas Alphaville. It is a pleasure to be serving as this year's co-chair for the Middle School Economic and Social Council! Since I first began partaking in MUN conferences I have always been fascinated with this committee as of its endless opportunities to debate interconnected topics who are so relevant, however often undermined, topics that are taking place and impacting modern society. A few facts about myself are that I have been a part of my school's MUN club since 2021, I wish to someday work at the UN to help tackle environment-related issues and I have a

passion for discussing and writing about our world's current political and environmental issues. After crafting this study guide, I hope you are able to retain as much information as possible, as well as connect the broad ideas presented in this paper to your country's own perspectives in order to create insightful arguments during the debate. I believe MUN has brought me countless opportunities not only to improve skills such as writing, public speaking and debating, however, it has allowed me to be open minded about the variety of events currently taking place and the perspectives behind it, enabling me to critically form my own opinions and ways to defend it. For these reasons I encourage all of you to take a risk and put yourselves out there as much as possible as you will learn so much from it! Finally, I wish you all the best experience at this edition of GMUN and please do not hesitate to contact me with any doubts or need for support through my email: fpiazzacrestani@gmail.com

Said that, it is with great pleasure that we welcome you to GMUN's Middle School ECOSOC committee! We would like to thank you in advance for your participation and dedication when preparing for this conference and are so excited to meet all of you in February! Once again, we are here to support you in any way we can so please do not hesitate to reach out for help through one of our emails! Wish you all an outstanding experience.

Sincerely,
Sei Seo and Francesca Piazza.

Guide to Researching

The following information will serve to guide you in your research.

The first thing you should do is find the basics about your country. The sources you use should be reliable– meaning that the writer (whether that be an organization, a well-known author, an expert in the field, or a governmental organization) are credible and trusted by most. Sources such as Google Scholar and some websites that end with (examplewebsite**.edu**) are also great tools since they are both for educational purposes. Below are some questions you should answer and this document contains many sources that you can use to do external research.

1. Where is my country situated?
2. Who is the leader of my country? (President, Prime Minister, etc)
3. What are some major cities in my country?
4. What are the major news stories out of my country currently? (ex. Google: _____ news)
5. What is the standard of living? (Economic, political, social, humanitarian issues, Global-South country?)
6. Is my country part of any major alliance? If so, who are my allies?

Continue reading and understanding the information within the topic guide, and extend your knowledge by asking yourself more questions and search for the answers! Your chairs have worked very hard to make sure this topic guide gives you foundational knowledge on what you will be discussing, but don't be afraid to take your learning further!

Good luck and please reach out to us if anything is needed,
Sei and Francesca

Introduction to the ECOSOC:



ECOSOC chamber at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, United States. (United Nations, n.d.)

Established in 1945 through the UN charter, the ECOSOC is one of the main discussion forums at the United Nations. It serves as the principal platform for action and debate over economic, social and environmental issues, supplying policy recommendations to member states, as well as the broader UN system.

The ECOSOC oversees a variety of subsidiary bodies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), amongst a variety of approximately fifty four other bodies. It has played a key role in coordinating activities when extending sustainable development, primarily using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as their main directive element to guide decision

making. Amongst its varied contributions to landmark initiatives include, supporting the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and the Millenium Development Goals in 2000.

Throughout the years, the ECOSOC has played a crucial role in mediating discussions and creating international initiatives towards sustainable development, and acts as a core for coordinating international policies within the economic and social spheres. As a council, it strives to combat inequality, social development, economic growth and conditions to establish peace and security in the world.

Topic A: Addressing the Impact of Climate-Driven Crop Failures on Global Food Prices



Drought-induced crop failure in Jakarta, Indonesia. (Afifa, 2019)

Background Information

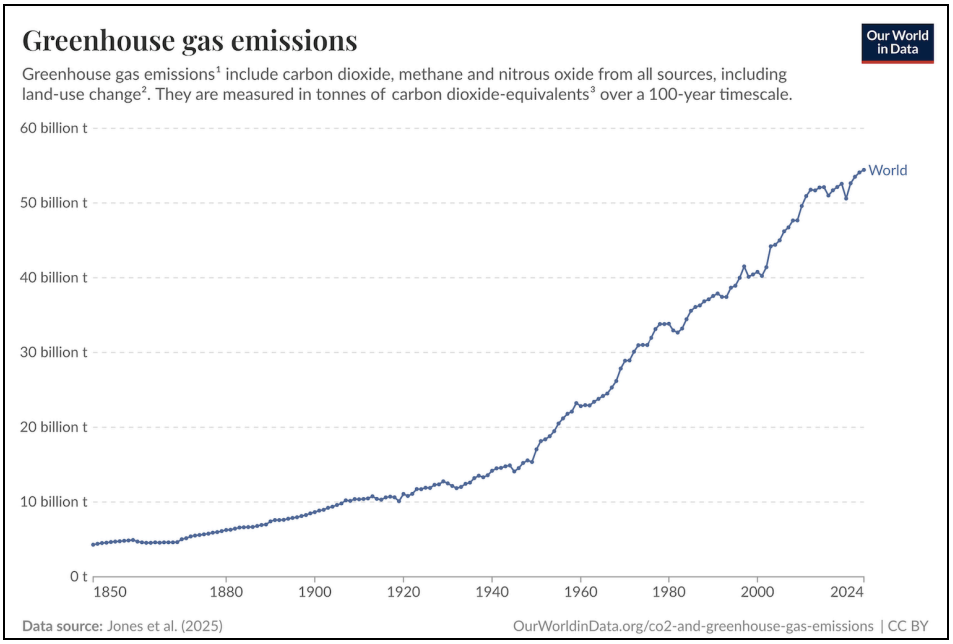
Origin of the problem,

From Joseph Fourier's "greenhouse effect" discovery published in the 1822 paper, *The Analytical Theory of Heat*, until the initiation of systematic scientific assessments conducted in the 1970s (IPCC), it has been established that human activity is indeed the main cause for Earth's current climate change scenario and overall warming of the planet. Beginning in the Industrial Revolution, around 200 years ago, when the widespread usage of steam engines and coal-powered machinery began to be implemented predominantly in Britain and later spreading to countries such as the United States, China and India, greenhouse gases, including carbon

dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4) and nitrous oxide (N_2O), have been increasingly released onto the atmosphere as the main medium of production had now become combustion-dependent systems, emitting exponential amounts of carbon dioxide throughout the years.

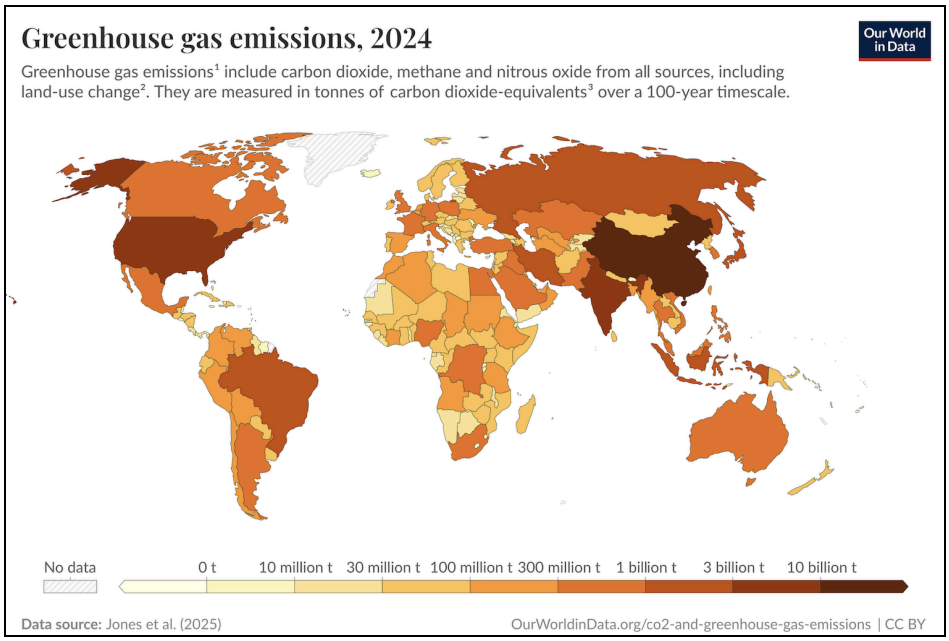
Although research on the potential effects and threats to be posed by the consequences of climate change had only begun in the 1970s, the issue has only been out in the media's spotlight for the past decade, when studies and news reports were published, and the real implications of this phenomenon started to be felt and seen by communities across the globe. Amongst said implications, the main ones include extreme weather events, such as flash floods, droughts and strong heatwaves. As a consequence of extreme weather episodes, countries have been experiencing food and water insecurity, disease outbreaks, crop failures, increase in international poverty rates, billions of dollars in national debt to repair infrastructure and public systems, and the degradation of essential ecosystems, resulting in the consequential loss in biodiversity. All factors which, when combined, result in the gradual systematic breakdown of the world we know and live in today.

Image 1:



Global greenhouse gas emissions from 1850 to 2024. Measured in tonnes of carbon-equivalent units (Ritchie, et. al., 2024)

Image 2:



Greenhouse gas emissions contribution per country until 2024. Measured in tonnes of carbon-equivalent units (Ritchie, et. al., 2024)

According to NASA, "Scientific evidence for warming of the climate system is unequivocal" (NASA, n.d.), and the planet's average surface temperature has already risen around 1 ℃ since the late 19th century and could potentially increase 3 ℃ to 3.5 ℃ by the end of the 21st century if fossil fuel-burning production practices progress at the same pace currently being observed. However, in accordance with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) even if countries fulfill their goals set in the 2015 Paris Agreement, the world would still be set to reach temperatures of around 2 ℃ to 2.5 ℃ higher than at its current state (UNEP, 2025), climatic conditions which according to the UN, could lead to catastrophic outcomes (McGrath, 2024).

For centuries, farmers and agricultural industries have struggled with crop failures for a variety of reasons, amongst these including mainly animal diseases, droughts, earthquakes, floods, storms, forest and wildfires, plant diseases, locusts and pests. Furthermore, based on a 2023 study conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), an

overwhelming 49% of crop failures were caused by droughts, 9% by floods and 5% by forest and wildfires, all factors which are highly influenced by the processes of global warming and climate change and that will intensify through time if no action is taken. Generally speaking, with an increase in the average global temperatures, the water cycle intensifies as a direct result, therefore, increasing evaporation and intensifying precipitation. As a consequence, areas away from storm tracks such as polar, continental interiors, rain shadow and subtropical high pressure regions would experience more frequent and longer lasting droughts due to elevated evaporation rates, as well as storm affected areas such as mid latitude coastal regions, the equatorial rain belt, tropical cyclone zones and monsoon regions would experience an exponential increase in precipitation rates throughout the years, intensifying the frequency of flash floods, destructive winds and storms.

Through an increase in the frequency and severity of climatic events, specifically, floods, droughts and heatwaves, countries whose primary source of income is originated from the agricultural sector have faced challenges in regards to maintaining suitable, stable conditions necessary for the proper yield of crops as well as for the proper time periods in which such yields take place. In addition, nations who are highly import-dependent of farmed goods have faced, or are in danger of facing, increased prices due to the scarcity of product availability and elevated market demand of such products. Consequently, what could be considered a chain reaction of events leading to the origin of others have not only severely impacted the economies of dozens of countries, however, due to increased inflation rates and food scarcity, have also led millions of people globally to starvation and poverty.

Not only do reduced yields of certain staple crops such as maize, rice and wheat can pose immediate consequences to supermarket shelf prices, but also, due to their significant presence in other processed goods such as animal feed, cereals, bread, flour, cooking oils, amongst others, the lack of said key ingredients will also affect the production rate, availability and pricing of secondary items, pressuring production enterprises, government budgeting and the population’s ability to purchase everyday products.

Current situation

Currently, the world is facing serious issues in regards to climate change's impacts on crop yields, and their direct correlation with supermarket shelf prices. According to an article by Earth.org, extreme weather events in 2024 have led more people into internal and external displacement since 2008. Throughout that year, countries have experienced more than 600 extreme weather events, 148 of those classified as "unprecedented" by weather agencies and governmental authorities, 824,000 people have been displaced and 1,700 people were killed by said events. Around the globe, countries have been suffering from a sudden increase in the frequency and intensity of floods, deadly storms, droughts, and extraordinarily intense heatwaves, thus not only posing threats to the general health and safety of local populations, however, pressuring food producers to supply goods and therefore inflating the price of such goods due to a continuous or increased demand and lack of supplies in stores and stock.

Taking such information into account, examples of crisis regarding the widespread loss of crops and their economic consequences include: Southern African droughts, causing countries like Zimbabwe to lose 70% of maize yielding in 2024, causing the product's prices to double as well as killing 9,000 cattle from thirst. Furthermore, Ethiopia, Zambia and Malawi have faced repeated maize and wheat failures, leaving 68 million people in Southern Africa in need of food aid and 23 million in Eastern Africa at the brink of starvation. Moreover, Spain's olive production dropped by circa 50% in 2023, caused by prolonged droughts and heatwaves, leading to the doubling of olive oil prices not only nationwide, but across nations as of the product's high exportability rates.

In addition, multiple different technological strategies and mechanisms have been implemented as efforts to directly minimize the effects of weather events caused by climate change to crop yields and act as short term solutions to improve the production rates of farmed goods. For instance, precision agriculture tech, also known as IoT enables precise fertilizer application, utilizing AI to detect pest presence early enough to contain it and prevent extensive crop damage, as well as using water sensors to optimize irrigation, reduce and energy whilst boosting its

efficiency on plants. Additionally, the implementation of climate-resilient plant varieties have enabled local and enterprise-level farmers to mitigate crop yield loss due to temperature extremes, flooding and drought seasons. For example, heat-tolerant varieties of wheat are able to endure temperatures up to 35 ℃, unlike traditional strains which usually tolerate up to around 25 ℃.

According to a study performed by Stanford University's School of Sustainability, rising global temperatures and the rapid shift in climatic patterns will suppress the world' s ability to produce the most staple of crops even with implemented international efforts to mitigate this phenomenon and with adaptations implemented by farmers to cease this crisis. Researchers estimate that global yield rates for staple crops such as wheat, maize and rice will fall by around 24% by 2100 when compared to a potential scenario where climate change is not in the picture. The study states that "Researchers estimate that every additional degree Celsius of global warming on average will drag down the world's ability to produce food by 120 calories per person per day, or 4.4% of current daily consumption." (Garthwaite, 2025), something which, when put in context to the world's present scenario, where even though global food production exceeds essential populational nutrition needs, countries face social issues such as high poverty rates and widespread starvation. Due to issues such as poor logistics management, lack of monetary and technical resources, corruption, conflict and food waste, food produced by agricultural countries don't often reach those who need it the most within the country, as it is either exported for higher industrial income, or are not shipped to regions that are unable to produce farmed goods independently due to any of the reasons cited above. Concisely, with a decrease in production and hence, in the availability of specific staple foods, prices for said products could skyrocket in vulnerable and marginalized regions, intensifying social inequality, poverty and starvation as well as capping economic growth and stability within primarily agricultural regions.

For the reasons stated above as well as considering the rapid increase in the rates of climate change, it is crucial for nations to take action towards finding viable solutions to not only tackle the immediate effects of global warming, however, should aim at tackling the very root causes of

changing global climate patterns. Amongst those include, intensifying the rigor of which internal laws and regulations are followed to ensure the fulfilment of goals set by the 2015 Paris Agreement and finally, dramatically decrease the amounts of greenhouse gases emitted by production processes, as well as implement initiatives to absorb gases such as carbon dioxide already found in the Earth' s atmosphere.

Past UN/International action

World Food Programme (WFP):

Adopted in 1961 by the United Nations General Assembly, the WFP aims to support vulnerable communities globally, especially in times of emergency and instability. According to the WFP's website, the organization has reached and fed approximately 124 million people, and acted in 120 countries and territories across South and Central America, Africa and Asia. In addition to that, the programme also has a climate action initiative, where it claims to have already supported 5.1 million people through the implementation of climate-insurance policies. The initiative also states their mission to "anticipate, restore, protect and energize" (WFP, n.d.) communities, assessing climate risks, providing reliable information, advice and support to smallholder farmers, warning signals, working towards restoring climate-degraded ecosystems to improve agricultural yielding, contributing to the rehabilitation of over 300,000 hectares of land. Finally, the programme strives to increase marginalized communities' access to sustainable and reliable energy, supporting schools, optimizing energy efficiency, reducing pollution and allowing for alternatives of economic growth.

Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP):

Developed in April of 2010 and Launched by the G20 nations as a response to the 2007-2008 global economic crisis, its main goal is to financially support smallholder farmers, agrobusinesses and countries. Their main aim is to support food and nutrition security amongst the poorest nations on the planet, which coincidently, are in most cases, some of the most affected regions by climate change and global warming, yet, are the last responsible for major

greenhouse gases emissions. Through being administered by the World Bank, as well as partnering with institutions such as the World Food Programme, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, FAO and the International Finance corporation, GAFSP has already been able to raise 2.44 billion USD in financing from donor funds, providing financial and technical support to projects across 55 countries, reached 32 million people and supporting 24,600 producer organizations, as well as funded 323 projects to support farmers and build sustainable food systems.

FAO Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA):

An approach created in 2014 during a FAO symposium on agroecology that supports guiding actions to transform the agricultural systems into green and climate-resilient practices. The CSA's utmost objectives include: sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes, adapting and building resilience to climate change and reducing, or even removing, greenhouse gas emissions whenever possible. It corroborates FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031 based on ensuring better production, nutrition, environment and life quality for all. The CSA strengthens national and local institutions, enhances funding and financing options for implementing its systems at field level. This initiative has been successfully implemented in a variety of nations, amongst which include: Brazil, Ecuador, Botswana, China, Tanzania, Malawi, Vietnam, Zambia, Nigeria and many others.

2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals:

Created in September of 2015 at the UN Sustainable Development Summit, the Sustainable Development Goals, also known as SDGs, are a "plan of action for people, planet and prosperity." (United Nations, n.d.). The 2030 agenda encompasses all sorts of issues the world currently faces, however, it also utilizes the rights present in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the guiding principle when creating and seeking viable solutions to achieve its 17 goals. In an ideal scenario, by 2030, in circa 4 years, countries should have worked and supported each other into implementing internal policies that will ensure equality and access to all basic resources such as education, food, water and shelter for all. Specifically, SDG 2 - Zero

Hunger, SDG 13 - Climate Action and SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and production are specially relevant for this topic, as they address its core causes and consequences.

Paris Agreement:

A legally binding international agreement created on December 12, 2015 at the UN's COP 21 Conference in Paris, France. It was adopted by 195 parties and began to be enforced on November 06, 2016. Its utmost objective was to cap the average global rise of temperature by 2 ℃ above pre-industrial levels, something which would essentially be achieved by countries through the collective creation of internal laws, regulations and initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The agreement works by countries crafting ambitious climate-action mechanisms also known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which are presented every five years throughout the following COP Conferences, and if achieved, should be renewed into even more ambitious plans whose final goal is to decline 43% of global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. (UNFCCC, 2022)

To complete, although there are not specific actions directed mainly towards tackling food prices and inflation caused by crop degradation and failure due to climatic events, a few organizations and programmes such as the World Food Programme, the UN and FAO, have specific policies and initiatives amongst larger organs to address this sort of issue, amongst them include primarily:

WFP's Market-Based Interventions, have initiatives such as the Smallholder market support, where financial support is provided to struggling farmers to increase visibility and revenue, as well as provide immediate aid to stabilize income for agriculture-dependent people located in climate-vulnerable regions. Through this initiative, around 1.3 million people have been supported and 72 million USD were produced in revenue for purchases from WFP-supported smallholder farmer groups in 2023.

Emergency Release of Strategic Grain Reserves, is mainly coordinated by the UN and FAO, and consists of governments stocking staple grains and cereals to be released into the markets in cases of extreme weather conditions such as droughts and floods or war. Governments around the world including Sweden, Zambia, Zimbabwe, India, Poland, Egypt, Norway and Ethiopia have already invested in such mechanisms to ensure aid and support food security and stability amidst times of crisis.

Timeline of events

Name and date	Description
Discovery of the greenhouse effect - 1822	French mathematician and physicist Joseph Fourier discovers the greenhouse effect and publishes his findings in the *Analytical Theory of Heat*.
Industrial Revolution - Mid 18th to 19th century	Marked the beginning of large-scale fossil fuel use, particularly coal. As steam engines and industrial machinery became widespread, greenhouse gas emissions increased significantly, initiating long-term human-driven climate change.
Beginning of systematic climate research - 1970s	Scientists began conducting systematic studies on climate change. These assessments highlighted the connection between greenhouse gas emissions, rising global temperatures, and potential threats to ecosystems and agriculture.
United Nations Framework Convention on	The UNFCCC was adopted as the first major

Climate Change (UNFCCC) - 1992	international agreement addressing climate change. It formally recognized that climate change could negatively affect food production, ecosystems, and economic stability.
The creation of the Kyoto Protocol - 1997	The Kyoto Protocol introduced legally binding emission reduction targets for developed countries. Its objective was to slow global warming and reduce long-term climate impacts, including risks to agricultural productivity.
Global Economic Crisis - 2007 to 2008	A sudden spike in global food prices exposed the vulnerability of international food markets to supply disruptions. Climate-related crop losses, combined with economic instability, highlighted the need for stronger global food security mechanisms.
Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) - 2010	Launched by the G20, GAFSP aimed to strengthen agricultural systems in developing countries. The program focused on increasing resilience to climate shocks and stabilizing food production and markets.
FAO Climate-Smart Agriculture Framework - 2014	The FAO introduced Climate-Smart Agriculture to promote farming practices that increase productivity while adapting to climate change. The framework seeks to reduce crop losses caused by droughts, floods,

	and extreme heat.
Paris Agreement - 2015	The Paris Agreement established global commitments to limit temperature rise to well below 2°C. It emphasized climate adaptation and recognized food security as a critical area affected by climate change.
Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals - 2015	The UN adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). These goals directly address the links between climate change, agriculture, and food price stability.
Intensification of climate driven crop failures - 2020s	Climate change has increasingly affected staple crops such as wheat, maize, and rice. Reduced yields have contributed to higher food prices and increased vulnerability in food-import-dependent countries.

Suggested questions for further research

1. To what extent should climate-driven crop failures be treated as an environmental issue versus an economic and development challenge within the UN system?
2. How do a country's level of development, agricultural capacity, and trade dependence shape its vulnerability to food price increases caused by climate shocks?
3. Should food-exporting countries prioritize domestic price stability or global market stability during climate-related crop shortages?

4. What responsibilities do high-emission and high-income countries have in addressing food price impacts experienced by more climate-vulnerable nations?
5. How can market-based solutions and government intervention be balanced to prevent extreme food price volatility following climate-induced supply disruptions?
6. In what ways can international cooperation reduce competition, hoarding, or protectionism in food markets during periods of climate stress?
7. Should global food price stabilization be considered a shared international responsibility and if so, what role should ECOSOC play in coordinating this effort?

Bloc Positions

Country	Description
United States of America 	As one of the leading nations in the industrialized production sector, second largest global contributor to the emission of CO_2 through the combustion of fossil fuels in industries and advanced development of agricultural practices inside its national territory, the United States finds itself at stakes due to its reluctance in partaking in the creation of environmentally-friendly resolutions and strong defense for the continuous use of fossil substances such as gas, oil and coal as the main sources of fuel under the country's current administration, however, has also been facing increasing difficulties as of the elevated frequency and intensity of destructive climatic events such as droughts and floods across the country.
China	By being the highest-placed country in the global carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases emissions index, China is viewed as a leading nation in the industrial, production and technological sectors. By serving as a leader in the manufacturing sector, China accounts for about 27% of the total share of industrial production, as well as having about 80% of its primary energy consumption derived from

	fossil fuels. On the other hand, the country strives for technological advancements, research and investment towards the development of renewable energy sources to assist the country in achieving its five-year climate action plans under the Paris Agreement.
Brazil 	As a largely agricultural nation, Brazil has been experiencing difficulties in regards to maintaining essential conditions needed to grow healthy and quality-grade crops. In 2023 and 2024, the country has faced crop failures and economic loss due to the intensification of droughts due to the El Niño natural phenomenon (highly influenced by climate change). Amongst the products lost include mostly, cassava, cocoa, rice and wheat, creating not only internal issues in regards to the availability of such crops, however, due to Brazil's high crop exportation rates, farmers and producers were unable to deliver the expected numbers to foreign buyers, influencing international pricing and availability of selected goods as well as declining local income in rural, agriculture-dependent regions. As one of the countries in the world with the most biodiversity, Brazil has served as a global role model for the implementation and development of new "green" policies that aim to reach the country's goals set at the 2015 Paris Agreement, as well as decrease the nation's dependency on non-renewable energy sources.
Egypt	Given its geographical location and land conditions, Egypt is highly dependent on import practices of staple crops such as wheat from land-prosperous nations. Due to the country's location and socio-economic

	factors, it is specially vulnerable to the rise of intense climatic events including primarily droughts, the country is mostly unable to fully sustain itself without imports. Therefore, with a rise in climatic events threatening exporting countries, food prices skyrocket, costing more money to be imported into nations like Egypt and as a consequence, inflating prices dramatically to the national population.
India 	As one of the world's largest producers and consumers of staple crops, India is highly vulnerable to climate-driven disruptions in agricultural production. Increasingly intense heatwaves, irregular monsoon patterns, and prolonged droughts have negatively affected key crops such as rice and wheat, reducing yields in several major farming regions. In response to domestic shortages and rising food prices, India has implemented export restrictions on staple grains in recent years, prioritizing national food security. While these measures help stabilize internal markets, they have also reduced global supply and contributed to price volatility in international food markets. As both a major agricultural power and a climate-vulnerable developing economy, India plays a critical role in discussions surrounding food price stabilization, trade policies, and climate adaptation strategies.

Glossary

Greenhouse Effect: The natural process by which gases in Earth's atmosphere trap heat, warming the planet; intensified by human emissions of greenhouse gases.

Greenhouse Gases (GHGs): Gases such as carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O) that trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to global warming.

Industrial Revolution: A historical period beginning in the late 18th century marked by the widespread use of coal-powered machinery and industrial production, significantly increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

Combustion-Dependent Systems: Production systems that rely on burning fossil fuels, releasing large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Global Warming: The long-term increase in Earth's average surface temperature caused primarily by human-induced greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate Change: Long-term changes in global climate patterns, including temperature rise, altered precipitation, and increased frequency of extreme weather events.

Extreme Weather Events: Severe climatic occurrences such as droughts, floods, heatwaves, and storms that disrupt natural and human systems.

Flash Floods: Sudden and intense flooding events caused by heavy rainfall over a short period of time.

Droughts: Extended periods of below-average precipitation that lead to water shortages and crop failures.

Heatwaves: Prolonged periods of extremely high temperatures that negatively affect human health, ecosystems, and agricultural productivity.

Food Insecurity: A condition in which people lack reliable access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food.

Crop Failures: The significant reduction or total loss of agricultural yields due to factors such as droughts, floods, pests, or heat stress.

Import-Dependent Countries: Nations that rely heavily on imported food and agricultural products to meet domestic demand.

Market Demand: The total desire and willingness of consumers to purchase goods at various price levels.

Price Inflation: A sustained increase in the prices of goods and services, reducing purchasing power.

Staple Crops: Basic food crops such as maize, rice, and wheat that form the foundation of diets worldwide.

Processed Goods: Products made from raw agricultural materials, such as cereals, bread, animal feed, and cooking oils.

Precision Agriculture: The use of technology such as sensors, AI, and data analytics to optimize farming practices and improve crop yields.

Climate-Resilient Crop Varieties: Plant strains developed to withstand extreme temperatures, droughts, or flooding caused by climate change.

Supply Chain: The system involved in producing, transporting, and distributing goods from producers to consumers.

Food Price Volatility: Frequent and unpredictable fluctuations in food prices, often caused by supply disruptions or market instability.

Strategic Grain Reserves: Government-held stocks of staple crops used to stabilize markets and ensure food availability during crises.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): Climate action plans submitted by countries under the Paris Agreement outlining emissions reduction targets and strategies.

Paris Agreement: A legally binding international treaty adopted in 2015 aiming to limit global temperature rise and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): A set of 17 global objectives established by the UN to address issues such as poverty, hunger, inequality, and climate change by 2030.

Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA): An approach promoted by the FAO to increase agricultural productivity while building resilience to climate change and reducing emissions.

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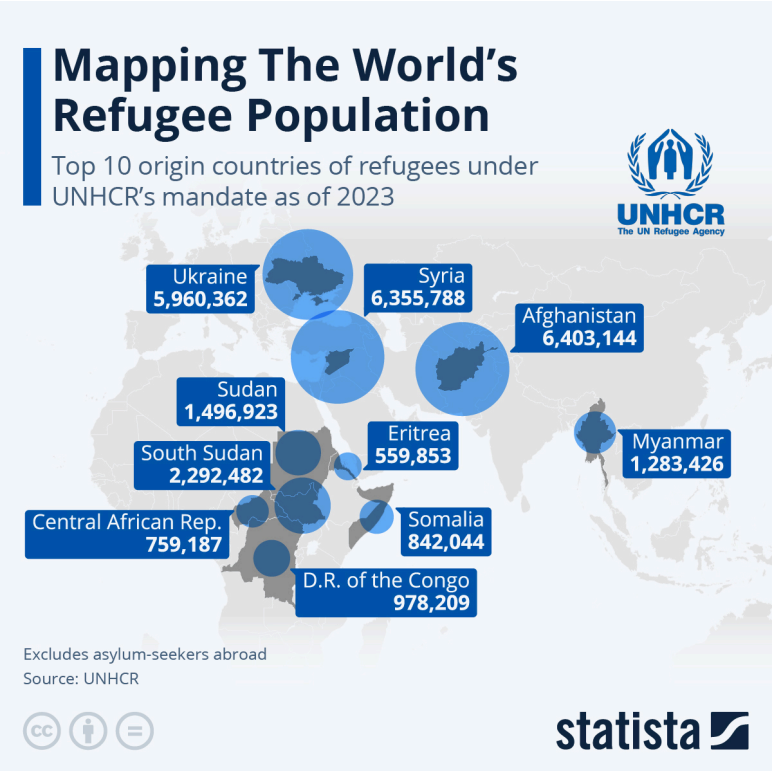
Topic B: Expanding Access to Education for Refugee Children Through Digital and Remote Learning Solutions.



Background Information

Origin of the problem,

As stated in numerous documents and treaties around the world, education is a basic human right that all children must be guaranteed with. This human right goes equally to the refugee children. However, as forced migration refugees increased rapidly due to armed conflict, political persecution, climate change crisis, and etc, countless refugee children are being eliminated from formal education. According to the UNHCR, more than 40% of the refugee population in the world are under the age of 18 and more than half of them are not able to attend school. This is more than a simple education matter, it is an international problem that can lead to generational poverty and social instability.



There are numerous reasons why refugee children do not receive education. There isn't sufficient infrastructure or educators available in refugee camps or temporary resident regions. Language barriers or administrative issues often impede the transfer of education into local settings. In these circumstances, digital and remote learning is considered as the rising alternative to overcome the physical limitation that the existing learning system faces. Internet based learning, online platform, mobile learning contents can help the refugee children to get education regardless of their location.

Especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, remote learning technology has rapidly developed worldwide. It has thus presented a higher possibility of digital learning in the refugee education field. This discussion not only pursues the adaptation of the technology but focuses on how refugee children could receive sustainable and fair education through digital learning.

Measures taken to address the issue,

UNHCR

Provided refugee education as a core factor of refugee protection. Set the primary goal to integrate the refugee children into public education of the host country if possible. Launched the Refugee Connected Education Challenge (RCEC): Aims to provide the refugee children sustainable education opportunities through digital and remote education until 2030.

UNICEF

Strengthen the accessibility of digital education to refugee and crisis situation children. Collaborated with Microsoft to launch the Learning Passport platform: Provides content based on the national curriculum. Available even in environments with limited internet access. Aims to minimize learning gaps for refugee children.

UNESCO

Directly linked refugee education is to SDG 4 (Quality Education). Promoted national pledges on education at the Global Refugee Forum. Provided digital education policy guidelines and encouraged international cooperation.

UNRWA

Operating a dedicated digital learning platform for Palestinian refugee children. Aiming to maintain educational continuity even in conflict zones

Any changes that have happened since,

Currently, the accessibility of education for refugee children varies considerably between countries and regions. While some developed countries or stable refugee receiving countries are showing effort to merge the refugee children to the public education system, many developing countries or neighboring conflict zones have insufficient education infrastructure. Most of the

refugees are residing in low-income countries and those countries are already facing challenges to provide education even for their own citizens.

Even though digital and remote learning are evaluated as tools to mitigate these limitations, they in fact also do bring new problems. One of the biggest problems is the digital disparity. Many refugee children do not have stable internet connection, electronic devices, nor electricity supply secure. Furthermore, in order to efficiently utilize digital education, the educators and learner must have sufficient technical competency which in reality isn't supported well enough by training and education.

Regardless of the limitations, the UN, International Organizations, NGOs, and private enterprises are gradually expanding digital education for refugee children. There has been a continuous attempt to provide education for basic literacy and numeracy, science and even psychosocial support and language education through online learning platforms. It is true that the current situation still projects many limitations, however it has infinite possibilities to become a crucial turning point in refugee education if international society cooperates.

Timeline of Events

Year	Events
2015	The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted – SDG 4: Quality Education for All was specified.
2016	The New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants was adopted.
2018	UNICEF and Microsoft launched the development of the Learning Passport.
2020	The COVID-19 pandemic led to a rapid expansion of distance learning worldwide.
2021	The importance of digital learning in refugee education was re-emphasized internationally.

2023	The Global Refugee Forum officially launched the Refugee Connected Education Challenge.
2024 - Now	UNHCR, UNICEF, and UNESCO led the expansion of digital refugee education programs.

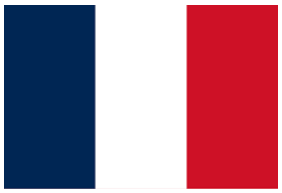
Suggested questions for further research

- What are the main barriers preventing refugee children from accessing digital and remote learning, and how do these barriers differ between host countries and regions?
- To what extent can digital and remote learning solutions complement or replace traditional in-person education for refugee children, and what limitations should be considered?
- How can ECOSOC encourage cooperation between governments, UN agencies, NGOs, and the private sector to expand sustainable digital education for refugees?
- What role should host countries play in integrating refugee children into national education systems while using digital learning as a support tool?
- How can the international community ensure that digital education initiatives for refugee children are inclusive, equitable, and culturally appropriate?

Bloc Positions

Major Bloc Positions:

Country/Bloc	Position
USA 	Emphasizes the potential of digital learning technology. Prefers refugee education through partnerships with private IT firms. Agrees on international cooperation but prioritizes financial division and responsibilities.
UK 	Approaches refugee children' s education as a human right matter. Supports using digital learning as a supplementary system to merge public education.
Germany	Highlights the education integration

	experience as one of the host countries. Argues for and EU co-financed support system and investment in digital learning infra.
France 	Mainly focuses on the cultural and lingual integration issues. Claims that digital learning must play a role of complementing local language education.
Turkey 	One of the largest host countries in the world. Criticises the lack of financial support from the international society. Asks for long term support and sustainable technology transformation.
Jordan 	Highlights the overstimulation of public education due to refugee hosting. Claims that remote learning can complement school systems.
Kenya 	Criticizes the unstable internet and electricity shortage problems in the refugee camps. Emphasizes the limitation of digital learning if the infra is not secure.
Ethiopia 	While agreeing on the necessity of digital learning, argues that basic education infra and educator acquisition should be prioritized.
Republic of Korea	As an IT powerhouse, it supports international cooperation by sharing digital learning technology. Emphasizes the support through Official Development Assistance (ODA)

	
China 	Emphasizes national sovereignty and the principles of non-interference, and expresses a willingness to cooperate, focusing on providing technological infrastructure support to developing countries.

Glossary

Refugee

A person who has been forced to flee their country due to war, violence, persecution, or human rights violations and cannot safely return home.

Asylum Seeker

An individual who has crossed an international border and applied for refugee status but whose claim has not yet been legally recognized.

Displaced Persons

People who have been forced to leave their homes due to conflict, disasters, or persecution, including both refugees and internally displaced persons.

Access to Education

The ability of children to enroll in, attend, and successfully participate in educational programs without barriers such as cost, discrimination, or lack of infrastructure.

Digital Learning

Education that uses digital technologies such as computers, tablets, the internet, or mobile devices to deliver instructional content.

Remote Learning

A form of education in which students and teachers are not physically present in the same location and learning occurs through online or distance-based methods.

Digital Divide

The gap between individuals or communities that have access to digital technologies and those that do not, often due to economic or geographic factors.

Connectivity

The availability and reliability of internet access, which is essential for participating in digital and remote learning programs.

Educational Infrastructure

The physical and technological systems needed to support education, including schools, internet networks, electricity, and learning platforms.

Host Country

A country that receives and shelters refugees fleeing from other nations, often facing additional economic and social pressures.

Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4)

A United Nations goal that aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

An independent, non-profit organization that works to address social, humanitarian, or development issues, often partnering with the UN and governments.

Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

A cooperative arrangement between governments and private sector companies to fund, develop, or manage services such as digital education platforms.

Educational Equity

The principle of providing fair and inclusive education opportunities by addressing the specific needs and disadvantages of different groups.

Capacity Building

Efforts to strengthen the skills, resources, and abilities of individuals or institutions, such as training teachers to use digital learning tools.

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