



# MUN DES LYCEENS

Edition 2022



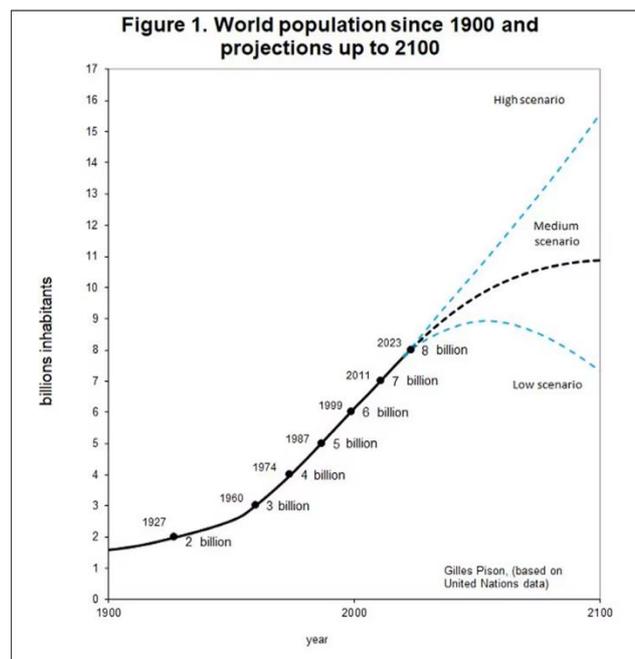
**Food and Agriculture Organisation  
Guidelines**

# Food and Agriculture Organisation Guidelines

## TOPIC 1:

### How to feed 9.8 billion humans in 2050?

In 1798, the British economist Thomas Malthus published his world-known "Essay on the Principle of Population" to warn against a deadly conundrum: the population growth was so fast that it would one day or another outstrip the production of food resources and thus trigger starvation all around the globe. Today, thanks to the agricultural revolutions of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, food production increases quicker than population. However, the sluggish demographic transitions of developing countries, the current 7.7 billion inhabitants of the Earth and the incremental number of local famines are likely to jeopardize international food security. Hence our stalemate: *how to feed 9.8 billion humans in 2050?*



### Is it really an international matter?

The globalisation of national food systems has increasingly interconnected countries and their markets, creating a world food system characterized by deep-seated structural imbalances. Therefore, the unequal repartition of food resources on the planet combined with the

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disparity in the means of production among countries have to be addressed at a global scale. Nonetheless, the principle of “food sovereignty” (see definition below) will obviously remain central in the debates between delegations, to prevent any kind of political interference while trying to help needy or ill-equipped countries.

Although there is no silver bullet to solving hunger, your job as a delegate will be to propose international solutions, norms or any global initiative that could mitigate hunger issues and prevent future worldwide famines while respecting the environment.

## National and international framework

### National framework

When it comes to food, is your country self-sufficient or does it have a dependence on food trade or food aid? Both wealthy states and food-deficient developing countries have a key role to play; some have the resources and technologies needed to help while others know better than everyone else what their food systems lack. Then, how does your country organise its food production? Considering the actions and programs of your national “Ministry of Agriculture” - or any agency in charge of food and farming - might be a good starting point. Also important: is your food system sustainable (use of fertilizers, pesticides, GMOs, organic farming...)?

Don't forget to weigh how fast your national population is growing.

### International organisations and programs

**Millennium Development, Goal 1:** First of eight goals adopted by the United Nations in 2000 in New York, aiming at eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. Unfortunately, it has not been reached yet...

**FAO** (*Food and Agriculture Organization*, since 1945): it leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security. Its Latin motto, “fiat panis”, translates to “let there be bread”. Headquartered in Rome, it has 197 member states and operates in more than 130 countries. It helps governments and development agencies coordinate their activities to improve and develop agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and land and water resources. It also conducts research, provides technical assistance to projects, operates educational and

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training programs, and collects data on agricultural output, production, and development.

**WFP** (*World Food Program*, since 1961): linked to the FAO, it operates mostly in war-torn countries. In 2019, it provided food aid to 97 million endangered people in 88 countries. The WFP has received the Nobel Prize in 2020. It is funded by donations mostly from wealthy countries, the USA being the biggest donor.



*The WFP live "Hunger map", a useful tool to locate undernourished regions*

Link: [https://hungermap.wfp.org/?\\_ga=2.36771298.337723808.1641143439-1912202980.1640250570](https://hungermap.wfp.org/?_ga=2.36771298.337723808.1641143439-1912202980.1640250570)

**Be careful:** an exclusive focus on the benefits of international food aid would be misleading; you also have to consider the drawbacks of it!

## Key Questions to focus on

Here are a few clues to help you with your research:

- **Which countries are the breadbaskets of the world? Put another way: who could help more, increasing his food aid commitment?**

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- To know where food-deficient regions will be in 2050, try to locate critical countries today: Which geographic areas are the most affected by hunger and undernutrition? How to help them?
- Is hunger always related to the dearth of food? Indeed, many other factors can trigger famines, and have to be taken into account.
- Undeniably, food aid is really efficient in the short run; but is it a long-term solution? Considering its drawbacks, what other initiatives could be implemented in addition?
- Finally, is there a sustainable way to produce more food? Indeed, expansion of areas for agricultural production (to feed more humans) is most likely to cause further environmental damage and depletion of land and water resources unless measures for sustainable management of natural resources are applied... As the topic mentions "2050", long-term thinking and long-lasting solutions are vital !
- What about global food waste? Does it have a link with undernourishment? Finding striking figures is a good way to support your arguments !

## Useful Vocabulary

Food security: when all human beings have a physical and economic access to sufficient, healthy, and nutritional food allowing them to meet their daily needs. The four pillars of food security are: availability, access, utilization, and stability (sustainability).

Food power: the use of agriculture and food exportations as a means of political control over another country. For example, Russia banned US Food Aid from its territory in September 2012, accusing it of political interference.

Food sovereignty: possibility for a population to control the mechanisms and policies of food production and distribution related to their own consumption. In other words, it's the right for a population to define their own food and agriculture systems.

Sustainable development: the idea that human societies must live and meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland Report, 1987).

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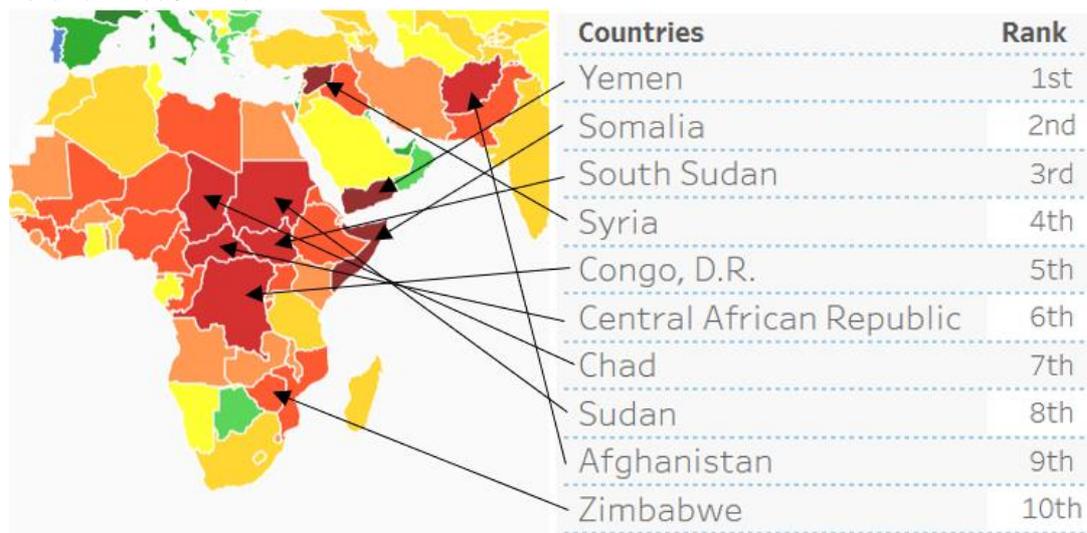
## TOPIC 2:

### Addressing famines in “failed-states”

In many countries around the globe, poverty, corruption, ethnic violence, non-states actors (terrorists or independentists organisations...) and many other destabilising factors are undermining the political order and provoking the failure of the state. A “failed-state” is a state whose political or economic system has become so weak that the government can no longer project authority over its territory and peoples, cannot protect its national boundaries and cannot provide its population with the minimum public services and infrastructures. Consider for instance Yemen, Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Congo DR, Syria... In all those war-torn - or simply fragile - states, local populations are suffering from the lack of government action in many fields such as health, security, and our focus today: food. Therefore, their food systems are usually topsy-turvy and cannot meet the human needs there. For instance, the World Food Program - a UN food assistance scheme - has recently estimated that 98% of Afghans do not have enough to eat on a daily basis...

Hence our today’s uphill task: ***how to prevent populations of failed states from starvation?***

To facilitate your understanding of the “failed-state” concept, here is a short list of relevant countries:



*List of most “fragile states” in 2020, Fragile States Index by the Fund for Peace*

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## Is it really an international matter?

Dealing with humanitarian issues all around the world is one of the United Nations' top priorities. It's then obvious that our issue needs to be addressed at a global scale. However, when it comes to international help, one founding rule remains central: the principle of non-interference and non-intervention (see definition below). Even if the principle is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations (Art. 2.7), it is difficult to be categorical about what is, and what is not, prohibited.

As a delegate, you will have to keep it in mind and decide whether you're respecting this principle when proposing any solution or initiative.

## Key questions to focus on

Debates between delegations will for sure be heated around many controversial issues:

The first one may be about political differences and trust between aid-giving countries and the government of the failed-state, considered most of the time as incompetent and illegitimate. ***Indeed, is the international community capable of delivering food aid effectively if the government there is corrupted or ill-intentioned?*** To understand that concern, consider the case of Afghanistan: can food aid be delivered properly while such a controversial government as the Taliban's is in power? ***Should the UN "work" with those governments to solve the humanitarian crises, regardless of political differences?***

From there comes another important question, which might divide delegations: ***should the UN try to rebuild failed states or intent to get rid of their weak corrupted governments?*** Maybe could it help local populations by building a new cutting-edge agricultural system and thus feed them? With a more specific vocabulary, should the international community opt for a "nation-building" strategy to end the famines efficiently? (See definition below). Try to find examples of nation-building in human History and try to find your country's opinion on that potential solution.

Another matter is that many countries prefer delivering food aid by their own national agencies, like the United States through US AID for instance. It is called "bilateral aid". ***Should they withdraw themselves from fragile states and support a larger role for multilateral agencies in their place?*** Does your country think that bilateral help

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hinders international efforts? Indeed, some wealthy countries implicitly use food aid as a political tool, aiding food-deficient countries only under conditions like unfavourable trade agreements for instance. This is called “food power” (see definition below).

Finally, a chief concern is: *how will the United Nations organise the food aid?* How to deliver, store and allocate the food? Would it be useful to have soldiers protecting the food storehouses? Many questions are related to the organisation of food aid and can be tackled during the assembly.

→ **Be careful:** food aid has many drawbacks, mostly in the long run. After having looked up for them, *what other solutions could be implemented to address famines in failed states in a long-term perspective?*

## National and international framework

### National Framework

Start by looking at your country’s role in international food aid. Is it a big donor, or does it already struggle with its own food security? If your country does not have many financial or food resources to help, don’t worry, you still can propose solutions and find big countries to support your initiative.

Your geographical or political proximity with failed-states and their governments can be an incentive too; China, for example, is said to have “friendly” positions when trading with the Taliban in Afghanistan... Many other countries - mostly from the South - praise their neutrality in international relations, and could thus be perfect intermediaries when organising international food aid in those fragile states... What about your country?

Then, what’s the opinion of your country concerning the principle of non-interference? Would it agree to remove the current governments in failed states to tackle the famines better?

### International Framework

International organisations and programs: cf. same section in the first topic.

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## Useful Vocabulary

Failed state : You can find a more precise definition than the one given in the introduction by clicking on this link:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/failed-state>

State-building or Nation-building: In our context, it refers to the process by which a foreign country tries to build a state from scratch (a democratic government, a centralized bureaucracy for tax collection, stable institutions and infrastructures, a standing army...) on a territory that is not his own. The United States of America started a process of nation-building in Iraq after defeating Saddam Hussein in 2003; but was it a success?

Food power: the use of agriculture and food exportations as a means of political control over another country. For example, Russia banned US Food Aid from its territory in September 2012, accusing it of political interference.

Principle of non-interference: the fact that sovereign states shall not intervene in each other's internal affairs. This respect for states' sovereignty is a cornerstone of international law.

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What is Famine? Causes and effects and how to stop it

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