

JEIMUN 2026



**Japan
Educational
International
Model
United
Nations
2026**

Background Guide 1

**Assembly:
United Nations
General Assembly
Plenary Meeting**

**Agenda item:
General Measures for
Food Security Issues
Caused by Conflict**

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Chapter 0. Beginnings

0-1. Greeting

Some explanations of Model United Nations that say “You can be a delegate from a particular country, and experience the discussion of international problems.” Then, what is a “delegate”?

“a person chosen or elected by a larger group to speak, vote, etc. for them, especially at a meeting”
(From Cambridge Dictionary)

This sentence is the definition of the word “delegate” in the dictionary. In the context of the United Nations, “larger group” refers to a nation. Many kinds of people who are chosen or elected, such as UN staff members, politicians and diplomats, work to build a better world at the United Nations. As in the real United Nations, you can be any kind of person including yourself in the Model United Nations. However, I think you have to be a person who is chosen or elected from a nation.

What is the difference between a chosen or elected person from the nation and citizens? There are many answers for this question, but one thing is certain: a chosen or elected person understands the current state of the international situation and can express their policy to realize their better world. In this sense, I want you to be a “*delegate*.”

Some might be concerned about how difficult it is to be a “*delegate*.” Don’t worry about it, you can do it. We will help you, especially beginners.

This background guide is to understand conference information and basic knowledge, which is the first step to be a “*delegate*.” Keep thinking, and you will naturally become a “*delegate*”.

I am looking forward to meeting “*you delegates*” on January 10th-12th, 2026.

Executive committee chairperson and front manager of JEIMUN2026, Shuya INAGAKI

0-2. How to Utilize This Background Guide

This background guide compiles essential introductory knowledge for all participants approaching the conference. You should not only read this background guide (BG) before the meeting but also understand its contents and be able to explain it to others who have not read it. In addition, this BG only shows the basic and general materials. You will need to research more by yourself after reading the whole background guide.

Chapters 1 and 4 outline the rules of this meeting and the characteristics of the conference venue. Chapters 2 and 3 provide foundational knowledge on conflict and food security. Chapter 5 provides some guiding questions to consider the topics in your country. This chapter will be useful for conducting your own research.

To understand how to read the chapters and what key information to focus on, please read the notes provided at the start of each chapter.

Chapter 1. Assembly Information

This chapter explains where the conference is and what is discussed there. In addition, we introduce the other relevant UN organizations which relate to the agenda item.

1-1. Assembly Information in This Conference

Basic information

Conference information

Conference name: 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly Plenary Meeting

Agenda item: General Measures for Food Security Issues Caused by Conflict

Date: 2026/01/10-12

What do you discuss in this conference?

Conflict is one of the major causes preventing the achievement of food security for all people. The agenda item in this conference is “General Measures for Food Security Issues Caused by Conflict.” All of the topics you discuss must be based on this agenda item. This meeting aims to discuss how to achieve food security for all people in conflict zones and how to realize better forms of food security under the impact of conflict.

The definition of conflict

At the conference of JEIMUN 2026, the term “conflict” shall refer exclusively to situations of armed conflict¹.

While it is somewhat complex due to its inclusion of international law elements, the definition of conflict itself is Out of Agenda. Therefore, the minimum requirement for discussion is understanding that “armed conflict” is the subject matter.

For clarity: the term “conflict” under this definition does not include events such as protests, riots, political or economic disputes, cyber-attacks, or other forms of violence that do not involve the organised use of weapons or sustained military force.

¹ “Armed Conflict” refers to cases where one or more States, or a State and an organised armed group, or two organised armed groups inside a State, engage in sustained armed violence or use of military force. It includes international armed conflict (IAC) and non-international armed conflict (NIAC). In addition, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) defines “armed conflict” as “a de facto state of hostilities dependent on neither a declaration nor recognition of the existence of “war” by its parties”. Therefore, whether an international conflict constitutes an armed conflict is determined objectively by each country.

1-2. Relevant UN organizations

General Assembly Plenary Meetings

Established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Composed of all 193 Members of the United Nations, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter.

The main roles of the General Assembly are as follows.

- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament
- Discuss any questions relating to international peace and security and make recommendations on them, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council
- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health field

General Assembly Plenary Meetings are the biggest and most important meetings in the United Nations. In General Assembly plenary meetings, many kinds of important agenda items are discussed, such as international peace and security, humanitarian support, important global issues and United Nations reform.

Other UN organizations relevant to this meeting

Food security is also discussed in other UN organizations. There are many other specialized agencies which are relevant to food security. These are explained below.

① Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): Established in 1945. ²195 member countries.

FAO aims to improve the nutritional and living standards of people worldwide, enhance the production and distribution of food and agricultural products, and improve the living conditions of rural populations. It provides a forum for international discussion on food and agriculture issues, offers policy recommendations, collects and disseminates information, and provides development assistance.

² Including European Union.

② World Food Programme (WFP): Established in 1961.

WFP focuses on food distribution to people facing severe food and nutrition shortages. It also provides emergency food aid for short-term crises, long-term support to promote community self-reliance, and agricultural development.

③ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD): Established in 1977. 168 member countries.

IFAD supports agricultural and rural development in developing countries by providing loans and grants to smallholder farmers. It thereby helps their self-sustaining efforts to overcome poverty.

By comparing these organizations, it reveals a division of roles regarding global food issues: FAO handles policy consultation, WFP performs operational work, and IFAD manages asset utilization.

In addition to those agencies, general measures of food security are discussed in the General Assembly 2nd Committee and food security crises in some particular areas are discussed in the Security Council. Please research for more information by yourself.

Chapter 2. Contemporary International Situation of Food Security

This chapter suggests the basic information on food security and a brief explanation of the relationships among food security issues. For better understanding, compare it with Chapter 4 and try writing your own summary.

2-1. Basic Information of Food Security

The Process of Production, Distribution, and Consumption

First, to grasp the overall picture of food issues, let us consider where the food we eat comes from and how it reaches our tables. For example, consider the flow of bread reaching Japanese tables. Let's assume the raw material is wheat from the United States. First, the wheat is produced on American farms. The harvested wheat is imported to Japan by ship via grain trading companies, processed into flour at domestic Japanese mills, made into bread at bakeries or bread-making companies, and then placed on store shelves. Consumers buy the bread from the grocery stores, place them on their dining tables and gulp them down. Crucially, this sequence encompasses the process of “production → distribution → consumption.” In a self-sufficient society, a direct line can be drawn from “production → consumption,” and the producer is often the consumer as well. However, much of today's food follows a “production → distribution → consumption” process, involving various entities.

When considering food security issues, it is useful to note this difference in process. Food issues are often discussed through various topics, but these are frequently strongly linked to one of these stages: production, distribution, or consumption. Furthermore, a single incident can impact multiple stages in the supply chain, such as affecting both production and distribution, or distribution and consumption.

Demand and Supply

Another fundamental economic concept crucial to food issues is demand and supply. Demand refers to consumers' willingness to purchase goods, and it rises as more people desire the goods. Supply, on the other hand, refers to the activity of providing goods, and it rises when producers make more goods and offer them to consumers. Demand underpins consumption levels, while supply underpins production levels. Demand and supply are crucial because, for goods traded in markets, prices are determined by the balance between these two forces (supply-demand balance). If many people want a certain good but the quantity available is limited, the good's scarcity increases and its

price rises. Conversely, if there is a large quantity of a good but few people want it, the surplus causes prices to fall. Generally, higher demand (consumption) leads to higher prices, while increased supply (production) leads to lower prices. In conclusion, food prices are primarily determined by this supply-demand balance.

From the perspective of the global food supply-demand balance, a state where production exceeds consumption does not pose a major problem. While a global food surplus would lower prices and reduce farmers' income, farmers can adjust production accordingly to eliminate excess production. Essentially, it is sufficient if potential production capacity exceeds consumption — meaning we can produce more if we choose to. The global supply-demand balance becomes problematic when consumption exceeds production, or when the two are extremely close. When consumption exceeds production, mechanisms to reduce demand kick in, causing food prices to rise. This prevents poor people from purchasing food, leading to an overall decrease in consumption. While this restores market equilibrium, those forced to reduce consumption face hunger. Furthermore, even without demand significantly outpacing supply, tight supply-demand conditions carry the risk of large food price fluctuations triggered by minor changes in supply volume. In food markets where production is highly susceptible to changes in the natural environment, price fluctuations are more likely to occur when supply and demand are tight. When price fluctuations occur, it is inevitably the poor and socially vulnerable who suffer the most adverse effects.

Definition of Food Security

Let us confirm the concept of food security, which is the theme of this discussion. What image comes to mind when you hear the term food security? You might have a vague notion like “people being able to eat food,” but it actually has a very detailed definition. The concept of “Food Security” was first proposed in 1974. Its definition has evolved over time, along with the constantly changing circumstances surrounding food security. Today, it is defined as follows:

“Food security is a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

Looking at this definition, four key elements emerge as crucial factors of considering food security. ①Availability, ②Accessibility, ③Utilization, and ④Stability. While no unified definitions exist for these, they are widely used concepts constituting food security, so each will be explained.

①Availability

The physical presence of food at an adequate level in a specific location—that is, whether food is actually available or not. While increased production raises availability, even if production remains constant, increased consumption lowers availability. For a specific country, the criterion for

“availability” is whether the domestic food supply—comprising domestic production, imports, and food aid—exceeds domestic demand.

② Accessibility

The ability of people to obtain food. This is primarily divided into physical access and economic access. The former refers to situations where food does not reach specific regions or people due to inadequate infrastructure like roads. The latter refers to situations where, even if food physically exists, people cannot obtain the necessary food due to high prices or insufficient purchasing power. Ensuring availability does not necessarily guarantee accessibility. Examples of policies to enhance accessibility include poverty reduction measures and food price stabilization.

③ Utilization

In a narrow sense, this means the ability to consume safe and nutritious food. Broadly, it also refers to the availability of sufficient quantities of food and drinking water, along with sanitary conditions, necessary to maintain a healthy nutritional status. “Nutritious” implies not only sufficient energy supply but also the absence of deficiencies in specific nutrients due to dietary imbalances. Therefore, achieving nutritional adequacy requires balanced consumption of not only grains but also vegetables, fruits, and livestock products, ensuring adequate intake of vitamins and proteins. Nutritional adequacy represents the ‘quality’ dimension relative to the “quantity” of food. Examples of policies to enhance nutritional adequacy include crop diversification and nutrition education.

④ Stability

The ability to access food continuously under any circumstances. Just because food is available today does not guarantee it will be available tomorrow. Extreme weather events like droughts reduce food supply in the short term, threatening stability. Additionally, climate change and economic crises can cause short-term fluctuations in food prices, potentially dealing a severe blow to socially vulnerable groups such as the poor and women. Examples of policies to enhance stability include food stockpiling and monetary policy.

2-2. The Relationships Between Conflict and Food Security

Military action inevitably involves several ways and degrees of destruction. This affects the food supply chain as a whole. The effects on production, distribution and consumption are mainly a decrease in supplies, while the effects on consumption are mainly an increase in demand. In the worst case, some people are unable to access food, while those who are able to get food face higher prices and lower quality and quantity.

Let us look at some examples. In the production stage, attacks on farms and factories cause a decrease in food productivity. In the distribution stage, attacks on ships and trucks affect the import area. In addition, even if ships and trucks are not attacked, transportation companies avoid the area in

conflict so that more fuels are needed. In the consumption stage, the price of food rises, lack of supply in dangerous areas makes people there hungry, and the influx of refugees increases demand.

Chapter 3. Case Studies of Food Security in Military Occasions and UN Past Actions

This introduces examples of how war affects food security and the actions of UN organizations. These examples do not cover every case of the conflict but are presented mainly to aid understanding of the contents of Chapter 3.

3-1. Civil Wars in Africa

In many African countries, agriculture is a main source of income for citizens. Conflict such as civil wars within those countries can not only harm the people and the economy, but also the distribution of food in those countries and even other regions. Below are some examples of how civil wars in Africa can affect food security.

Sudan

Sudan, located in Northeast Africa, is one example of an African nation with an ongoing civil war. In April 2023, Sudan plunged into its civil war after a struggle for power between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a paramilitary group. As of July 2025, it is said that more than 150,000 people have died in this conflict, and both the army and the RSF have been found to have committed war crimes.

According to the World Food Programme (WFP), as of April 2025, almost half of Sudan's population was said to be facing extreme levels of hunger, signifying the critical situation of this nation's food security. The civil war has also caused problems related to food security other than famine, such as the displacement of farmers and deterioration of the health of livestock. Agriculture is one of Sudan's main sectors, and 80% of the nation's total workforce was employed in the agricultural sector as of 2011. However, with the civil war forcing the displacement of farmers in search of safety in urban areas, this percentage has since then halved. This not only causes the livelihood of farmers to worsen; it also damages the nation's economy, and with less food being produced, Sudan is forced to rely more and more on imports. However, such imports are also often inaccessible due to rising costs and blockages, both of which are often tactics of the SAF and RSF aimed to strengthen their influence and control.

The WFP has been providing continuous aid to Sudan's communities to help strengthen their food security from its root. The WFP delivers food and cash for community members to work for the building of infrastructure in return, helps improve food systems and safety nets by educating in vocational skills, improves irrigations to boost productivity, and supports farmers access markets, and

prevents post harvest losses by promoting proper storage procedures, leading to more profit, stable income, and boosting of the local economy. Regarding the health of livestock and production of crops, in 2024, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) provided aid such as the vaccination of 2.8 million animals and distribution of 5,300 tonnes of certified seeds to 2.8 million people. However, two years into the conflict, the Sudan civil war is now being overshadowed by other major conflicts, leading to a lack of funding; in 2024, only 37 percent of the requested funding was received. Additionally, the civil war limits access to the nation and makes it difficult to reach everyone in need, especially those trapped in conflict zones.

Moreover, delivering humanitarian aid comes with risk as well. For instance, in June 2025, near North Darfur, there was an attack on a WFP and UNICEF joint humanitarian convoy carrying food and nutrition supplies, leading to the death of members and loss of supplies. Shortly after that in August, again in North Darfur, another WFP convoy also carrying food supplies came under attack, leaving the supplies damaged due to a fire caused by the incident. These cases show how areas in conflict can be difficult to reach.

The example of Sudan shows how conflict and food security are deeply intertwined. Production and distribution are both affected by conflict, and the worsened situation of food security causes said conflict to become more exacerbated. Solutions to break this negative loop are urgently needed.

Somalia

Somalia, located in the Horn of Africa, is another nation with an ongoing civil war. It began in 1991 after dictator Siad Barre fell and left the country without a central government. In 2012, a new government was installed; however, al-Qaeda-aligned Al-Shabab insurgents continue to clash with the government. This conflict combined with famines have also given rise to Somali pirates over the years, who raid vessels that pass through the Gulf of Aden on their way to and from the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.

Like Sudan, conflict in Somalia has caused food insecurity. With the conflict combined with abnormal weather such as droughts, the nation faces famine. Adding to this, the conflict causes the displacement of residents and hinders their access to markets and aid. Moreover, Somalia heavily relies on imported products, often through informal frameworks such as small-scale vendors. The aforementioned piracy around the Gulf of Aden also threatens global shipping routes, and with the additional war risk imposed on the vessels, voyages through the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea become costly, causing a rise of prices of the food supplies and other products they carry.

The WFP helps build sustainable and resilient agriculture by working with the Government to introduce social protection programmes or improving the capacity of national institutions. However, same as Sudan, there is a lack of funding for the support of Somalia's food security; the 2025 Somalia

Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, which requires 1.42 billion dollars, was only 12.4 percent funded as of February 2025. Such lack of funds is forcing the UN to prioritise emergencies and reduce support.

The example of Somalia shows how political conflict in one nation can not only affect the food security of said nation, but also affect the global flow of products and threaten food security on a larger scale.

3-2. Situations in the Middle East

The Middle East has been one of the most desperate areas in terms of food security – production, distribution, and consumption of food – which forced many countries to deal with the issues and the UN to take essential actions. Below are some examples of how crises in the Middle East affect food security.

Gaza Conflict

Here is an example of Gaza. This specific case will show you how conflict or war leads to the issues mainly in the consumption of food.

What is happening in Gaza?

On 7 October 2023, Hamas fighters launched an assault from Gaza, killing about 1,200 people in Israel and taking 251 hostages. This triggered a massive Israeli military offensive, by land, sea and air. More than 61,000 people have been killed, according to the Hamas-run health ministry. In July, the UK and 27 other nations, including Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, New Zealand and Switzerland called for an immediate end to the war. They said the suffering of civilians had "reached new depths". In the Gaza strip, widespread starvation, malnutrition and disease were driving a rise in hunger-related deaths.

Food security in Gaza

The new assessment from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) reports the most severe deterioration since the IPC began analyzing acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition in the Gaza Strip, and it marks the first time a famine has been officially confirmed in the Middle East region. The United Nations warns that a famine is imminent in northern Gaza and says 1.1 million people are starving. There continues to be concerns over the deaths of Palestinians seeking aid at food distribution sites, with at least 798 people in Gaza reportedly killed while receiving aid in six weeks. In late July 2025, the WHO said Gaza is suffering "man-made mass starvation" because of the Israeli blockade on aid. Israel denies it is responsible for food shortages.

In addition, malnutrition among children in Gaza is accelerating at a catastrophic pace. In July 2025 alone, more than 12000 children were identified as acutely malnourished – the highest monthly

figure ever recorded and a six-fold increase since the start of the year. Nearly one in four of these children were suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), the deadliest form with both short and long-term impacts. Since July, food and aid supplies entering Gaza increased slightly but remained vastly insufficient, inconsistent and inaccessible compared to the need. Restarting commercial food imports is also critical to provide dietary diversity and ensure the health of those who are suffering from famine. Additionally, the lack of fuel, water and other vital aid continues to undermine efforts to prevent famine and deaths among people in Gaza.

UN Actions

To address food insecurity, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) provides emergency assistance to just over one million Palestine refugees, or about 75 percent of all Palestinian refugees in Gaza, who lack the financial means to cover their basic food. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) also emphasised that while it has never stopped delivering, “we can do a lot more if additional designated humanitarian corridors are created to facilitate the movement of our convoys as well as commercial trucks, which are essential.” In addition, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) welcomed Israel’s announcement and its intent to open designated corridors for aid convoys in Gaza, “where hunger has reached catastrophic levels”. At the same time, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) warned that malnutrition in Gaza is spiraling out of control, with a sharp rise in deaths – most of them in July – marking what it calls a “dangerous trajectory”.

Syrian Refugees

Here is an example of Syrian refugees. This specific case will show you how refugees’ displacement leads to the issues in the consumption of food.

What is happening in Syria?

After over a decade of conflict, Syria remains one of the world’s largest refugee crises. Since 2011, more than 14 million Syrians have been forced to flee their homes in search of safety. More than 7.4 million Syrians remain internally displaced in their own country where 70 percent of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance and 90 percent live below the poverty line. More than 6 million Syrian refugees live in countries neighboring Syria including Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq or abroad.

Regarding the current situation of Syrian refugees, the fall of the Assad Government in December 2024 has resulted in spontaneous returns to Syria. More than 1 million Syrians have returned home, including some 301,967 Syrians from neighboring countries like Türkiye, Lebanon and Jordan, and 885,294 internally displaced persons (IDPs) since the end of November 2024.

Impacts of Syrian Refugees on Food Security

The situation regarding Syrian Refugees has a devastating impact on food security in countries surrounding Syria. A large number of refugees sharply increase demands on food in the neighbouring countries. As a result, countries such as Iraq, Jordan, Türkiye and Lebanon are taking countermeasures to meet the increased demand.

Despite the availability of food in Iraq, most refugees are vulnerable and unable to meet their food needs without external assistance.

In Jordan, food is available but not easily accessible to the majority of Syrian refugees without food assistance because they lack the income to purchase sufficient quantities in local markets.

Türkiye has a limited legal framework for providing long-term assistance to refugees who originate from countries outside Europe. Nonetheless, it is able to almost single-handedly assist the 180,000 Syrians that have found protection in Government managed camps and is providing a very high standard of assistance that has received international recognition. Food assistance is supported by TRC and WFP through a well-received e-voucher modality of assistance. Little is known about the vulnerability of populations outside of camps. In general, it is considered that families who have chosen to live outside of camps can support their basic needs, however there are growing concerns that there may be pockets of vulnerability within this population. As the number of Syrians living outside of camps continues to grow this is of increasing concern.

Regarding Lebanon, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) of the World Food Programme estimates that 1.4 million Lebanese and non-Lebanese individuals are facing high levels of acute food insecurity, with the food price index rising by 304% between May 2022 and May 2023. Rising inflation is a major factor driving food insecurity, with food inflation reaching 274% year-on-year in August 2023, which can be classified among the highest rates globally.

UN Actions

Since 2013, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has played a leading role in monitoring, analysis, protection, advocacy, and capacity building in the Syrian context. UN Human Rights in Syria has been dedicated to addressing economic and social rights violations, focusing on protecting essential rights like housing, health, food, and water for returnees, IDPs, and vulnerable groups. This includes documenting and advocating for economic, social, and cultural rights while tackling legal barriers that prevent full access to these rights.

Since the situation in Syria escalated in late 2024, WFP and partners have provided ready-to-eat rations, as well as hot and fresh meals. Prior to this, an emergency response was activated within hours of the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon, to cope with an influx of people fleeing the war. Due to funding shortfalls and higher food prices and operational costs, in 2023 WFP was forced to first reduce and then discontinue its large-scale General Food Assistance programme that had assisted 5.5 million people in Syria in 2023 alone. WFP launched a highly targeted emergency food assistance programme to reach 1 million severely food-insecure people. This is only a third of those severely food insecure in the country. School meals, nutrition and early-recovery work continue

uninterrupted. However, dwindling humanitarian funding is limiting WFP's ability to implement these activities at scale.

The Red Sea Crisis

Here is an example of the Red Sea crisis. This specific case will show you how the crisis in canals leads to the issues in the distribution and consumption of food.

What is happening around the Suez Canal?

Global trade is facing significant disruptions as one of the world's most vital maritime chokepoints – the Suez Canal – experiences severe challenges which are driven by geopolitical tensions and conflict. The sudden rise in freight prices is due to attacks launched on ships transiting the Red Sea by the Houthis, a Yemen-based and Iran-backed rebel and military group in response to the ongoing conflict in Gaza. A major issue in terms of distribution of food is that the Red Sea links to the Suez Canal – a key shipping route for global trade.

In addition to straining global supply chains and undermining economic growth, these disruptions are driving up costs, reshaping trade patterns, upending the flow of energy and food supplies and threatening to exacerbate food security risks, especially in vulnerable economies. Small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs) are bearing the brunt of these disruptions. Additionally, former Egyptian deputy foreign minister Hussein Haridi told Arab media that the US and UK attacks could have a negative impact on Egypt's already-struggling economy and cut shipping through the Suez Canal even more. He further noted that the US-UK attacks might exacerbate the crisis and could cause a widening of the conflict affecting not just the food security but the security and the economies of countries in the Middle East and Europe.

Impacts of the Red Sea crisis on Food Security

The Suez Canal provides a key route for staple foods such as rice for many lower-income countries. These countries, particularly in North Africa and in the Eastern Mediterranean, import much of the grains they consume. Lower-income countries will be the worst off as the world contends with higher prices and lower availability. Based on real-time maritime cargo tracking data published by the World Trade Organization's Global Trade Data Portal, we can impute the share of wheat exports from the European Union, Russia, and Ukraine that has likely transited through the Suez Canal and Red Sea. Data since July 2020 indicates that roughly 20%-30% of those wheat exports would be potentially affected if cargoes had to be redirected from the Suez Canal to longer routes around the Cape of Good Hope. The war in Ukraine has already had a negative impact on Ukraine wheat exports, reducing them overall and shifting them away from markets including sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. In addition, just five countries – China, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Vietnam – produce 70% of the world's rice. When they are cut off from markets in the west, the price of the staple is likely to rise. Due to their vulnerable economies, SIDS would be the hardest hit among all other nations, potentially facing a 0.9% increase in consumer prices, with processed food prices rising by 1.3%.

UN Actions

UN agencies, particularly UNCTAD and the FAO/WFP, analyze the global impacts of shipping disruptions, including those affecting the Suez Canal, on trade, food prices, and food security. The UN's trade and development body, UNCTAD, has raised profound concerns over escalating disruptions to global trade. It says that recent attacks on ships in the Red Sea, combined with geopolitical tensions affecting shipping in the Black Sea, have given rise to a complex crisis affecting key trade routes.

3-3. Aggression Against Ukraine

What is happening?

On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation launched an invasion of Ukraine. The UN General Assembly condemned the aggression and called for the immediate withdrawal of Russian Federation forces and respect for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

This military aggression not only caused a massive humanitarian crisis and displacement of refugees but also had international repercussions on infrastructure such as energy and food supplies. Notably, the Russian Federation and Ukraine are major global exporters of grain and fertilizers. The blockade of the Black Sea and the resulting reductions in production and supply directly impacted global food security, causing soaring food prices and supply instability. This issue remains an urgent challenge requiring resolution by the international community, with multifaceted responses being explored through the United Nations, regional organizations, and bilateral frameworks.

The conflict also contributed to sharp increases in international food prices, as disruptions in Ukraine's grain exports and restrictive trade policies by other nations tightened global supply and heightened market volatility. In addition, the closure of Ukrainian airspace and disruptions to Black Sea shipping routes further constrained transport and export capacity, amplifying supply shortages and contributing to the surge in global food prices.

Situation of food security

The war in Ukraine, now in its fourth year, has left about 5 million people struggling with food insecurity, with the heaviest impact felt in communities near the frontlines. Data from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) indicates that millions are turning to desperate coping strategies—skipping meals so their children can eat, or taking on debt to afford enough food for their families.

Production (inside Ukraine)

- Russian aggression has severely disrupted Ukraine's food production. The war caused widespread destruction beyond the agricultural sectors. By late 2024, damage growth slowed

since most frontline assets were already destroyed in the first year of invasion. However, updated assessments included longer-term production losses, additional livestock and fishery impacts, and new costs like debris removal.

- Winter grain production in Ukraine declined due to the war. Furthermore, some reports state that the introduction of protectionist policies by multiple exporting countries impacted global trade and distribution networks. On the consumption side, low- and middle-income countries were particularly affected, causing significant disruption in countries geographically distant from major exporters.

Distribution

- The war disrupted Ukraine's grain exports through the Black Sea. To stabilize markets, the UN and Türkiye brokered the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) in July 2022, which enabled safe export of millions of tons of foodstuffs.
- Russia's withdrawal from the BSGI in July 2023 caused renewed uncertainty and contributed to global food price volatility, as noted by FAO's Food Price Index.
- Continued missile and drone attacks on ports and grain storage facilities (e.g., Odesa) further restricted export capacity. (OHCHR reports)

Consumption

- Before the war, Ukraine's agricultural exports fed about 400 million people annually, making it a vital food source for Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Thanks to competitive prices and its strategic location, Ukraine was also one of the largest suppliers of wheat, vegetable oil, and peas to the World Food Programme (WFP).
- Rising costs of wheat, sunflower oil, and fertilizers have strained household budgets and WFP's procurement in Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia.

Actions

There are many international actions. In this time, we introduce actions by 3 main organizations, but there are many other international actions like OCHA and IFAD. If you want to know, further research is recommended.

- WFP
 - The WFP provides food and cash assistance to 1 to 1.5 million people each month, especially near conflict lines. Since March 2022, it has delivered the equivalent of 3.3 to 3.6 billion meals.
- FAO
 - The FAO has launched a two-year Emergency and Early Recovery Response Plan (2025–2026) to address food insecurity in Ukraine. The plan aims to support over 500,000 vulnerable people, particularly rural families and small-scale farmers near

the frontlines, by providing emergency inputs, rehabilitating mined farmland, and offering long-term recovery assistance. With Ukraine's agricultural sector suffering nearly \$84 billion in war-related damage, FAO's approach focuses on restoring production, improving market access, and strengthening resilience. To implement the plan, FAO is seeking \$150 million in funding and is working in coordination with the Ukrainian government and international partners.

- UN
 - The United Nations, together with Türkiye, launched the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) in July 2022 to ease the global food crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. By reopening Ukrainian ports and monitoring safe grain exports through a UN-led Joint Coordination Centre in Istanbul, the initiative enabled the shipment of over 32 million tonnes of food, lowering global prices and supplying vulnerable countries and humanitarian programs like the World Food Programme (WFP).
 - After Russia's withdrawal in July 2023, the UN has continued pressing for renewed agreements and alternative routes to keep Ukrainian grain flowing and protect global food security.

Chapter 4. Out of Agenda

This chapter helps you understand what to discuss in this meeting by understanding topics that you should not discuss. While reading this chapter, we recommend you to consult chapter1.

If you have any problems or concerns about the out of agenda please let us know by email before the meeting or ask the director in the conference.

Prerequisite

The agenda item is “General Measures for Food Security Issues Caused by Conflict.” You are required to mention both conflict and food security in draft resolutions and their amendments. Then, you can mention topics which are directly related to conflict and/or food security in this meeting.

Topics that you cannot mention in the meeting

- **The definition of “conflict” or “food security” (IMPORTANT)**

The word “conflict” has many different meanings in the dictionary. However, the definition of the conflict is stipulated at section 1-1.

- The argument that food security and conflicts do not have any problems for the world.
- Topics that challenge the significance of holding this meeting

Topics that you can mention in the meeting but have to be careful of when writing in draft resolutions and their amendments

- Topics out of the mandate of UN General Assembly Plenary Meetings

You have to care especially about its difference from the mandate of the security council. In General Assembly Plenary Meetings, the problems in specific areas cannot be main topics. Please keep in mind the agenda item of this meeting is general measures, not measures in specific areas.

- Topics of how to solve the conflict

Of course, achieving a world without conflict is the most effective way to solve the food security problem. However, you have to discuss the situation during a conflict, temporary ceasefire or immediately after the conflict ends.

- Topics of medical aid

Humanity is an important topic to consider food security problems in conflict areas. It is predicted that some countries build policies to support not only food but also medical aid in order to secure humanity, but please keep in mind the main agenda is food security and please express the relevance to food security in draft resolutions and their amendments if you build such policies.

- Extremely high level contents

We do not mention what extremely high level contents are in this Background Guide, but you should explain your policy to all the delegates so that everyone can understand.

Chapter 5. Further Research

This chapter provides some questions to consider when conducting your research. They are aimed to guide your first steps in deepening your understanding of your country's relation to and stance on this topic. These questions are merely to help you gather some basic information necessary for this meeting, and what you gather should become the basis of any policy making.

Situation of Food Security

These questions are for understanding your country's general situation of food security.

1. How is your country involved in food security at each phase of production, distribution, and consumption?
2. What is the current situation of food security in your country in terms of availability, accessibility, utilization and stability?
3. Is your country an importer or exporter of food resources? What countries does your country have close relations with in terms of food trade?

Conflict and Food Security

These questions are for understanding the relation of conflict and food security in the context of your country.

1. Has your country experienced internal conflict that affected food security?
2. Has your country's food security been affected by conflicts in other regions?

Past Actions and International Cooperation

These questions are for understanding what past actions your country has taken regarding food security and how your country participates in international efforts.

1. What domestic policies or measures does your country have in the case of food security crises?
2. How has your country historically voiced and acted in past UN conferences regarding food security issues?
3. Is your country reliant on humanitarian food aid as a recipient, or does it provide humanitarian food aid to countries in need?

Chapter 6. References

In this chapter, we will show references we used to write this background guide. Please use this as a reference when conducting your own research.

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Update Information

We revised some English expressions and clarified the definition of the conflict.

Additional note

Some author members of this background guide belong to other MUN organizations, but the contents of this background guide are not relevant to any other MUN organizations' policy.

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