





DIRECTORS'  
WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

On behalf of the organizers, the Advisory Board, and the Executive Board of AUSMUN 2019, it is my greatest pleasure to welcome you to the 12th annual AUSMUN Conference. With over 900 delegates registered from more than 40 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's background guide was diligently written to provide delegates with enough guidance for their research. It will act as a great starting point for delegates to familiarize themselves with the topics of their respective committee. After a short letter that gives the chairs a chance to welcome their delegates, a summary, a brief history, a discourse on the issue, and the latest developments of the issue will be presented. In the summary, delegates will have their first quick briefing on the issue where concerns will be defined. Followed by that, the guide delves into the root causes of the issue by identifying its history. Then, a discourse section will look into the issue with further scrutiny by presenting both sides of the topic's debate and examining some of its challenges and influences. Finally, it will aim to provide delegates with the latest activities in regards to the matter and any progressions in its respect. At the very end of the guide, delegates will find questions that will guide their thinking, some suggestions that will guide their research, and references that they can use for further relevant information. However, it is important to point out that depending solely on the guide will not be sufficient enough to prepare delegates for the conference. It is highly encouraged for delegates to look at the Delegate Handbook on the AUSMUN website and to view the "How to Research" video created by AUSMUN.

The theme of this year's conference is youth empowerment. This is very important as we are the children of tomorrow. Even if delegates are not necessarily planning on pursuing an occupation in the field of law or politics, MUN is an enriching experience to all. MUN is supposed to teach more than just details on a certain crisis, it educates them to work harder, to think on their feet, to learn from others and from themselves, to fall and to fail, and to break free from their fears. It dares them to be without hesitation. It dares them to add to the world. To Speak. To act. To know. We all understand how difficult it is to be a delegate. It requires a suspicious load of work and consumes most of one's energy. But we want delegates to give it their all and to get what they came here for.

Finally, I would like to conclude this letter by extending my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this background guide in any way or form. It is the collaborative work of the chairs, the AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, we truly hope that you find this background guide of great help and use.

All the best with the conference and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Nada Nassereddin  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2019

WFP



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME



Abdullah Badr



Liana Hajeir



Rasha Darra

MODERATOR'S  
WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates,

It is with great honor and enthusiasm that we welcome you to the American University of Sharjah's Model United Nations of 2019. We cannot wait to meet you all and commence on a journey of exciting and insightful debates.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is a subsidiary organ of the United Nations (UN) that aims to accomplish the second goal of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, and that is to achieve zero hunger. The WFP claims to aid 91.4 million individuals in 83 countries on a yearly basis through "delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience" (World Food Programme, 2018). Its activities include emergency aid, relief and rehabilitation, support in development, and special operations. Most of its work is concentrated in conflict-affected areas. Furthermore, it has constructed a five-step plan to end hunger. First, it will prioritize the most vulnerable areas. Second, it will work on establishing sustainable local markets. Third, it aims to reduce food wastes. Fourth, it hopes to increase sustainable diversity among crops. Lastly, it will work on making nutrition a priority, specifically among newborns.

The WFP is funded entirely by voluntary donations and is governed by an Executive Board that consists of the representatives of 36 Member States. To fulfill its duties, the intergovernmental organization works closely with its sister organizations, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).

We are all aware of the frustration that comes with being a delegate. Debating could be nerve-wrecking and researching will seem never-ending. However, it is with those hardships that we train ourselves towards betterment and we will support that every step of the way. We hope that you will give this conference your all and not let any fears or doubts get in the way, so please put yourself out there. Given that, this conference could be an enlightening and a fruitful experience.

If you find that you need absolutely anything, please do not hesitate to contact us at [AUSMUNWFP@gmail.com](mailto:AUSMUNWFP@gmail.com).

Sincerely,  
The WFP Chairs

## TOPIC 1

### *Addressing the Challenges of Food Insecurity in South Sudan*

#### SUMMARY

Ever since its initiation on the 15th of December, 2013, South Sudan's civil war has planted many seeds of collateral damage. This internal conflict has created widespread death, destruction, and displacement. In addition, the population's ability to secure sufficient nutrients was compromised due to the nation's collapsing economy, declining agricultural supply, and increased dependence on imports. In 2017, two provinces took a hard hit by famine. Although the WFP has given its greatest efforts in containment and prevention through early detection and international assistance, hunger and malnutrition remain at grave levels. In 2018, the WFP calculated that an estimate of 6.1 million people out of a population of 12.9 million were at risk of severe food insecurity in the conflicted nation (World Food Programme, 2018). These persisting levels of malnutrition can be associated to South Sudan's food insecurity, displacement, conflict, poor infrastructure, limits to basic health services, poor infant young child feeding (IYCF) habits, and high morbidity.

The World Food Programme believes that food assistance is a vital step in eradicating disturbances to humanitarian security. More than that, it sees that food assistance could be utilized as a tool for peace building and sustainable development. To do this, the organization is focused on involving local civil society organizations and empowering national communities towards greater resilience and self-reliance. The WFP also notes the importance of focused contributions towards women and girls as they suffer disproportionately from food insecurity and malnutrition. As delegates, it is important that you build on these recommendations and to create new, effective solutions.

#### HISTORY

On July 10th of 2011, the Republic of South Sudan was granted independence from Sudan at the end of an extensive civil war. Unfortunately, the premature nation has not seen the end of its troubles. In 2013, a power struggle emerged between the nation's president and vice president, Salva Kiir and Riek Machar, that resulted in yet another civil war. Although peace agreements were made in 2015, fighting was renewed later on in the year, leaving the nation in fractions. Recently on August 5th of 2018, the nation saw a cease fire when the two sides agreed to a power sharing agreement. Although the agreement offers some prospect of hope, conditions within the young state remain dire.

Furthermore, while the nation does possess viable land, and a supply in oil, water, cattle, and fisheries, the lack of infrastructure, investment, and market integration has led to a dispersal in food insecurity and malnutrition.

## DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

In 2018, it was reported that 4.4 million people in South Sudan are facing alarming levels of acute food insecurity and 2.1 million women and children suffered from malnourishment (World Food Programme, 2018). Despite remarkable improvements, there are many challenges that stand in the way of the WFP's contributions in South Sudan. To begin with, the premature and conflict-torn nation lacks vital infrastructure such as roads. This makes it difficult for food assistance to reach the people in need when needed, making the WFP's efforts limited, inefficient, and insufficient. Moreover, some active conflict zones restrict the easy access of aid. Many of the WFP's workers fear for crime and banditry across trade and supply routes that might negatively affect their operation. Fortunately, the WFP has seen some improvements in accessibility throughout the years. Still, areas such as the former Western Bahr el Ghazal and Central Equatoria continue to be ongoing challenges for the organization and many others like it. The World Food Programme believes that with increased dialogue, safe accessibility will slowly be provided for the humanitarian community.

Throughout food assistance operations, special attention must be drawn to the unequally impacted communities and individuals. The WFP has recently highlighted the overlooked difficulties faced by women and girls. It has observed that this half of the population suffers disproportionately from food insecurity and malnutrition. Cultural norms and prevalent violence against women, especially in a state of war, are contributors to this issue. To combat this, the World Food Programme is looking for methods to empower women against traditional power determinants.

## PAST IO ACTIONS AND THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

As of 2018, 19,875 MT of food and nutrients and \$3.79 M were reportedly distributed by the WFP and its cooperating partners in South Sudan, reaching 5.02 million people between January and October (World Food Programme, 2018). To counter gender inequalities, the WFP, with the support of the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), provided women and girls safe spaces (WGSS) throughout South Sudan. In these spaces, women and girls are granted emotional and physical safety as it helps battle gender based violence (GBV), provide clinical and psychosocial care, and support women and girls in their sexual and reproductive health and rights. The African Development Bank (AfDB) has also supported the WFP's efforts in South Sudan by contributing 43.57 million dollars to fund for required food and nutrients.

Furthermore, the WFP is making investments to enhance its biometric registration. Doing this will make sure that resources are properly allocated to those most in need. With the collaboration of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the WFP is implementing SCOPE CODA to digitalize its documents. This helps individuals make informed and up-to-date decisions. Additionally, it uses process distribution monitoring to make sure the efficient distribution of assistance and activities is in accordance with humanitarian principles and standards.

The Security Council (SC) has created Resolution 2417 to address the dire food crises in South Sudan in 2018. Through this resolution, the SC condemns the usage of hunger as a war weapon. This stems from the fact that starvation falls under the definition of torture in Article 1 of the Convention on torture which defines it as, "any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person" (United Nations, 1984). In alignment with International Humanitarian Law, it calls upon its members to extend protection towards civilians against any humanitarian violations.

## QUESTIONS THE DISCUSSIONS AND THE RESOLUTIONS SHOULD ADDRESS

- What is the link, if any, between armed conflict and conflict induced food insecurity?
- How could the effects on food security by conflict be reduced or avoided?
- How could the WFP overcome its challenges in assisting the food insecure in South Sudan?
- How could the WFP assist individuals in South Sudan to become self-reliant?

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH:

- Humanitarian Law and Food Insecurity.
- The Limits to Humanitarian Intervention.
- Expanding the Reaches of the WFP's Food Assistance.
- Effects of War on Food Security.

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## TOPIC 2

### *Framework to Provide Food Aid to Sanctioned Countries*

#### SUMMARY

The field of international relations comprises a complex series of interactions among states that revolve around politics. Through this, nations use strategies in foreign policy to either further their alliance with a certain state or grant them hardship over certain disagreements. Foreign aid is a friendly form of foreign policy. States engage in such practices mainly to pursue particular commercial or strategic interests. However, by the same token, states could gain further influence by withdrawing or ending their aid. By doing this, states impose sanctions, or economic, social, or political penalties. Here is where humanitarian law meets politics, and matters gain complexity. The international community would impose sanctions on states that threaten peace and security, going against international laws and principles. Unfortunately, sanctions often tend to affect the wrong individuals, mostly minority groups as they are poorly equipped to handle the hardships. A trade-off then arises between humanitarian responsibilities and international security. Should the international community continue with their practices to eliminate threats to peace and stability or should they ease sanctions to aid victimized individuals?

North Korea and Iran are two of such cases. As of 2017, the World Food Programme estimated 10.3 million undernourished in the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea (DPRK), which is 41.5 % of its population.

#### HISTORY

Iran faces sanctions from the United States (US), European Union (EU), and United Nations (UN) mainly due to issues related to nuclear weapons and terrorism. The sanctions include restrictions on trade and investment, prohibitions on servicing accounts of the governments of Iran, travel bans, and freezing assets. These sanctions have had a hard hit on the Islamic Republic of Iran's economy, depreciating the value of its currency, increasing food prices, and decreasing food stocks. Many food riots have since erupted.

North Korea on the other hand faces sanctions from Australia, China, the EU, Japan, South Korea, the UN, and the US for activities in nuclear weapons, abuses of human rights and cybersecurity, and the sinking of a South Korean naval ship. These sanctions include restrictions to military supplies and other exports, limits to money transfers, territorial restrictions, limitations on trade and investments, banning remittance, freezing assets and travel bans.

Those restrictions on money and goods to pressure the country into compliance have had their toll on the nation's economy. While the sanctions do allow exemptions for food aid, the process of getting one is difficult and intimidating. As a result, many contributors are discouraged to get these exemptions. Similar cases of food insecurity occur in other countries due to sanctions. Therefore, it is important to find ways to ensure that threatened civilians are not malnourished.

## DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

The first clause of the 25th Article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), under the UN Charter, states that, "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care" (United Nations, 2015). At the same time, Article 41 of the UN Charter declares that, "The Security Council may decide what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions, and it may call upon the Members of the United Nations to apply such measures" (United Nations, 1945). As can be seen, while the UDHR recognizes the rights to human welfare, the UN's call for the neutralization of threats to peace and security may clash with these rights.

Sanctions are vital in the sense that they pressure their targets into compliance. This method helps maintain a state of stability and a standard of behavior while avoiding any unnecessary violence. It seems like the perfect compromise between ineffective negotiations and armed conflicts. However, these sanctions create victims with their collective punishments. While the powerful individuals, mainly the targeted groups, could find their way around sanctions, the general population has a difficult time adjusting. Many have even called them a war crime. In response to their disproportional effects, many have tried to create 'smart sanctions', or sanctions targeted at the rulers rather than the ruled. Naturally, the process has proven a difficult one.

## PAST IO ACTIONS AND THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

In 2017, the Security Council clarified that it does not intend to adversely affect civilian populations through its sanctions by recalling Resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013), 2094 (2013), 2270 (2016), 2321 (2016), 2356 (2017), 2371 (2017) and 2375 (2017). The Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC), a U.S governmental agency, published a guideline on humanitarian efforts focused in Iran in 2013. In this document, it advocated the importance of humanitarian law and stated that U.S law broadly authorizes the export of food and medicine to Iran (Office of Foreign Asset Control, 2013). As of 2018, the WFP has provided 276 MT of food assistance and 173,036 dollars to vulnerable individuals in Iran (World Food Programme, 2018).

When the Executive Director of the WFP went to examine conditions in North Korea in 2018, he noted that “There is a real need for continued humanitarian assistance, especially when it comes to meeting the nutritional needs of mothers and young children” (United Nations News, 2018). Unfortunately, funding has not met the required threshold needed to end food insecurity in North Korea. In a country brief on WFP efforts in North Korea, 363 MT of food were said to be distributed in 2018 and 22.62 million dollars allocated (World Food Programme, 2018). The WFP is committed to creating a world with zero hunger and providing food assistance to all those in need, no matter what the circumstances.

## QUESTIONS THE DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS SHOULD ADDRESS

- Has your Member State imposed sanctions on another country? If so, did it take food insecurity into account?
- To what extent should sanctions be compromised for the provision of food aid?
- How could sanctions be tailored in a way to allow for humanitarian assistance?

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- Effects of Sanction on Targeted Individuals.
- Effects of Sanctions on Civilians.
- Effects of Sanctions on Food Aid.

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