



# GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE

Directed By: Jeanie Morrison

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## TSMUN MMXXII BACKGROUND GUIDE 2022

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**Topic I:** International Strategies for Disaster Reduction

**Topic II:** Resource Insecurity and Conflict



Dear Delegates,

My name is Jeanie Morrison, and I am so happy to have you as part of Tallahassee Southern Model United Nations (TSMUN)! I'm going to be your director for the General Assembly First Committee at TSMUN 2022. I graduated from Tallahassee Community College (TCC) in 2021 and plan to study International Affairs. In 2021, I served as Secretary-General for TSMUN, and I was the President of the TCC Model UN team for 2020-2021. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in committee!

This year's topics for the General Assembly First Committee are:

- I. International Strategies for Disaster Reduction**
- II. Resource Insecurity and Conflict**

The General Assembly First Committee (GA1) is one of the six main committees of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly. It is a primary organ of the UN and serves as the main policymaking and representative body of the organization. Its role is to foster high-level dialogue and negotiations to create solutions that adhere to its mandate of addressing issues addressing disarmament and international threats. Covering the widest of topics, the General Assembly First Committee has a unique role as a trendsetter within the United Nations system. Delegates in committee will have the opportunity to work towards consensus and drafting resolutions on critical issues concerning global peace and security and disarmament.

I hope that this background guide helps you prepare for the conference. It is intended to give an overview of the topics that we will discuss in committee and give delegates a starting point for their research. Delegates are expected to research their Member State's positions and viewpoints on the topics at hand. Delegates are also asked to look into relevant regional and international efforts, as well as previous committee actions in relation to the topics at hand, to help widen their scope on the topics before the committee.

Each delegation is expected to submit a position paper before the start of the first committee session. Position papers should be emailed to [gal@tsmun.org](mailto:gal@tsmun.org) or turned in via hard copy or USB drive. You can also email me with any questions you may have before the conference at [gal@tsmun.org](mailto:gal@tsmun.org). You can find the requirements, guides, and examples to help you with your position papers at <http://www.tsmun.org/position-papers.html>. There's also tons of helpful information on the conference, how to prepare, and available scholarships at <http://www.tsmun.org/>. Please be aware that position papers that are not in the proper format will not be eligible for position paper awards regardless of content. Good luck with your research, and I cannot wait to see all your hard work, ideas, and collaboration in committee!



Sincerely,  
Jeanie Morrison  
Director of the General Assembly First Committee.  
[gal@tsmun.org](mailto:gal@tsmun.org)

## ***Committee Overview***

### ***Introduction***

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) is one of the six principal organizations in the UN.<sup>1</sup> The GA grants membership to all 193 Member States, as well as certain non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and UN Observer States.<sup>2</sup> The responsibilities of the First Committee consist of making recommendations to Member States and the Security Council (SC) on international issues consisting of political, humanitarian, economic, legal, and social aspects.<sup>3</sup> Since the GA First Committee has the position of the most expansive and open committee within the UN system, it serves as a platform for discussion on a multitude of topics. The GA has the authority to discuss any issues, questions, or matters within the scope of the UN Charter.<sup>4</sup>

### ***Committee Mandate***

The General Assembly and its six main committees are at the center of the UN system and represent the UN's main policymaking and representative organ.<sup>5</sup> As outlined in Chapter IV, Articles 10-22 of the UN Charter, the GA can discuss matters relating to the peace and security of international affairs and initiate studies to address those issues.<sup>6</sup> It can also create and fund subcommittees, meetings, or agencies with the purpose of addressing the specific issues.<sup>7</sup> The GA can also make recommendations for the promotion of cooperation and security between Member States.<sup>8</sup> Article 11 of the Charter states that the GA may consider principles of international peace and security, including disarmament.<sup>9</sup> The General Assembly may address any issue within the scope of the Charter; however, it cannot “make decisions on international situations or disputes that the Security Council is considering”, as it is not within the mandate of the First Committee to address these.<sup>10</sup> The GA First Committee is to act as a platform for cooperation and dialogue to provide proposals for how the international community can address disarmament issues that may pose a threat to international peace and security.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Charter. “Chapter IV: General Assembly”. United Nations. 1945.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Charter. “United Nations, Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly”. 2020.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Charter. “Chapter IV: General Assembly”. United Nations. 1945.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> UN General Assembly “The GA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly”. 2017.

<sup>11</sup> Nuclear Threat Initiative, United Nations First Committee, 2019.



## ***Governance, Structure, and Membership***

In the UN General Assembly, 193 Member States are represented and have an equal number of votes (1vote).<sup>12</sup> The majority of decisions are reached through a consensus or complete agreement throughout the GA.<sup>13</sup> During voting, most decisions are decided by simple majority votes. Procedural votes are decided by a two-thirds majority.<sup>14</sup> Once the issues at hand are discussed, recommendations will be organized into a draft resolution and then voted upon by the committee.<sup>15</sup> Once the resolution is adopted, these are considered resolutions of the General Assembly First Committee.<sup>16</sup> Unlike the SC, these resolutions are non-legally binding, although any resolutions and recommendations are often adopted as customary international law and serve as international policy norms.<sup>17</sup> The GA meets in regular session intensively from September to December each year, and thereafter as required.<sup>18</sup> The president of the General Assembly is to guide discussions, enforce procedure, and ensure progress within a set timeline.<sup>19</sup>

## ***Conclusion***

Since the establishment of the UN in 1945, the General Assembly has served as a global forum for cooperation and dialogue to create and implement frameworks to achieve global peace and disarmament.<sup>20</sup> As the largest UN body, and as a place where new ideas are defined, the General Assembly can introduce new standards and norms to reach a more peaceful world. The GA First Assembly has the responsibility of making new advances in the pursuit of international peace and security, while also continuing to build consensus and collaborate throughout the whole of the international community.

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<sup>12</sup> United Nations Charter, Article 1. “Chapter I: Purposes and Principles”. United Nations. 1945.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations. “United Nations, Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly”. 2020.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations Charter. “Chapter IV: General Assembly”. United Nations. 1945.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.



## I. International Strategies for Disaster Reduction

### *Introduction*

Natural and human-induced disasters have a devastating impact not only on human society but also on the environment. Disasters happen three times more often today than they did in the 1970s and 80s.<sup>21</sup> In both the 2010s and the 2000s, disasters averaged more than 360 and 440 events each year, respectively, compared to slightly over 100 in the 1980s and a mild 90 per year in the 1970s.<sup>22</sup> While the frequency of disasters has remained at an all-time high, the impact of disasters on livelihoods and economies has continued to expand rapidly.<sup>23</sup> Globally, the economic loss associated with all disasters has averaged to about \$170 billion per year over the past decade.<sup>24</sup>

In 1999, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) was created to ensure the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).<sup>25</sup> Disasters are defined by the UNDRR as “a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events ... leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses, and impacts.”<sup>26</sup> The term “natural disasters” refers to the consequences of events triggered by natural hazards, such as landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, droughts, and volcanic eruptions.<sup>27</sup> The severity of the disasters that follow natural hazards depends on the impacts on society and the environment.<sup>28</sup> Each decision and action affects the vulnerability and resilience of a disaster.<sup>29</sup> Disaster risk reduction (DRR) is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systemic efforts and aims to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards.<sup>30</sup> Examples of risk reduction include: decreasing the vulnerability of people and property, land and environmental management, improving preparedness for detrimental events, and reducing exposure to hazards.<sup>31</sup> The UNISDR and UNDRR were created with the intent to reduce loss of life, property, and social, and economic disruption caused by natural disasters.<sup>32</sup>

### *Current Situation*

In October 2020, UNDRR published “*Human Cost of Disaster: An Overview of the last 20 years*”, which confirms how extreme natural hazards have come to dominate the disaster

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<sup>21</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization. “The Impact of Disasters and Crises on Agriculture and Food Security.” 2021.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> United Nations. “Staggering Rise in Climate Emergencies in Last 20 Years” UN News. 2020.

<sup>25</sup> UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. “History”. 2021.

<sup>26</sup> UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. “Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction” 2009.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. “What is Disaster Risk Reduction?” 2021.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.



landscape in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.<sup>33</sup> In the last twenty years, there has been a sharp increase in the number of recorded disaster events. From 1980 to 1999, there were roughly 4,200 recorded disaster events and between 2000 and 2019, there have been over 7,300 recorded events.<sup>34</sup> The total number of deaths caused by disasters has a similar pattern, with 1.19 million deaths in 1980-1999 and 1.23 million deaths in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.<sup>35</sup> Much of these increases are due to the rapid rise of climate-related disasters.<sup>36</sup> Between 2000 and 2019 there were roughly 510,800 deaths and 3.9 billion people affected by the 6,681 climate-related disasters.<sup>37</sup> While the many improvements made in terms of early warnings, disaster preparedness and responses have resulted in a reduction of fatalities in single-hazard scenarios, the UNDRR has warned that projected global temperature rises could render these improvements “obsolete in many countries.”<sup>38</sup> According to the UNDRR Chief, although extreme weather events have become more common during the last two decades, only 93 Member States have established national disaster risk policies.<sup>39</sup> International commitment and consensus on all levels is essential if progress is to be made on reducing the numbers of people affected by disasters, as well as reducing the economic losses and damage to critical infrastructure that come with them.<sup>40</sup>

The impacts and costs of many climate-related disasters are exacerbated by factors such as urbanization and degradation of ecosystem services.<sup>41</sup> Urban areas are major contributors to climate change, accounting for roughly seventy-three percent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.<sup>42</sup> These areas also represent highly concentrated areas of financial, infrastructure, and human assets and activities that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.<sup>43</sup> Hundreds of millions of people in urban areas are likely to be affected by increased precipitation, inland floods, more frequent and stronger storms, cyclones, and more intense periods of extreme heat and cold, in the coming decades.<sup>44</sup> Climate change may also negatively impact infrastructure and worsen access to basic urban services, as well as worsen the quality of life in cities.<sup>45</sup> The poor and most vulnerable are at the forefront, as they typically lack resources that are needed to adapt to the changing climate and ensure the protection of their well-being.<sup>46</sup> According to UN-Habitat, “more than one billion people live in slums and informal settlements and are highly vulnerable to climate change.”<sup>47</sup> In the last two decades, disaster-related deaths in lesser developed Member States have been more than four times greater than in developed Member States.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. “Human Cost of Disaster: An Overview of the last 20 years.” 2020.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> UN News. “‘Staggering’ Rise in Climate Emergencies in Last 20 years.” 2020.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. “Human Cost of Disaster: An Overview of the last 20 years.” 2020.

<sup>41</sup> UN-Water. “Water and Disasters.” 2019.

<sup>42</sup> UN-Habitat. “Climate Change: Overview.” 2021.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. “Human Cost of Disaster: An Overview of the last 20 years.” 2020.



## *Actions Taken By the UN*

DRR is an essential part of economic and social development and is crucial if development is to be sustainable for the future. The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* reaffirms the urgent need to reduce disaster risks.<sup>49</sup> The *2030 Agenda* adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030 in order to achieve a more peaceful world and to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere.<sup>50</sup> Several SDGs outlined in the agenda reaffirm the interrelationship between DRR and sustainable development. SDG #3 encourages DRR by advocating for the strengthening of the capacity of all Member States for early warning, risk reduction, and management of national and global health risks in target 3a.<sup>51</sup> In addition, SDG #9 as a whole directly relates to DRR, as it focuses on “building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation.”<sup>52</sup> Infrastructure is vital during natural disasters, and when it fails, it can interrupt vital services.<sup>53</sup> Meanwhile, SDG #15 focuses on protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of ecosystems, and halting and reversing land degradation and biodiversity loss.<sup>54</sup> Restoring and maintaining ecosystems contributes to reducing the risk of natural disasters such as landslides and floods, as well as regulating climate and maintaining the productivity of agricultural systems.<sup>55</sup> It is apparent that DRR is crucial to achieving the SDGs by 2030, as 10 out of 17 SDGs include specific targets that address the importance of DRR.<sup>56</sup>

Moreover, in 2015, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted the *Paris Agreement*, an international treaty on climate change.<sup>57</sup> The agreement reinforces the notion that natural disasters will become more intense due to climate change, and that DRR is a fundamental aspect to slowing its effects. Article 7.1 explicitly focuses on DRR by enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability to climate change.<sup>58</sup> Furthermore, Article 8.1 concentrates on averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.<sup>59</sup> The agreement also recognizes the significance of support for international cooperation on adaptation efforts, in order for the implementation of the *Paris Agreement*.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>49</sup>UN Economic and Social Council. “Disaster Risk Reduction.” 2015.

<sup>50</sup> UN General Assembly. “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” 2015.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. “Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” 2015.

<sup>54</sup> UN General Assembly. “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” 2015.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. “Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” 2015.

<sup>57</sup> UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. “Paris Agreement”. 2015.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.



## ***International and Regional Frameworks***

The *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030* was adopted at the Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan, and is the successor instrument to the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*.<sup>61</sup> The SFDRR outlines global targets and main priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks, such as: strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in disaster reduction for resilience and, enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response.<sup>62</sup> The framework strives to reduce disaster risk and losses in terms of lives, livelihoods, and health, as well as in terms of the economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets of individuals, communities, and Member States.<sup>63</sup> It also covers technological hazards, such as chemical and industrial hazards further to radiological, -nuclear, biological, and others.<sup>64</sup> The SFDRR also recognizes that strong commitment and involvement of political leadership in every Member State is crucial for making advancements in terms of reducing disaster risks.<sup>65</sup>

On a regional level, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region has a history of devastating disasters, as almost all types of natural hazards are present, from typhoons to volcanic eruptions. In 2009, the association ratified its *ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)*, to address concerns of vulnerability to natural disasters, and to guide regional cooperation in the field of disaster management and response.<sup>66</sup> Since its inception, it has encouraged ASEAN to take strong action towards creating a safe and united ASEAN community through DRR and climate change adaptation initiatives.<sup>67</sup> To try and continue the momentum caused by AADMER, the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 was developed on the foundation laid out by AADMER itself.<sup>68</sup> The agreement also goes one step further by aligning itself with many global agreements, including the SFDRR, *2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development*, and *The Paris Agreement*.<sup>69</sup> By doing so, the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 will not only implement the relevant provisions of the AADMER, but also important global targets that are accessible and regionally applicable.<sup>70</sup>

## ***Conclusion***

Member States, UN authorities, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations have all been working to reduce the effects of natural and human-induced disasters. However, because the climate is quickly changing and predicted to become more intense in the coming

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<sup>61</sup> United Nations. "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030". 2015.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>66</sup> UNDRR. "ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme 2021-2025." 2021.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.



years, the risks and impacts associated with these hazards cannot always be accurately estimated. Moving forward, the international community must consider further efforts that can be taken to minimize disasters, despite the environment's inherent danger and unpredictability. What can the international community learn from past disasters when considering options for the future? What improvements can be made to existing organizations, frameworks, or programs, that can better implement preventative measures for disasters? Are there more sustainable options for reducing disasters? How can addressing DRR further advance the work being done to achieve the 17 SDGs?

## **II. Resource Insecurity and Conflict**

### ***Introduction***

In 2020, the number of undernourished people in the world rose to roughly 800 million.<sup>71</sup> Of that 800 million, 60 percent live in areas affected by conflict.<sup>72</sup> Conflict is the single biggest driver of hunger in the world today.<sup>73</sup> Disturbingly, many 2021 projections point to a continuation in this disheartening trend.<sup>74</sup> Part of the cause of this new trend is the impact of COVID-19. The pandemic is progressing with disastrous impacts on the world.<sup>75</sup> These impacts are being felt heavily by the agriculture sector because of the necessary measures instated to halt the spread of the virus.<sup>76</sup> These issues of insecurity have burdened markets and individuals long before the pandemic. The global prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity has been on a steady rise since 2014, and now affects more than thirty percent of the world population.<sup>77</sup>

In 2020, the Chief of the UN World Food Program (WFP) warned that “Conflict and instability are powering a destructive new wave of famine that threatens to sweep across the world, taking an unimaginable toll in human misery”.<sup>78</sup> Conflict is the single biggest driver of hunger in the world today, as food insecurity inevitably worsens when violence pushes people from their homes, land, and jobs.<sup>79</sup> At the same time, hunger can worsen the conflict due to food shortages deepening existing fault-lines and can fuel grievances.<sup>80</sup>

### ***Current Situation***

According to the UN Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), roughly 48 million people are estimated to need safe water and sanitation services in the nine Member States studies.<sup>81</sup> Water

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<sup>71</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization. “The State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World”. 2021.

<sup>72</sup> World Food Program. “Hunger, Conflict and Improving the Prospects for Peace” 2020.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> UN News. “If You Don't Feed People, You Feed Conflict”. United Nations. 2021.

<sup>75</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization. “The Impact of Disasters and Crises on Agriculture and Food Security.” 2021.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>78</sup> UN News. “If You Don't Feed People, You Feed Conflict”. United Nations. 2021.

<sup>79</sup> World Food Program. “Hunger, Conflict and Improving the Prospects for Peace” 2020.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

<sup>81</sup> UN News. “Lack of Clean Water Far Deadlier than Violence in War-Torn Countries.” 2021.



scarcity can be a driver and a result of conflict.<sup>82</sup> In the last ten years, the number of water-related violence has more than doubled, and water crises are the leading societal danger.<sup>83</sup> Water scarcity is compounded during periods of conflict when water and sanitation services are heavily impacted.<sup>84</sup> Water and sanitation infrastructure has been intentionally damaged, restricted, or contaminated in several circumstances by conflicting parties.<sup>85</sup> Food insecurity affects Member States in a similar way, as food scarcity can advance and be a consequence of conflicts.<sup>86</sup> While most Member States have made great progress in reducing undernutrition and hunger in past years, progress in nearly all conflict-affected states has stalled or disintegrated.<sup>87</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified hunger in conflict-affected and already fragile Member States.<sup>88</sup> In 2019, there were already 135 million people facing acute food insecurity, and with the onset of the pandemic, that total is projected to double to 270 million.<sup>89</sup> The WFP executive director warned that “the global hunger crisis caused by conflict, and now compounded by COVID, is moving into a new and dangerous phase—especially in nations already scarred by violence.”<sup>90</sup> Lingering effects of COVID-19 precautions have caused numerous Member States to experience high food price inflation at the retail level.<sup>91</sup> These rising food prices have a much greater impact on people in low-and-middle-income Member States, as they end up spending a much larger share of their income on food than people in high-income Member States.<sup>92</sup> Hunger was trending upward even before the pandemic, worsening existing effects from extreme climate events, conflict and other shocks to economies.<sup>93</sup>

### *Actions Taken By the UN*

In March of 2021, the UN Secretary-General announced the creation of a High-Level Task Force on Preventing Famine, which will be led by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, along with the WFP.<sup>94</sup> The task force intends to focus efforts on Member States that are at highest risk of famine in 2021, such as Yemen, South Sudan, Nigeria, and potentially Burkina Faso.<sup>95</sup> The work will focus on advocating for resource mobilization, improved access, and efforts to share data, by building on existing structures and modalities.<sup>96</sup> The work will build on existing structures and modalities and will focus on advocating for resources for famine prevention, improved access, and joining efforts to share data.<sup>97</sup>

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<sup>82</sup> UN Children’s Fund. “Water and Security For All”. 2021.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.

<sup>87</sup> World Food Program. “Fact sheet: Hunger & Conflict”. 2018.

<sup>88</sup> UN Security Council. “Conflict and Hunger: Monthly Forecast”. 2021.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> World Bank. “Food Security & COVID-19”. 2021

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> UN News. “If You Don’t Feed People, You Feed Conflict”. United Nations. 2021.

<sup>95</sup> UN Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs. “Preventing Famine in 2021.” 2021.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.



In 2018, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2417, which drew attention to the link between armed conflict and conflict-induced food insecurity, and the threat of famine.<sup>98</sup> The resolution called upon all parties in armed conflict to uphold their commitments under international humanitarian laws, such as the *Geneva Conventions of 1949*, to protect civilians and spare civilian property.<sup>99</sup> It also emphasized that armed conflicts, violations of international and linked food shortages might all be factors driving forced displacement.<sup>100</sup> The council also condemned the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, and urged all parties to protect civilian infrastructure that is critical to the delivery of humanitarian aid and to ensure the proper functioning of food systems and markets.<sup>101</sup>

### ***International and Regional Frameworks***

After the *UN Conference on Food and Agriculture* in 1943, international efforts to reduce food insecurity during emergencies began.<sup>102</sup> The conference ended with a commitment to establish a permanent organization for food and agriculture, that is now known as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).<sup>103</sup> In 1974, the *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition* further promoted access to food and called for the international community to further develop emergency response capacities to fight hunger during conflict.<sup>104</sup> The *Universal Declaration of Human rights* further highlighted the importance of food security by establishing food access as a human right in 1948.<sup>105</sup> In addition, the *Rome Declaration on World Food Security* was adopted in 1996 and reaffirmed the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food.<sup>106</sup> The document emphasizes that food should not be used as an instrument for political and economic pressure, as well as reiterates the importance of international cooperation and solidarity.<sup>107</sup>

Reducing food insecurity during conflict is also critical in achieving the 17 SDGs set out by the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.<sup>108</sup> The agenda further highlights the requirements necessary to reduce hunger in conflict-affected areas. SDG #2, exclusively focuses on eliminating hunger and malnutrition by 2030, by empowering the international community to increase short-term and long-term food aid assistance.<sup>109</sup> SDG #6 focuses on ensuring access and sustainable management of water and sanitation and highlights the need for advancing water cooperation in order to prevent conflicts.<sup>110</sup> Furthermore, SDG #16 promotes peaceful and

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<sup>98</sup> UN News. "Adopting Resolution 2417." United Nations. 2018.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid.

<sup>101</sup> Ibid.

<sup>102</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization. "The Founding of FAO".

<sup>103</sup> Ibid.

<sup>104</sup> UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition*. 1974.

<sup>105</sup> United Nations. "Universal Declaration of Human Rights". 1948.

<sup>106</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization. "Rome Declaration on World Food Security." 1996.

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> UN General Assembly. "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" 2015.

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.

<sup>110</sup> Ibid.



inclusive societies and access to justice for all, which cannot be achieved without reducing resource insecurity and conflict.<sup>111</sup>

## ***Conclusion***

As the international community continues to embrace the SDGs and develop new frameworks to supply aid to conflict-affect areas, there are still major obstacles, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and human rights violations that are slowing the progress of reducing hunger. Various international documents provide frameworks for the GA to address the increasing number of hunger and conflict-stricken people around the world. How can the international community slow the ongoing cycle of conflict and hunger? Are there strategies that can be improved upon to supply food aid to the most food-insecure areas? What else can be done to reverse the effects of COVID-19 on the agricultural sector? What frameworks can be implemented to ensure sustainability in the agricultural sector in Member States recovering from conflict?

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<sup>111</sup> Ibid.



- Food and Agriculture Organization. “The Founding of FAO”.  
<https://www.fao.org/3/p4228e/p4228e04.htm>
- Food and Agriculture Organization. “Rome Declaration on World Food Security.” 1996.  
<https://www.fao.org/3/w3613e/w3613e00.htm#:~:text=on%20World%20Food%20Security&text=We%20reaffirm%20that%20a%20peaceful,food%20security%20and%20poverty%20eradication.>
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- Nuclear Threat Initiative, United Nations First Committee, 2020.  
<https://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/un-first-committee/#:~:text=Overview,plenary%20session%20of%20the%20UNGA> .
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- UN Children’s Fund. “Water and Security For All”. 2021.  
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