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Commission for Social Development Background Guide 2024

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2024 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce to you our committee, the Commission for Social Development (CSocD). Your committee's work is facilitated by volunteer staffers. This year's committee staff are: Director Julien Nelson and Assistant Director Annelie S. Tänzer (Session 1), and Director Tobias Willms and Assistant Director Chris Stansel (Session 2). Julien Nelson has a B.A. in International Relations and Public Affairs and is completing a Master's in International Relations. He currently works as a consultant for media and government relations, specializing in the agricultural and health sectors. Annelie S. Tänzer is currently pursuing a Global M.Sc. in Management at the London School of Economics and holds a B.A. in Politics, International Relations, and Philosophy from Royal Holloway University of London. Tobias Willms completed the first legal examination in Germany and thereby obtained a Magister's degree from the University of Heidelberg. After finishing the Master of Laws program at Trinity College Dublin, he is now pursuing his legal clerkship in the district of the Higher Regional Court of Cologne. Chris Stansel is a small business entrepreneur with a background in political science and sustainability. The preparation of these materials was supported by Under-Secretaries-General Eric Lowe (Session 1) and Johanna Barton (Session 2).

The topics on the agenda for this committee are:

1. Social Inclusion of the Elderly
2. Addressing Food Insecurity through the Promotion of Sustainable Food Systems

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the conference, each delegation should submit a Position Paper by 11:59 p.m. ET on 1 March 2023 in accordance with the guidelines in the [Position Paper Guide](#) and the [NMUN•NY Position Papers website](#).

Two resources, available to download from the NMUN website, serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions:

- The [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#), which explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions.
- The [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#), which includes the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for this committee, please contact the Deputy Secretaries-General at dsg.ny@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Julien Nelson, Director
Annelie S. Tänzer, Assistant Director
Session 1

Tobias Willms, Director
Chris Stansel, Assistant Director
Session 2



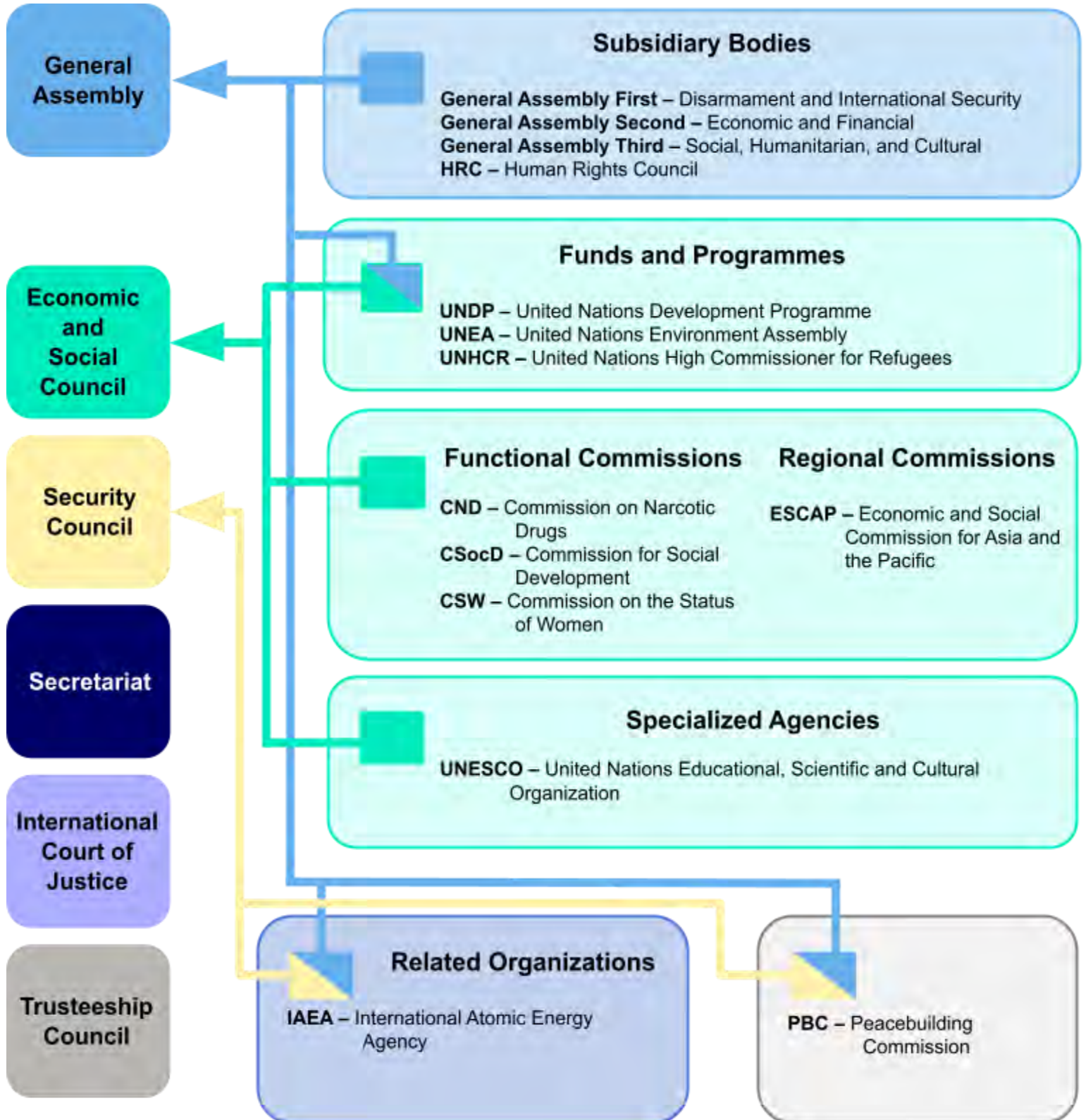
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United Nations System at NMUN·NY

This diagram illustrates the United Nations system simulated at NMUN·NY. It shows where each committee “sits” within the system to demonstrate the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee’s position, purpose, and powers within the United Nations system.





Committee Overview

Introduction

The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) is the functional body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with regards to reviewing and advising on matters of “people-centered sustainable development.”¹ Since the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, the commission has been tasked with monitoring the implementation of the *Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development* and *Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development*.² CSocD has a broad purview on matters within its mandate.³

Social progress, justice, and the protection of human rights have been a priority of the United Nations since its inception in 1945 and were highlighted in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* in 1948.⁴ The United Nations reiterated its commitment to social development in 1969 with the *Declaration on Social Progress and Development*, which stated that importance must be placed on individual human lives and that social development cannot exist so long as cultural genocide and other injustices remain.⁵ These early documents highlight the United Nations’s commitment to social policy and development throughout its history, something that CSocD strives to further within its mandate.⁶

CSocD, originally called the Social Commission, was established as a functional commission and expert body in 1946 by ECOSOC resolution 10 (II) titled “Temporary Social Commission.”⁷ Initially solely focused on social policy, the Commission’s mandate and membership have expanded over time and it now serves as a forum for high-level panels concerning development.⁸ The commission views the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) (2015) as an opportunity to enhance its role within the United Nations system in promoting international development and monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁹

Mandate, Function, and Powers

CSocD is a functional commission of and reports directly to ECOSOC.¹⁰ The current mandate of CSocD is to examine existing policy and propose new frameworks to achieve sustainable social development.¹¹ While the commission’s original mandate was to advise ECOSOC on matters related to social policy, CSocD has undergone significant transformation.¹² The most notable expansion of its mandate came in 1995 at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, when CSocD became the main body responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the summit’s outcome documents, the *Copenhagen*

¹ United Nations, World Summit for Social Development. *Report of the World Summit for Social Development (A/CONF.166/9)*. 1996. p. 2.

² Ibid; New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. *United Nations Handbook 2023-24*. 2023. p. 166.

³ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*. N.d.

⁴ United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*. 1948.

⁵ United Nations, General Assembly. *Declaration on Social Progress and Development (A/RES/2542 (XXIV))*. 1969.

⁶ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*. N.d.

⁷ Ibid; New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. *United Nations Handbook 2023-24*. 2023. p. 166.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Benson Wahlén. *CSocD Adopts Resolutions on Youth, People with Disabilities, African Development*. International Institute for Sustainable Development. 2017; United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

¹⁰ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies*. N.d.

¹¹ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*. N.d.

¹² Ibid.



*Declaration and the Programme of Action.*¹³ The three main themes of the Summit were poverty eradication, productive employment, and social integration.¹⁴ Another outcome of the summit was for ECOSOC to regularly review the commission's role and strengthen its capacity.¹⁵

CSocD's mandate also includes providing broad policy advice on issues of social development, anticipating potential issues in the area of social development and making recommendations relating to them, promoting the exchange of information among social development stakeholders, and advising ECOSOC on the coordination of social development issues.¹⁶ This mandate may continue to expand as the commission defines its role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; it has been endorsed by the Secretary-General as valuable to achieving the SDGs through its specialized review and policy cycle.¹⁷ As mandated, the commission frequently invites field experts and United Nations leaders to participate in high-level discussion panels aimed at producing action-oriented recommendations to ECOSOC on sustainable development policy.¹⁸

While the following list is not exhaustive, the mandate of CSocD can be summarized as:

- **CSocD will generally:** advise ECOSOC on technical aspects of policy-making decisions regarding social development; establish social objectives, program priorities, and social research in areas of social and economic development; facilitate intergovernmental discussions of major global issues; review United Nations plans and programs of action pertaining to the situation of social groups; otherwise make recommendations to Member States and other bodies.¹⁹
- **CSocD will not generally:** request individual Member States or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to take specific action; formulate binding decisions on social development; implement programs or provide direct financial or technical assistance to Member States in matters of social development.²⁰

Governance, Funding, and Structure

CSocD is serviced by the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), which supports the commission in collecting information on the effectiveness of international policy concerning social development.²¹ The DSPD

¹³ United Nations, World Summit for Social Development. *Report of the World Summit for Social Development (A/CONF.166/9)*. 1996. p. 84.

¹⁴ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Social Policy and Development. *What is the Commission for Social Development and What Should it Achieve?* 2010. p. 2.

¹⁵ United Nations, World Summit for Social Development. *Report of the World Summit for Social Development (A/CONF.166/9)*. 1996.

¹⁶ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Mandate and Terms of Reference - CSocD*. N.d.

¹⁷ United Nations Department of Global Communications. *Poverty Remains World's Biggest Challenge, Social Development Commission Chair Says as Session Concludes with Approval of 3 Texts, Election of New Vice-Chairs*. 2016.

¹⁸ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Social Policy and Development. *What is the Commission for Social Development and What Should it Achieve?* 2010. p. 4.

¹⁹ Ibid; United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Report on the fifty-fourth session (E/2016/26-E/CN.5/2016/5)*. 2016; United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Report on the sixty-first session (E/2023/26-E/CN.5/2023/9)*. 2023; United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields (E/2019/INF/3 (Part I))*. 2018. pp. 10-11.

²⁰ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields (E/2019/INF/3 (Part I))*. 2018. pp. 10-11.

²¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Social Policy and Development. *What is the Commission for Social Development and What Should it Achieve?* 2010.



facilitates the intergovernmental process by resolving logistical challenges that arise when organizing meetings and forums for the commission.²² In accordance with a strategy that was reaffirmed in 2012, CSocD operates on a two-year review and policy cycle in which one session focuses primarily on analyzing policy and how it has shaped global social development, and the following set of meetings focuses on creating policy recommendations and draft resolutions.²³ As a functional commission of ECOSOC, CSocD receives its funding from the United Nations regular budget.²⁴

The original membership of the Commission was 18, but it has grown multiple times since its inaugural session, with its last expansion in 1996.²⁵ The current membership sits at 46 Member States.²⁶ Membership is based on proportional regional representation, with 12 seats for African states, 10 for Asia-Pacific, five for Eastern Europe, nine for Latin America and the Caribbean, and 10 for Western Europe and Other States.²⁷ CSocD has traditionally had a Bureau made up of one Chair and four Vice-Chairs to help set the agenda for the entire two-year policy cycle pursuant to ECOSOC decision 2002/210.²⁸ Bureau members are elected at the first meeting of each regular session, which immediately follows the conclusion of the previous session, and serve for two consecutive meetings.²⁹

²² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *DESA Divisions*. N.d.

²³ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Future organization and methods of work for the Commission for Social Development (E/CN.5/2023/L.3)*. 2023.

²⁴ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Rules of Procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council*. N.d.

²⁵ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*. N.d.; New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. *United Nations Handbook 2023-24*. 2023. p. 166.

²⁶ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*. N.d.

²⁷ United Nations Department of Global Communications. *Poverty Remains World's Biggest Challenge, Social Development Commission Chair Says as Session Concludes with Approval of 3 Texts, Election of New Vice-Chairs*. 2016; New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. *United Nations Handbook 2023-24*. 2023. p. 166.

²⁸ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Improvement of the work of the Commission for Social Development (2002/210)*. 2002.

²⁹ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*. N.d.



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- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Social Policy and Development. *What is the Commission for Social Development and What Should it Achieve?* 2010. Retrieved 17 October 2023 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ngo/docs/2010/directory/csocd-history.pdf>
- United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Poverty Remains World's Biggest Challenge, Social Development Commission Chair Says as Session Concludes with Approval of 3 Texts, Election of New Vice-Chairs*. 2016. Retrieved 17 October 2023 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/soc4837.doc.htm>
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United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Future organization and methods of work for the Commission for Social Development (E/CN.5/2023/L.3)*. 2023. Retrieved 17 October 2023 from: <http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.5/2023/L.3>

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1. Social Inclusion of the Elderly

“Old age - when a person attains it - should be understood as an element having its own particular value within a human life as a whole.”³⁰

Introduction

Global life expectancy has increased over the last few decades and is expected to reach 77.2 years by 2050, compared to 72.8 years in 2019.³¹ As the number of children born has decreased in many countries, the world’s population is aging rapidly and the number of people who are 60 years old or older will reach 1.4 billion by 2030.³² This affects Member States in many ways, including national frameworks for education, healthcare, social security, job markets, and national economies as a whole.³³ However, while older persons can be vulnerable, they are a diverse group that has the potential to actively contribute to the development of societies.³⁴ The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) discusses a wide range of social development issues and advises the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on social policy, including frequently addressing aging and the situation of older persons.³⁵

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines older persons as humans who have exceeded the median life expectancy of people born around the same time.³⁶ WHO also notes that the term “old” typically describes “a social construct that defines the norms, roles and responsibilities that are expected of an older person,” rather than a specific age or biological level of a person.³⁷ As other terms, such as “the elderly,” might create the impression that the people being discussed are necessarily frail, the General Assembly decided to refer to people of higher age with the term “older persons” in 1996.³⁸ Older persons face several difficulties even if they are physically and mentally healthy.³⁹ For instance, although retirement gives older persons a greater degree of liberty in some ways, it may entail a lack of mental challenges or a reduction in social status and income, and can therefore be experienced as a decrease in opportunities for personal development.⁴⁰ According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, older persons are often perceived as unimportant or even a burden by society.⁴¹ As a consequence, they frequently do not have access to additional education.⁴² It is also estimated that fewer than 20% of the world’s population over the age of 60 receives a pension, which is

³⁰ Pope John Paul II. *Report on the World Assembly on Aging*. 1982. p. 86.

³¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Population Prospects 2022: Summary of Results*. 2022. p. 1.

³² *Ibid.* p. 2; World Health Organization. *National programmes for age-friendly cities and communities: A guide*. 2023. p. IX.

³³ Tesch-Roemer. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. *Promoting Participation, Social Inclusion and Non-Discrimination of Older Persons*. 2012. p. 2.

³⁴ Dugarova et al. *Ageing, Older Persons and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. 2017. p. 7; United Nations, General Assembly. *Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing - Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/127)*. 2009. pp. 8-10.

³⁵ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Commission For Social Development (CSocD)*. 2023; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Ageing ECOSOC*. 2023.

³⁶ World Health Organization. *National programmes for age-friendly cities and communities: A guide*. 2023. p. viii.

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages (A/RES/50/141)*. 1996. p. 3; United Nations, Human Rights Council. *Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Claudia Mahler (A/HRC/48/53)*. 2021. p. 6.

³⁹ Tesch-Roemer. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. *Promoting Participation, Social Inclusion and Non-Discrimination of Older Persons*. 2012. p. 4.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Eliminate ageism and age discrimination, says UN expert*. 2021.

⁴² Dugarova et al. *Ageing, Older Persons and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. 2017. p. 15.



why seven in ten men and four in ten women living in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) tend to continue working past the retirement age.⁴³ Although these issues can amount to violations of the human rights of older persons, there is no international legally binding framework on older persons' rights yet.⁴⁴

International and Regional Framework

The rights of older persons to fair and equal treatment can be linked to article 1 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), which guarantees equal dignity and rights for all.⁴⁵ In 1969, the General Assembly adopted the *Declaration on Social Progress and Development*, bringing attention to the need to guarantee a social security system for all older persons in Article 11.⁴⁶ In 1978, the General Assembly recognized the need to codify an international framework on population aging and called for the first World Assembly on Ageing, which took place in Vienna in 1982.⁴⁷ Out of this conference came the *Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging* (International Plan), which encouraged governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to effectively deal with the emerging needs of aging populations.⁴⁸ The International Plan included 62 recommendations of action for Member States to adopt, ranging from collecting data on persons older than 60 in order to better coordinate social planning, to training governments to handle increasingly older populations, as well as the protection of older consumers, social welfare, and employment.⁴⁹ The International Plan was endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 37/51 on the "Question of aging" (1982).⁵⁰

In 1991, the General Assembly adopted the *United Nations Principles for Older Persons*, which are 18 different principles related to the independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment, and dignity of older persons.⁵¹ In 1995, the World Summit for Social Development produced the *Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development* (Copenhagen Declaration), which acknowledged the right to social development and human well-being for all peoples, emphasizing that participation from all generations is necessary to create a harmonious society.⁵² The Second World Assembly on Ageing was held in Madrid in 2002, and resulted in the adoption of the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing* (MIPAA) and its accompanying *Political Declaration*.⁵³ The MIPAA supports policymakers in the creation of policies related to aging, development, and the cultivation of supportive environments. It promotes healthy aging globally

⁴³ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Statement submitted by AARP, Global Action on Aging, HelpAge International, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, International Federation on Ageing and International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2011/NGO/18)*. 2010. pp. 2-3.

⁴⁴ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Eliminate ageism and age discrimination, says UN expert*. 2021; United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 - Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2023/6)*. 2022. p. 19.

⁴⁵ United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*. 1948.

⁴⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *Declaration on Social Progress and Development (A/RES/2542(XXIV))*. 1969.

⁴⁷ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *First World Assembly on Ageing, 26 July-6 August 1982, Vienna*. N.d.

⁴⁸ United Nations, World Assembly on Ageing. *Report of the World Assembly on Ageing (A/CONF.113/31)*. 1982.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.* p. 76.

⁵⁰ United Nations, General Assembly. *Question of aging (A/RES/37/51)*. 1982.

⁵¹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and related activities (A/RES/46/91)*. 1991. pp. 161-162.

⁵² United Nations, World Summit for Social Development. *Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development (A/CONF.166/9)*. 1995. p. 12.

⁵³ United Nations, Second World Assembly on Ageing. *Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing*. 2002. p. 1.



through fostering cooperation between regional, international, and individual stakeholders.⁵⁴ The implementation of the MIPAA was primarily assigned to CSocD, which is tasked with coordinating programs of action for regional and international initiatives and organizing review conferences to track the progress and effectiveness of the MIPAA policies every five years.⁵⁵

In 2015, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) further stressed in its preamble that “no group will be left behind,” and highlighted the importance of health and well-being in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 (good health and well-being).⁵⁶ The 2030 Agenda also called for equality across all genders, races, religious backgrounds, and ages in SDG 10 (reduced inequalities).⁵⁷ Building on the 2030 Agenda and the MIPAA, the General Assembly’s 75th session established the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) in resolution 75/131 (2020), giving special consideration to including older persons and their contributions to societies in all efforts to achieve the SDGs.⁵⁸

Regionally, the European Union has established a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation in 2000, banning discrimination based on age through *Council Directive 2000/78/EC*.⁵⁹ The Organization of American States enacted the *Inter-American Convention on the Rights of Older Persons* in 2015, focusing on the protection and promotion of the human and fundamental rights of older people.⁶⁰ Furthermore, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) issued the *Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN* in 2015, outlining goals and necessary steps for the inclusion of older people in ASEAN Member States.⁶¹

Role of the International System

CSocD is the only mandated body that can provide recommendations on aging and other social issues to ECOSOC.⁶² One of its largest partners is the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs (UN DESA), which handles the coordination, publication, and distribution of various media and research.⁶³ In 2023, UN DESA published the *World Social Report 2023: Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World*, which highlighted aging as a multifaceted issue that overlaps economies, healthcare, education, employment, and the very structure of societies.⁶⁴ The report recommends improvements to tackling the issue of aging, such as creating more socially supportive environments so older persons can productively contribute to society, promoting lifelong health to reduce chronic illness later in life, and solving the economic disparity that older women disproportionately experience.⁶⁵

⁵⁴ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002*. 2023.

⁵⁵ United Nations, Second World Assembly on Ageing. *Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing*. 2002. p. 55; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Ageing*. 2023.

⁵⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015. p. 1.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) (A/RES/75/131)*. 2020. p. 2

⁵⁹ Council of the European Union. *Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation*. 2000.

⁶⁰ Organization of American States. *Rapporteurship on the Rights of Older Persons*. 2023.

⁶¹ Association of Southeast Asian Nations. *Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN*. 2015.

⁶² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *What is the Commission for Social Development and what should it achieve?* N.d.

⁶³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *What We Do*. N.d.

⁶⁴ Ibid; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Social Report 2023: Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World*. 2023.

⁶⁵ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Social Report 2023: Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World*. 2023. p. 35-48.



The Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD) is the subsidiary body of UN DESA that specifically addresses issues related to poverty, employment, and the social inclusion of older persons.⁶⁶ DISD does this by supporting NGOs and United Nations bodies through monitoring trends and developing reports to support the mandate of ECOSOC.⁶⁷ DISD is one of the main bodies working with UN DESA's United Nations Programme on Ageing to implement the MIPAA.⁶⁸ DISD assists UN DESA by publishing educational material on aging, creating guidelines for policy design and the implementation of the MIPAA, and facilitating dialogue between CSOs and the private sector.⁶⁹

Issues of aging are also addressed by the General Assembly, which designated the International Day of Older Persons (1 October) in resolution 45/106 on "Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and related activities" in 1990.⁷⁰ Furthermore, the General Assembly established the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing in 2010 in order to strengthen the protection of human rights for older persons.⁷¹ The 13th annual session of the Working Group took place in 2023 and focused on the right to social inclusion and health, encompassing legal protections for older persons in medical settings and ensuring non-discrimination, and addressed Member States' obligations to ensure healthy aging for their populations.⁷²

The Secretary-General acts as one of the primary conduits of information in providing context and research on matters of aging.⁷³ In 1987, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar created the International Institute on Ageing, which develops multidisciplinary education and training initiatives that are tailored to specific aspects of aging and address the economic vulnerabilities of older groups.⁷⁴ The Secretary-General also produces follow-ups and additional recommendations to conferences.⁷⁵ For example, the report on the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2009 discussed the implementation of national as well as international policy instruments, like appointing a special rapporteur on the issue of aging.⁷⁶ The Secretary-General also submits regular reports on the implementation of the MIPAA to CSocD, with the most recent report in 2023 suggesting that Member States need to focus on furthering the realization of the MIPAA through fostering intergenerational solidarity, addressing disproportionate poverty among older populations, and promoting legal protections for older persons.⁷⁷ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) also plays a part in education and research towards the question of aging, including through its report submitted at the First World Assembly on Ageing in 1982. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) also addresses healthy aging through highlighting possible ways of incorporating new technologies, as healthy aging is key to sustainable economic and health systems.⁷⁸

⁶⁶ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *What We Do*. N.d.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Ageing*. 2023.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ United Nations, General Assembly. *Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging and related activities (A/RES/45/106)*. 1990. p. 198.

⁷¹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/RES/65/182)*. 2011.

⁷² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Thirteenth Session*. 2011.

⁷³ United Nations, General Assembly. *Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing - Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/127)*. 2009.

⁷⁴ International Institute on Ageing. *History*. 2022; International Institute on Ageing. *Mandate*. 2022.

⁷⁵ United Nations, General Assembly. *Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing - Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/127)*. 2009. pp. 11-17.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (E/CN.5/2023/L.6)*. 2023. pp. 4-6.

⁷⁸ United Nations, World Assembly on Aging. *Education and Aging: Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (A/CONF.113/20)*. 1982; Widmer-Iliescu. *UN Chronicle. Digital Technologies Can Help Older Persons Maintain Healthy, Productive Lives*. 2022.



Regional actors, NGOs, and CSOs have formed several informal organizations on the issues of aging and the rights of older persons, such as the United Nations Inter-Agency Group on Ageing (IAGA).⁷⁹ IAGA is focused on fostering collaboration between United Nations entities and both private and public stakeholders.⁸⁰ IAGA aims to integrate the community of older persons into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by increasing their presence and visibility in discussions.⁸¹ Some notable outcomes of IAGA's work include the declaration of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) and the *Global Report on Ageism*, created in collaboration with WHO in 2021.⁸² More recently, the Stakeholder Group on Ageing was founded in 2013 to advance the interests of older persons during the formation of the 2030 Agenda.⁸³ Since then, they have continued to advocate for including older persons in the implementation of the SDGs through discussing how what happens to one person affects others and how the effects of certain measures on an individual can change over the course of one's life.⁸⁴ CSocD requests guiding documents from a number of NGOs, local governments, and regional organizations, which are then brought together for appraisal during the official CsocD MIPAA review sessions.⁸⁵

Combating Ageism

WHO defines ageism as the stereotypes, prejudice, and/or discrimination against others based on age.⁸⁶ Whilst these issues have affected older persons globally for centuries, WHO notes in its *Global Report on Ageism* that the concept of ageism is so new that many languages do not yet have a term for it.⁸⁷ Therefore, WHO underlines that recognizing and combating ageism can be particularly challenging.⁸⁸ A 2020 study conducted by WHO and scientists in 57 countries found that at least 50% of the 83,034 participants displayed medium to high levels of ageist inclinations and illustrated how widespread the problem is.⁸⁹ For example, participants deemed people to be unqualified for jobs in management on the basis of their age or indicated that they believe older persons to be a burden on the rest of society.⁹⁰ These behaviors impede older persons in the enjoyment of their human rights and affect them in all areas of life, particularly in the healthcare sector.⁹¹ According to a former independent expert, Rosa Kornfeld-Matte, older persons are frequently perceived as blocking healthcare facilities for younger people, which reveals a tendency to devalue their rights on the basis of their age.⁹² Consequently, they are often banned from participating in clinical trials for fear of being too frail or dropping out early, and diseases that are associated with old age are less researched in general.⁹³

⁷⁹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *United Nations Inter-Agency Group on Ageing: Strengthening The Inclusion Of Older Persons In The Work Of The United Nations System*. N.d.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Dugarova et al. *Ageing, Older Persons and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. 2017.

⁸² Decade of Healthy Ageing. *The Platform*. 2022; World Health Organization. *Global Report on Ageism*. 2021.

⁸³ Stakeholder Group on Ageing. *Policies and Procedures*. 2016.

⁸⁴ Stakeholder Group on Ageing. *Statement of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing for the General Debate of the 2020 High-level Political Forum/High-level Segment of ECOSOC, 17 July 2020*. 2020.

⁸⁵ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Review and Appraisal of the MIPAA. N.d.

⁸⁶ World Health Organization. *Ageing: Ageism*. 2023.

⁸⁷ World Health Organization. *Global Report on Ageism*. 2021. p. XIX.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Officer et al. MDPI. *Ageism, Healthy Life Expectancy and Population Ageing: How Are They Related?* 2020. p. 1.

⁹⁰ Ibid. p. 2.

⁹¹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. "Ageism should not be downplayed: it is an infringement of older person's human rights," says UN rights expert. 2016; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Eliminate ageism and age discrimination, says UN expert*. 2021.

⁹² Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. "Ageism should not be downplayed: it is an infringement of older person's human rights," says UN rights expert. 2016.

⁹³ Ibid; Pitkala et al. Age and Ageing. *Clinical trials in older people*. 2022. p. 1.



Although some older persons require special support and protection from their communities, the Secretary-General underlined in his 2009 report on Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/64/127), that they are a diverse group and often benefit society.⁹⁴ Many older persons continue to work past retirement age, especially in LDCs, or provide employment to others, engage in politics, and volunteer.⁹⁵ Additionally, they often participate in the provision of care to their grandchildren or other family members.⁹⁶ Therefore, several United Nations programmes, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN DESA, underline that older persons have the potential to actively contribute to the advancement of sustainable development.⁹⁷

Against this background, SDG 10 explicitly calls for the reduction of discrimination on the basis of a person's age.⁹⁸ This is also an important goal of the MIPAA and the reduction of ageism is enshrined in article 5 of its accompanying Political Declaration.⁹⁹ In assessing and strengthening their efforts to combat ageism as part of the fourth review and appraisal of the MIPAA at CSocD, Member States have drawn on the *Global Report on Ageism*.¹⁰⁰ The report outlines three main strategies for addressing the issue.¹⁰¹ Firstly, Member States should revise laws and policies at the national, supranational, and international level that allow for age discrimination.¹⁰² Secondly, the report recommends that Member States introduce programmes on the prevention of ageism into all of their educational frameworks in order to promote empathy and help reduce the stereotypes typically associated with old age.¹⁰³ The Best Before Date campaign in Canada is an example of an informal education campaign that consisted of photos, videos, and advertisements showing humans with a fake best before date printed across their foreheads, which intends to illustrate the stigma associated with a person's age in a simple yet engaging way.¹⁰⁴ Thirdly, WHO states that the reduction of stereotypes and promotion of mutual understanding can be advanced through programmes facilitating contacts between different generations.¹⁰⁵

During the appraisal of the MIPAA, Member States found that obstacles to the implementation of these strategies include insufficient financial resources, a lack of cooperation between different institutions, and the unavailability of data that is disaggregated specifically by age.¹⁰⁶ The 2022 report of the Secretary-General, entitled *Fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on*

⁹⁴ United Nations, General Assembly. *Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing - Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/127)*. 2009. pp. 8-10.

⁹⁵ Ibid; United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Statement submitted by AARP, Global Action on Aging, HelpAge International, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, International Federation on Ageing and International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2011/NGO/18)*. 2010.

⁹⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing - Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/127)*. 2009. p. 10.

⁹⁷ Dugarova et al. *Ageing, Older Persons and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. 2017. pp. 11-13.

⁹⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015. p. 21.

⁹⁹ United Nations, Second World Assembly on Ageing. *Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing*. 2002; United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Preliminary assessment of the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 - Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2022/4)*. 2021. p. 6.

¹⁰⁰ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Preliminary assessment of the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 - Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2022/4)*. 2021. p. 6.

¹⁰¹ World Health Organization. *Global Report on Ageism*. 2021. pp. XVI-XVII, 93-137.

¹⁰² Ibid. p. XVII.

¹⁰³ Ibid. p. XVII.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid. p. 144.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid. p. XVII.

¹⁰⁶ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 - Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2023/6)*. 2022. p. 16.



Ageing, 2002 - Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2023/6), encourages Member States to work towards the introduction of a binding international instrument on aging and to use the synergies between the existing United Nations programmes to advance MIPAA implementation.¹⁰⁷ CSocD has further recognized the potential role of older persons in shaping policies by explicitly encouraging Member States to collaborate with CSOs of older persons.¹⁰⁸ However, the 2022 report of the Secretary-General also stresses that policymakers should not penalize older persons who are unwilling or unable to continue contributing to the economy.¹⁰⁹

Promoting Lifelong Education

A 2019 study, conducted by an international group of scientists, compared 15 European countries over 25 years and revealed that individuals with a higher level of education consistently outlived those with a lower level of education.¹¹⁰ The significance of early and lifelong education in promoting healthy aging worldwide has been underscored by several United Nations bodies.¹¹¹ For instance, a UNESCO report on education and aging presented at the First World Assembly on Ageing cited studies that affirmed the effectiveness of lifelong education in mitigating mental decline and combating the social stigma of aging.¹¹² Subsequently, the *United Nations Principles for Older Persons* highlighted the importance of education in healthy aging, particularly in principles 4, 7, and 16, which ask Member States to enable older persons to participate in educational programs and to access educational resources, as well as to allow them to share their own knowledge with others.¹¹³ The Copenhagen Declaration also emphasized the importance of lifelong education in paragraph b) of its sixth commitment, which calls for universal access to education and health care as well as social inclusion.¹¹⁴ Article 12 of the Political Declaration to the MIPAA further underscored the importance of education in providing older populations with opportunities for economic freedom.¹¹⁵ And more recently, the importance of access to learning has been spotlighted in SDG 4 (quality education) and in CSocD resolution 2023/L.6 on the “Fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,” which discusses the importance of digital literacy, i.e., the knowledge needed to understand digital technologies and how to use them safely and effectively, for the social and economic inclusion of older populations.¹¹⁶

¹⁰⁷ Ibid. p. 19.

¹⁰⁸ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Report on the fifty-eighth session (21 February 2019 and 10–19 February 2020) (E/2020/26-E/CN.5/2020/7)*. 2020. p. 28.

¹⁰⁹ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2023/6)*. 2022. p. 5.

¹¹⁰ Mackenbach et al. European journal of epidemiology. *Progress against inequalities in mortality: register-based study of 15 European countries between 1990 and 2015*. 2019. p. 1.

¹¹¹ United Nations, World Assembly on Aging. *Education and Aging: Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (A/CONF.113/20)*. 1982. pp. 15-32; United Nations, Second World Assembly on Ageing. *Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing*. 2002.

¹¹² United Nations, World Assembly on Ageing. *Education and Ageing: Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (A/CONF.113/20)*. 1982. pp. 15-32.

¹¹³ United Nations, General Assembly. *Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and related activities (A/RES/46/91)*. 1991. p. 161-162.

¹¹⁴ United Nations, World Summit for Social Development. *Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development (A/CONF.166/9)*. 1995. pp. 15-16.

¹¹⁵ United Nations, Second World Assembly on Ageing. *Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing*. 2002.

¹¹⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015. p. 17; United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (E/CN.5/2023/L.6)*. 2023. p. 6.



According to UN DESA, the impact education can have on assuring that individuals have a better chance of aging with dignity begins in youth.¹¹⁷ UNESCO data indicates that people aged 65 years or older are more frequently illiterate than younger adults, with less than one in four older persons being literate in some countries.¹¹⁸ This issue is further underlined by the UN DESA's World Social Report 2023, which identifies a link between little access to early education and disadvantages in later life, affecting developing nations in particular.¹¹⁹ According to UN DESA, other factors influencing life expectancy are digital literacy and socioeconomic opportunity, which influence the availability of educational opportunities.¹²⁰

By 2050, the number of individuals aged 60 or above is expected to increase from 600 million to nearly two billion.¹²¹ This will particularly impact developing nations, as their populations are aging more rapidly than those of developed nations, with WHO estimating that 80% of all older persons will be living in countries with low or medium incomes by 2050.¹²² This has led to an increase in the use of lifelong education as a means to better integrate growing elderly populations into society.¹²³ It may also benefit the overall health of older persons, as there is an emerging link between later-in-life learning and reductions in mental degenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's.¹²⁴ Studies conducted in slums near Buenos Aires show that the local population between 50 and 70 years of age is more likely to have dementia than the same group of people in many developed countries.¹²⁵ This demonstrates a possible link between the ability to pursue education later in life and reducing the risk of dementia onset.¹²⁶

Furthermore, ITU stresses that educational opportunities to keep up with the advancements of technology are an essential part of enabling social inclusion, as modern methods of communication have become increasingly important in staying connected with family and friends.¹²⁷ Programs such as the ITU Special Track on Information and Communication Technologies and Older Persons promote lifelong education as a means to enhance digital literacy, increasing the social and economic well-being of older populations.¹²⁸

These issues were further addressed by CSocD in its 59th session on the priority theme of "Socially Just Transition Towards Sustainable Development: The Role of Digital Technologies on social development and well-being of all."¹²⁹ CSocD proposed a resolution on the issue that was later adopted by ECOSOC in

¹¹⁷ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Social Report 2023: Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World*. 2023. p. 90.

¹¹⁸ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Statement submitted by AARP, Global Action on Aging, HelpAge International, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, International Federation on Ageing and International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2011/NGO/18)*. 2010. p. 3.

¹¹⁹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Social Report 2023: Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World*. 2023. p. 90.

¹²⁰ *Ibid.* pp. 44-45, 90-91.

¹²¹ United Nations, Second World Assembly on Ageing. *Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing*. 2002.

¹²² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Social Report 2023: Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World*. 2023. pp. 23-24; World Health Organization. *Ageing and health*. 2022.

¹²³ United Nations, World Assembly on Aging. *Education and Aging: Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (A/CONF.113/20)*. 1982. p. 22.

¹²⁴ Alzheimer's Disease International. *World Alzheimer Report 2018 - The state of the art of dementia research: New frontiers*. 2018. p. 36.

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*

¹²⁷ Widmer-Iliescu. UN Chronicle. *Digital Technologies Can Help Older Persons Maintain Healthy, Productive Lives*. 2022.

¹²⁸ World Summit on the Information Society Forum. *Opening of the ICTs and Older Persons special track*. 2022.

¹²⁹ United Nations, High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. *Commission for Social Development (CSocD)*. 2021.



resolution 2021/10 entitled “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all” (2021).¹³⁰ Therein, the committee stressed that new technologies are simultaneously a tool in facilitating lifelong learning and a challenge for the social inclusion of older persons that will require advancements in lifelong education and digital literacy.¹³¹ The resolution also called for Member States to collaborate with other stakeholders in the private sector, academia, and CSOs to reduce barriers to digital literacy.¹³²

Conclusion

According to UNDP, UN DESA, and other United Nations entities, it is essential to take the increasing age of national populations into account when pursuing sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda.¹³³ Against this background, the Secretary-General suggests that Member States should use the 25th anniversary of the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2027 as an opportunity to achieve the ideal of an inclusive society for all ages, while stressing that this requires increased national and collaborative efforts to build on the strengths of existing frameworks and remedy their shortcomings.¹³⁴ In this context, WHO calls for the implementation of legislative and information campaigns to reduce existing inequalities faced by older persons, and UN DESA has stressed the role of promoting digital literacy in ensuring the inclusion of older people in modern societies.¹³⁵

Further Research

When researching the topic further, delegates should consider the following questions: What measures can Member States take to synthesize existing efforts promoting the social inclusion of older persons? How can the international system support Member States in disaggregating data to gain a better understanding of the situation of older persons? Should the international community work towards a legally binding framework, and - if so - how could such a framework combat the ubiquitousness of ageism and advance lifelong learning programs? What measures can be taken at the international and supranational levels to assist Member States in providing educational programs for older persons?

¹³⁰ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all (E/RES/2021/10)*. 2021.

¹³¹ *Ibid.* p. 4.

¹³² *Ibid.* pp. 7-8.

¹³³ Dugarova et al. *Ageing, Older Persons and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. 2017. p. 7.

¹³⁴ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 - Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2023/6)*. 2022. pp. 18-19.

¹³⁵ World Health Organization. *Global Report on Ageism*. 2021. p. XVII; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Young Or Old, UN Calls For ‘Digital Equality’ For All*. 2021.



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2. Addressing Food Insecurity through the Promotion of Sustainable Food Systems

Introduction

The world faces a global food and hunger crisis of unprecedented proportions.¹³⁶ Over the span of just two years, the number of people experiencing or at risk of acute food insecurity has surged from 135 million in 53 countries before the COVID-19 pandemic to 345 million people in 79 countries by 2023.¹³⁷ The gender gap in the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity has also widened during the COVID-19 pandemic, with women being 10% more affected than men in 2020, compared to 6% in 2019.¹³⁸ Conflict continues to be the biggest driver of hunger, with 70% of the world's hungry people living in areas afflicted by war and violence.¹³⁹ The scarcity of supplies and rise in operational prices pose a threat to harvests.¹⁴⁰ Moreover, high fertilizer prices could turn the current food affordability crisis into a food availability crisis, with the production rates of maize, rice, soybean, and wheat all falling in 2022.¹⁴¹ According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), food insecurity is defined as the lack of regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life.¹⁴² The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Secretariat proposes that food security exists when “all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.”¹⁴³

Food systems encompass the entire range of actors and their interlinked value-adding activities.¹⁴⁴ These processes cover the complete journey of food production, starting from agriculture, forestry, or fisheries, through processing, distribution, consumption, and eventual disposal of food, all within the wider framework of economic, societal, and natural contexts.¹⁴⁵ The food system comprises sub-systems like farming and waste management, interacting with key systems such as energy, health, and trade.¹⁴⁶ Specifically, a food system is sustainable when it maintains economic profitability, delivers broad societal benefits, and exerts a positive or neutral impact on the natural environment.¹⁴⁷ A structural shift in the food system can stem from changes in other systems; for instance, a policy favoring more biofuel in the energy system profoundly influences the food system.¹⁴⁸ The Commission for Social Development's (CSocD) responsibility is to recognize pressing social development concerns that demand prompt attention and provide substantial recommendations on these matters.¹⁴⁹ In response to these issues, CSocD has recently been engaged in various efforts to combat food insecurity and promote sustainable food systems.¹⁵⁰

¹³⁶ World Food Programme. *A Global Food Crisis*. 2023.

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet*. 2023.

¹³⁹ World Food Programme. *A Global Food Crisis*. 2023.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Hunger and food insecurity*. 2023.

¹⁴³ Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. *Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture*. 2011.

¹⁴⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Sustainable food systems - concept and framework*. N.d.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Mandate and Terms of References - CSocD*. N.d.

¹⁵⁰ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Sixtieth Session of the Commission for Social Development. Strengthening multilateralism to deliver well-being and dignity for all by addressing food*



International and Regional Framework

The right to food was first addressed by the international system in 1948 within Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR), which stated 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.”¹⁵¹ In accordance with the UDHR, the most important binding guarantee of the right to food was provided in the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR).¹⁵² Article 11 of the ICESCR builds upon the UDHR by asserting the inherent right of every individual to be free from hunger.¹⁵³ It stresses the significance of worldwide cooperation in improving food production, preservation, and distribution by leveraging advanced technical and scientific expertise.¹⁵⁴ Additionally, it highlights the need to promote nutritional education and reform agrarian systems for the efficient use of natural resources.¹⁵⁵ Further, Article 11 also takes into consideration the challenges faced by both food-importing and food-exporting nations, aiming for a fair allocation of global food resources based on genuine need.¹⁵⁶

In 1974, the General Assembly adopted the *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition*, recognizing the fundamental human right to be free from hunger.¹⁵⁷ The Declaration emphasized the shared responsibility of Member States to collaborate in eliminating these issues, understanding their critical impact on the welfare of the global population, and hinging on the ability to produce and distribute food effectively.¹⁵⁸ In 1995, the World Summit for Social Development concluded with the adoption of the *Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action*.¹⁵⁹ The 10 commitments set out in the Copenhagen Declaration reaffirm the importance of putting people at the center of development, with Commitment 2 aiming to eradicate poverty worldwide by addressing its root causes.¹⁶⁰ These efforts call for all parties to work towards the elimination of hunger and malnutrition as well as the provision of food security for all.¹⁶¹ Convened by FAO in 1996, the first World Food Summit (WFS) resulted in the adoption of the *Rome Declaration on World Food Security*, reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.¹⁶² The Rome Declaration also included a pledge to reduce the number of hungry people by half by 2015.¹⁶³ Four years later, the Millennium Summit continued the efforts initiated by WFS by adopting the *Millennium Declaration*, which prioritized the “eradication of extreme poverty and hunger” as the first of eight Millennium Development Goals.¹⁶⁴

To assess the state of world hunger, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* is an annual report proposing an evaluation of the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (zero hunger) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to eradicate hunger while also advancing

insecurity and the eradication of poverty, including through the promotion of sustainable food systems. 2022.

¹⁵¹ United Nations General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217(III))*. 1948.

¹⁵² Söllner. *The “Breakthrough” of the Right to Food: The Meaning of General Comment No.12 and the Voluntary Guidelines for the Interpretation of the Human Right to Food*. 2007.

¹⁵³ United Nations, General Assembly. *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*. 1966.

¹⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁷ World Food Conference. *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition*. 1974.

¹⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁹ World Summit for Social Development. *Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development*. 1995.

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁶¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁶² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Rome Declaration and the World Food Summit Plan of Action*. 1996.

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization. *Food comes first. FAO and the eight Millennium Development Goals*. 2010.



sustainable agriculture, achieving food security, and enhancing nutrition.¹⁶⁵ More specifically, global hunger and nutrition is measured by SDG Indicator 2.1.1 relating to undernourishment.¹⁶⁶ To further strengthen the focus on achieving zero hunger, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/259 on the “United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)” to identify and develop a work program based on the Rome Declaration and its Framework for Action.¹⁶⁷ CSocD is closely connected to this objective, as it tackles issues of inadequate access to nutritious food and health risks linked to malnutrition, which can be prevalent in unsustainable food systems.¹⁶⁸

Further, the European Union’s *Farm to Fork Strategy* aims to promote sustainable food systems that have a positive environmental impact, combat climate change, restore biodiversity, ensure food security and public health, and maintain food affordability while promoting fair economic returns and trade.¹⁶⁹ To facilitate this shift, the framework utilizes a combination of regulatory and non-regulatory approaches, relying on agricultural and fisheries policies as key tools in combination with advisory services, financial instruments, research, and innovation.¹⁷⁰ Within the African Union, pillar III of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) focuses on directly aiding the poor and vulnerable in agricultural growth efforts, departing from previous strategies relying on indirect benefits.¹⁷¹ Pillar III specifically targets those enduring chronic food insecurity and populations susceptible to diverse crises and emergencies, aiming to bolster food security and advance sustainable agricultural systems.¹⁷² From 2009 to 2020, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) implemented the *ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (AIFS)* and two strategic plans of action on food security, focusing on strategic measures with strong commitments from ASEAN Member States to ensure enduring food security and improve farmers’ livelihoods in ASEAN.¹⁷³ Member States concurred on extending the AIFS Framework beyond 2020 to 2025, providing an avenue for further collaborative efforts.¹⁷⁴

Role of the International System

Following the World Summit for Social Development in 1995, CSocD has been the primary United Nations body responsible for overseeing and executing the follow-up actions outlined in the Copenhagen Declaration.¹⁷⁵ Its 60th session in 2022 held a Ministerial Forum on the topic of “strengthening multilateralism to deliver well-being and dignity for all by addressing food insecurity and the eradication of poverty, including through the promotion of sustainable food systems.”¹⁷⁶ More specifically, it called for the development of comprehensive social policy frameworks that simultaneously address poverty, hunger, malnutrition, inequalities, and well-being.¹⁷⁷ This involves strengthening food systems, investing in science

¹⁶⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *The State of Food and Agriculture: Moving Forward on Food Loss and Waste Reduction*. 2019.

¹⁶⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *The State of Food and Agriculture: Moving Forward on Food Loss and Waste Reduction*. 2019

¹⁶⁷ United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Decade of Action and Nutrition (2016-2025) (A/RES/70/259)*. 2016.

¹⁶⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

¹⁶⁹ European Commission. *Farm to Fork Strategy*. 2023.

¹⁷⁰ Ibid.

¹⁷¹ New Partnership for Africa’s Development. *CAADP Pillar III - Framework for African Food Security*. 2009.

¹⁷² Ibid.

¹⁷³ Association of Southeast Asian Nations. *ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security (SPA-FS) 2021-2025*. 2020.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Commission for Social Development*. N.d.

¹⁷⁶ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Sixtieth Session of the Commission for Social Development: Strengthening multilateralism to deliver well-being and dignity for all by addressing food insecurity and the eradication of poverty, including through the promotion of sustainable food systems*. 2022.

¹⁷⁷ Ibid.



and technology for agriculture, and improving social protection coverage towards universal and sustainable systems.¹⁷⁸ Further, CSocD regularly reports to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and advises the General Assembly's Second Committee on matters regarding agricultural development, food security, and nutrition.¹⁷⁹ Platforms and forums, such as the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) or the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Programme established by FAO, offer further opportunities for Member States to convene on sustainable food systems, while including civil society, scientific organizations, farmers associations, and Member States.¹⁸⁰

In 2021, UNFSS was convened in the context of transforming food systems to maximize and leverage their co-benefits to deliver progress across all of the SDGs.¹⁸¹ Five action areas derived from the summit to realize the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda, including Action Track 1 (Nourish All People), highlighting the importance of inclusive and transformative food systems progress to achieve zero hunger.¹⁸² The immediate outcome was the establishment of the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub, tasked with advancing knowledge and evidence in food systems, identifying critical research areas, and gathering crucial data.¹⁸³ In April 2023, "Transformation We Need" was the theme of the 4th global conference organized by One Planet Network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFS Programme), where the necessity to consider food security, climate crises, and environmental hazards was put forward as a priority by conference participants, which included Member States and private stakeholders.¹⁸⁴ The SFS Programme's conference also convened the inaugural Global Dialogue, which highlighted that harmonizing both public and private investments in the agricultural sector, as well as a public procurement policy that would encourage sustainable production and consumption, should be an area of focus by governments.¹⁸⁵

The United Nations system includes associated specialized agencies that collaborate with and operate in conjunction with the United Nations to enhance progress in ensuring food security.¹⁸⁶ Specifically, FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP), collectively referred to as the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), provide an extensive array of knowledge, financial and technical expertise, and a globally recognized forum to address policy issues related to food security, agriculture, and nutrition.¹⁸⁷ Each agency has its individual mandate, with FAO directing international efforts to combat hunger; WFP focusing on eradicating hunger and malnutrition, predominantly in the context of conflict or natural disasters; and IFAD aiming to fight rural poverty, hunger, and malnutrition among smallholder farmers and the rural poor in developing countries.¹⁸⁸ These three agencies are primarily engaged in collaborative efforts to assist national governments in achieving the SDGs and promoting nutrition and resilience.¹⁸⁹ Additionally, RBAs collect and provide data and statistics to guide action and offer joint technical assistance to the CFS, an intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder platform for food security and nutrition.¹⁹⁰

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

¹⁷⁹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Coherent Food Security Responses: Incorporating Right to Food into Global and Regional Food Security Initiatives*. 2023.

¹⁸⁰ United Nations Environment Programme. *4th Global Conference of the One Planet network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme - The Transformation we Need*. 2023.

¹⁸¹ International Institute for Sustainable Development. *SDG Knowledge Hub*. 2021.

¹⁸² United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Secretary-General's Chair Summary and Statement of Action on the UN Food Systems Summit*. 2021.

¹⁸³ Ibid.

¹⁸⁴ Fourth Global Conference of the One Planet Network. *Outcome Document of the 4th Global Conference of the One Planet network's (10YFP) Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme*. 2023.

¹⁸⁵ United Nations Food Systems Summit. *The Food Systems Summit: Global Dialogues*. 2021. p. 6.

¹⁸⁶ Better World Campaign. *UN Funds and Programs*. 2023.

¹⁸⁷ World Food Programme. *Rome-based agencies*. N.d.

¹⁸⁸ Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the UN Organizations in Rome. *Collaboration between FAO, WFP and IFAD*. 2023.

¹⁸⁹ World Food Programme. *Rome-based agencies*. N.d.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) aims to advance sustainable food systems through regional, national, and local actions within its *Regional Sustainable Consumption and Production Roadmap*.¹⁹¹ In pursuit of bolstering food and nutrition security, the World Bank plays an active role in various regional programs, making a substantial commitment of up to \$30 billion for both existing and new projects in critical areas such as agriculture, nutrition, and water.¹⁹² Moreover, the World Bank Group houses the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, an international funding instrument that combines contributions from donors and provides supplementary financial support for agricultural development throughout the entire value chain.¹⁹³

At the regional level, various programs and initiatives are actively addressing food governance and food insecurity, including the Special Program for Food Security in Central America; the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative, and the European Development Fund to finance immediate humanitarian food aid in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.¹⁹⁴ Recognizing the crucial role of the private sector in food-related matters and its significance in ensuring food security, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) was founded in 2011.¹⁹⁵ Its purpose is to bolster collaboration between the public and private sectors to tackle food security challenges within the region.¹⁹⁶ PPFS concentrates on advocating for partnerships and investments between public and private entities, with the aim of fortifying the resilience of food systems.¹⁹⁷ In 2021, PPFS jointly developed a *Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030* (Roadmap 2030), which was endorsed at the Ministerial Meeting on Food Security.¹⁹⁸ The Roadmap 2030 is aimed at enhancing an open, fair, transparent, productive, sustainable, and resilient APEC food system that ensures access to sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food to meet the dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.¹⁹⁹ Further, in 2015, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) renewed its 10-year regional policy framework for sustainable food systems, the *Economic Community of West Africa Agricultural Policy*.²⁰⁰ To ensure this policy has the means to achieve economic, environmental, and social sustainability within food systems, ECOWAS also created in parallel the *Regional Agricultural Investment Plan and Food and Nutrition Security*.²⁰¹

The Global Food System's Effect on Food Insecurity and Health

The global food system is significantly influenced by socio-economic, political, and environmental factors, and its proper functioning has profound implications for global food security, nutrition, and sustainability.²⁰² The global food system is inefficient, according to FAO, which estimates that one-third of all food produced for human use is lost or wasted annually.²⁰³ Addressing such waste underscores the necessity for comprehensive measures to achieve more sustainable food systems to improve food access and

¹⁹¹ United Nations Environment Programme. *Sustainable Food Systems*. N.d

¹⁹² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Coherent Food Security Responses: Incorporating Right to Food into Global and Regional Food Security Initiatives*. 2023.

¹⁹³ World Bank Group. *What is Food Security?* 2023. N.d.

¹⁹⁴ African Union. *The Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme*. 2021; Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. *APEC and Food Security*. 2021.

¹⁹⁵ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. *Policy Partnership on Food Security*. 2023.

¹⁹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁹⁸ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. *APEC Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) Work Plan 2022*. N.d.

¹⁹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰⁰ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Sustainable food systems - concept and framework*. N.d.

²⁰¹ Ibid.

²⁰² Independent Group of Scientists 2019. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Global Sustainable Development Report*. 2019. p. 20.

²⁰³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *The State of Food and Agriculture: Moving Forward on Food Loss and Waste Reduction*. 2019. p. 7.



reduce waste.²⁰⁴ The global food system promotes standardized eating patterns and unhealthy habits, leading to increased consumption of processed and nutritionally deficient foods.²⁰⁵ More specifically, over 2 billion individuals are affected by inadequate diets, resulting in micronutrient deficiencies and contributing to the global challenges of overweight and obesity, which impact around 1.9 billion adults.²⁰⁶

United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/264 on the “State of global food insecurity” was adopted in 2022 and acknowledged the Secretary-General’s initiative to set up the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance.²⁰⁷ The resolution also reiterated how crucial it is to maintain free trade routes and marketplaces for the transportation of food and other agricultural inputs and outputs.²⁰⁸ During its 60th session in 2022, CSocD drafted resolution 2022/7 on “Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda,” which was later adopted by ECOSOC.²⁰⁹ The connection between sustainable food systems, health, and nutrition is emphasized in this resolution.²¹⁰

A “One Health” approach has recently been put forward by the United Nations, recognizing the interconnectedness of human health, animal health, and the environment, and highlighting issues like unsustainable agricultural systems as a risk to public health.²¹¹ The World Health Organization (WHO), alongside FAO, the World Organisation for Animal Health, and UNEP, coordinates coherent strategies to shape the future agenda for food safety by using a One Health approach to enhance global food safety, most notably through the *WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030*.²¹² For example, WHO facilitated knowledge and experience sharing between Member States on capacity-building, risk management, assessment, and communication.²¹³ Moreover, CFS adopted the *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition* in 2021.²¹⁴ These guidelines propose that sustainable food systems are a key consideration for government policies to ensure healthy diets and food security through local food policy councils and the promotion of local markets for agricultural inputs and outputs.²¹⁵

A joint project of FAO and WHO, the Codex Alimentarius Commission creates international food standards and guidelines to guarantee that trade practices in food are fair and maintain quality and safety for the health of consumers.²¹⁶ A yearly evaluation of worldwide nutrition as well as global nutrition-related policies is also provided by the *Global Nutrition Report*, established following the Nutrition for Growth summit and is led by an independent group of experts and a multi-stakeholder group of high-level officials of governments and civil society organizations.²¹⁷ It examines information on nutrition and health hazards,

²⁰⁴ Ibid.

²⁰⁵ Monteiro et al. Obesity Reviews. *Ultra-processed products are becoming dominant in the global food system*. 2019. p. 14.

²⁰⁶ World Bank Group. *Food Security Update: World Bank Response to Rising Food Insecurity*. N.d.

²⁰⁷ United Nations, General Assembly, *State of global food insecurity (RES/76/264)*. 2022.

²⁰⁸ Ibid.

²⁰⁹ United Nations, Commission for Social Development. *Sixtieth Session of the Commission for Social Development. Strengthening multilateralism to deliver well-being and dignity for all by addressing food insecurity and the eradication of poverty, including through the promotion of sustainable food systems*. 2022.

²¹⁰ Ibid.

²¹¹ World Health Organization. *One Health*. 2017.

²¹² World Health Organization. *WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030: Towards stronger food safety systems and global cooperation*. 2022. p. 15.

²¹³ Ibid. p. 51.

²¹⁴ The Committee on World Food Security. *Committee on World Food Security (CFS)*. N.d. p. 1.

²¹⁵ The Committee on World Food Security. *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN)(CFS 2021/49/Inf.14)*. 2021. p. 22.

²¹⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Codex Alimentarius Commission Procedural Manual*. 2023.

²¹⁷ Independent Expert Group. *2022 Global Nutrition Report: Stronger commitments for greater action*. 2022. p. 7.



analyzes the effects of unsustainable food systems, and tracks progress on global nutrition and health.²¹⁸ The report also indicates that although access to health care is not always an indicator of food security, the high costs of a healthy diet can make accessing a healthy diet more difficult than accessing general healthcare.²¹⁹

Food Systems and the Environment

Extreme environmental events harm food systems by decreasing agricultural productivity and increasing dependence on food imports to compensate for domestic production losses.²²⁰ Climate-related disasters have widespread effects on the entire food supply chain, hindering sector growth and negatively affecting agro-industries.²²¹ Additionally, countries facing significant exposure to climate shocks have an average undernourishment level that is 3% higher compared to countries with minimal exposure to such shocks.²²² Climate shocks destroy lives, crops, and livelihoods, undermining people's ability to feed themselves.²²³ Consequently, food systems around the world are now tasked with the triple mission of ensuring food security and nutrition for a growing population, sustaining the livelihoods of millions of people in the food chain, and doing so in an environmentally sustainable way.²²⁴ An estimated 11-24% of all greenhouse gas emissions worldwide can be attributed to the agricultural sector.²²⁵ According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, better resource management and land use could have a significant impact on the environment as well as climate change, which in turn could provide better food security and a more sustainable livelihood for workers and farmers within food systems.²²⁶

When natural disasters occur, 26% of the damage and consequences directly affect agriculture, especially in least-developed countries (LDCs) and low and middle-income countries (LMICs).²²⁷ 2.5 billion people depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) plays a major role in preventing economic and humanitarian crises in the agricultural sector, especially when disasters are made worse by the effects of climate change.²²⁸ Climate disasters often cause significant impacts on vulnerable communities due to a lack of access to proper risk management.²²⁹ To mitigate this effect, governments and international organizations have implemented climate and disaster risk financing approaches to offer financial aid to vulnerable communities in the aftermath of climate shocks, and to safeguard farmers' agricultural productivity and food security.²³⁰ For instance, WFP and the Kyrgyz Republic have implemented Climate Risk Insurance benefiting livestock farmers in the Kyrgyz Republic, an initiative preventing financial instability of livestock farmers due to drought or extreme winters and covering insurance for 10,000 households.²³¹ Globally, such initiatives by WFP also aim to address areas affected by floods or hurricanes in 21 countries and have provided assistance to approximately 1.8 million people.²³²

²¹⁸ Ibid.

²¹⁹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *The State of Food and Agriculture: Moving Forward on Food Loss and Waste Reduction*. 2019.

²²⁰ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*. 2022. p. 22.

²²¹ Ibid.

²²² Ibid.

²²³ World Food Programme. *A Global Food Crisis*. 2023.

²²⁴ Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development. *Food Systems and the Triple Challenge*. 2021.

²²⁵ Ibid. p. 3.

²²⁶ Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development. *Food Systems and the Triple Challenge*. 2021.

²²⁷ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Disaster Risk Reduction in Agriculture*. 2023.

²²⁸ Ibid.

²²⁹ World Food Programme. *Climate Risk Insurance for livestock farmers in the Kyrgyz Republic*. 2023. p. 2.

²³⁰ Ibid.

²³¹ Ibid.

²³² Ibid. p. 4.



Territorialized food systems refer to localized or regionalized food production, distribution, and consumption within a specific geographic area.²³³ These systems aim to enhance food sovereignty, resilience, and sustainability by implementing a more direct and intimate connection between producers and consumers.²³⁴ In territorialized food systems, dependence on global supply chains and large-scale industrialized agriculture is reduced, while smaller-scale, diversified farming practices and local food markets are favored, offering a sustainable alternative to global food systems as they are focused on local and regional subsystems.²³⁵ The integration of diverse and nutritious local crops into territorialized food systems has the potential to improve nutritional status and alleviate deficiencies, but greater education and awareness are needed for individuals to adopt this practice and experience its health benefits.²³⁶ Territorialized food systems are encouraged through the *Local and Regional Food Procurement Policy*, established by WFP in 2019 to strengthen local and regional procurement by incorporating program objectives and considerations for nutrition and resilience.²³⁷ Moreover, it mentions the execution of the SDGs entails creating supportive frameworks and resources and funding creative strategies to maximize the impact of WFP's local and regional food procurement.²³⁸

Conclusion

According to ECOSOC, a driving force behind food insecurity and food crises in the world is the lack of resilience and the need for more humanitarian, peacebuilding, and development efforts in response to both climate change and conflicts.²³⁹ Sustainable food systems are the key to improving health and nutrition globally, reducing the impacts of climate disasters, and minimizing the environmental impact of agricultural production.²⁴⁰ The path to a sustainable solution lies in creating a food system that ensures food security and nutrition for all while safeguarding the economic, social, and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations.²⁴¹

Further Research

As delegates research this topic, they may consider the following: What are possible roadblocks in the way of addressing food security through sustainable food systems that CSocD can address? How can the United Nations system further alleviate the environmental and economic cost of natural disasters in low and middle-income countries? What can be done to spread awareness of any health risks posed by malnutrition and food security? What is the impact of agriculture practices on food security and how can Member States ensure changes are implemented or encouraged, to implement sustainable food systems?

²³³ Rochefort et al. *Nutrients. A Rapid Review of Territorialized Food Systems and Their Impacts on Human Health, Food Security, and the Environment*. 2021.

²³⁴ *Ibid.*

²³⁵ *Ibid.*

²³⁶ *Ibid.*

²³⁷ World Food Programme. *Local and regional food procurement policy*. 2019.

²³⁸ *Ibid.*

²³⁹ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Meeting on the Transition from Relief to Development: Recurrent crises and sustainable solutions: building resilience and addressing rising food insecurity and displacement*. 2022. p. 2.

²⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁴¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Sustainable food systems - concept and framework*. N.d.



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