Background paper

Committee: World Food Programme

Topic A: Improving emergency response capacities to safeguard food security

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Food security means that everyone has access to enough food at all times. This food must be safe from harmful chemicals and the people should be able to access it in a socially acceptable way. It is crucial to address this topic carefully and critically since it will impact tremendously upon our future and prosperity. Certain factors exist that affect food security such as armed conflict, lack of transport, poor government intervention, poverty, population increase and climate change, which is a concerning one. It is very important to address this problem since the world population is growing bigger and bigger, there is not enough to produce the necessary to feed every person and cover their necessities, with poverty and overpopulation is becoming harder to safeguard food security therefore to fulfill humanity's needs. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) states that 925 million people in the world are undernourished, these people mostly live in Asia, the Pacific Islands and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Recently, the impacts of climate change have had a very big impact when it comes to food insecurity since it is disrupting the land, therefore affecting food production. This negatively affects those who work in farming, fishing, and herding. The objective of this debate is to detect the problems that are causing food insecurity and find better and more effective ways to improve emergency response capacities to safeguard food security, while taking into consideration certain factors such as environmental degradation, overpopulation, and poverty.

There are some volunteer groups that contribute to the improvement of food security by helping develop irrigation systems to increase food production and developing sustainable food sources through methods such as fish farming. They also promote nutritional education in communities and help improve the processing and

marketing of food. The UN is helping raise awareness by implementing the World Water Day the objective of which is to raise awareness of water and food production and also help promote sustainable food production.

To solve this global issue all countries must be cooperative and aware of the problem so that they can implement solutions. Some countries have already taken measures to help solve the problem, such as in the United States of America where the government agency called the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) helps low-income Americans by providing them with food and nutritional assistance by programm called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). In 2012 they helped over 4.6 million low income Americans. In the United States there is also an organization called Feeding America in which they help one in seven Americans in need. They have over 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs. The European Union also has government organizations such as the the European Federation of Food Banks (FEBA), Eurochild, the European Anti-Poverty Network, and others that are currently helping to provide food for those with low resources. The FEBA contributes by serving 2.9 million meals a day, it has approximately 265 food banks in 23 countries.

PESA (Programa Especial de la Seguridad Alimentaria) is also a project created for helping countries in Latin America such as Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras.his project consists of helping decrease hunger by increasing productivity in small farms with the aid of new technological methods.

One of the United Nations´ goals is called the Zero Hunger Goal and it is focused on rethinking the way we grow, share and consume food. The United Nations believes that our oceans, lands, freshwater, and biodiversity are being constantly threatened by climate change causing its degradation, therefore causing food insecurity. The Zero Hunger Goal objectives are to double the agricultural productivity, ensure sustainable food production systems, facilitate food access at all times to the low-income population, and end world hunger in general.

A concerning number of situations or emergencies can happen that can put at risk food security and the population´s general health. With population rapidly increasing every year and climate change, it has become harder to provide food for everyone at all times, especially when natural disasters or wars occur it becomes almost impossible to produce and therefore provide food to the affected areas.

We can, however, reduce the risks and improve emergency capacities to safeguard food security by taking strong measures such as reducing climate change impacts and ensuring and implementing new sustainable food production systems so that our goal can be accomplished.

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