**Food and Agriculture Organization**

Distr.: General
Date of Submission: 10th September 2025
Original: English

**United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization**
**Vedic International School Model United Nations, 26th-28th September 2025**

# REPORT SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF PROCEDURE ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

| The background guide intends to make you aware of the simulation of international press that is to be followed by the executive board of the committee. Its content does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the secretariat of VISMUN 2025 |



Background Guide prepared by:

The Executive Board

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

## WELCOME LETTER

Greetings from the Executive Board,

We welcome you to the Vedic International School Model UN Simulation 2025. This background guide is exactly what it claims to be, simply providing a background to the agenda at hand and hence, a stepping stone for a more exhaustive research. This background guide deals with definitions, various laws concerning the agenda and different dimensions of the debate.

This document gives you an overview of the history and functions of FAO as well as an academic summary of the agenda in discussion as a starting point for you to develop your countries' positions. For your own advancement and profit, but also to ensure a successful and constructive working atmosphere in the committee, let us **kindly** suggest for you to:

1. **Be well researched:** Read through this background guide and take it as a point of departure for your own research into the position your countries take on the issues on the agenda. Do not limit your research to the background guide.
2. **Stay in character:** Learn about your country and capture the mentality of its representatives. Set up some basic goals that are appropriate for your country and act according to them. Find allies that your country would side with in reality as well.
3. **Learn and practice diplomacy:** Be respectful towards your fellow delegates and follow the Rules of Procedure. Be diplomatic rather than demanding and try to win over opposition instead of forcing your opinion on others.
4. **Have fun:** Simulating diplomacy should never be taken so seriously that cooperative fun turns into sour competition. Enjoy the debate, get to know new people and don't forget: The conference doesn't end when the meeting is suspended.

We have attached the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure for your reference. Please feel free to reach out to us **via E-Mail.**

We wish you **all the best** for your preparations and we are looking forward to seeing you at the conference!

*Sincerely,*


| **Sriyansh Mohanty** | **Bhavika Dabur** | **Bidhisa Mishra** |
|---|---|---|
| (Chairperson) | (Co-Chairperson) | (Director) |

United Nations Association of the United States of America and the Business Council for the United Nations

# UNA-USA MUN: Rules of Procedure Long Form

## I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

**Rule 1. Official and working languages**
English shall be the official and working language of all committees during formal and informal debate.

**Rule 2. Decorum**

Delegates are to obey instruction given by UNA-USA MUN staff. Those who do not obey directions will be dismissed from the conference.

## II. SECRETARIAT

**Rule 3. Statements by the Secretariat**
The Secretary-General or his representative may make oral as well as written statements to any committee concerning any issue.

**Rule 4. General Functions of the Secretariat**
The Chairperson shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting and may propose the adoption of any procedural motions to which there is no significant objection. The Chair, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings at any meeting and shall moderate discussion, announce decisions, rule on points or motions, and ensure and enforce the observance of these rules. The Chair may temporarily transfer his or her duties to another member of the committee staff. *All procedural matters in committee are subject to the discretion of the Chair.* The Chair may undertake any action that is not covered in the Rules of Procedure in order to facilitate the flow of debate at the conference.

## III. AGENDA

**Rule 5. Agenda**
The Secretary-General or his/her representative shall communicate the agenda to the delegates before the conference.

**Rule 6. Revision of the Agenda**
Additional items of an important and urgent nature may be placed on the agenda during a regular session by the Secretary-General who may add additional topics to the agenda at his/her discretion.

**Rule 7. Adoption of the Agenda**
The first order of business for the committee shall be the adoption of the agenda. The only motion in order at this time will be in the form of "The nation of [country name] moves that [topic area x] be placed first on the agenda."

- The motion requires a second and is debatable;
- A provisional speakers list shall be established with three people speaking for and three people speaking against the motion (speaking time for these remarks shall be one minute);
- After the provisional speakers list is exhausted the committee shall move into an immediate vote: a simple majority is required for the motion to pass;
- A motion to proceed to the second topic area is in order only after the committee has adopted or rejected a resolution on the first topic area or debate has been adjourned;
- In the event of a crisis or emergency, the Secretary-General or Director-General may call upon a committee to table debate on the current topic area so that the more urgent matter may be addressed. After a resolution has been addressed and voted upon, the committee will return to debate the tabled topic. If a resolution on the crisis topic fails, the committee may return to debate on

tabled topic area only at the discretion of the Secretary-General or Director-General.

## IV. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

**Rule 8. Speakers List**
The Chair shall open the speakers list for each topic to be discussed at the request of a delegate. Any delegate wishing to be added to the speakers list shall indicate so when asked by the Chair or shall submit such a request in writing to the dais.

**Rule 9. Limitation of Speaking Time**
The Chair may limit the time allotted to each speaker. However, delegates can motion to increase or decrease the speaking time, which will be voted upon by the committee or council. When a delegate exceeds his or her allotted time, the Chair may call the speaker to order without delay.

**Rule 10. Speeches**
No delegate may address the body without the previously obtained permission of the Chair. The Chair may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion. The Chair shall enforce the time limit as described by Rule 9.

**Rule 11. Yielding Time**
The delegate, who has been recognized by the Chair to address the body on a substantive issue, may yield any time following their remarks after their speech. Yields may be made in three ways: to another delegate, to points of information (questions), or to the Chair.

- *Yield to another delegate*. His/her remaining time shall be given to another delegate.
- *Yield to questions*. Delegates shall be selected by the Chair to ask one question per speech. The Chair has the right to call order to any delegate whose question is, in the opinion of the Chair, not designed to elicit information. Answers to questions are limited to the time remaining in a delegate's speech.
- *Yield to the Chair*. Such a yield should be made if the delegate does not wish his/her speech to be subject to comments. The Chair shall then move on to the next speaker.

Once a delegate yields his/her time, the second delegate (the one who has been yielded to) may not yield any remaining time.

**Rule 12. Right Of Reply**
The Chair may recognize the Right of Reply only in instances of a grave personal insult. Rights of Reply must be submitted in writing to the Chair, and may only be granted after a speech is completed. The Chair shall inform the Secretary-General of the circumstances surrounding the Right of Reply. No ruling on this matter is subject to appeal.

**Rule 13. Appeal to the Chair's Decision**
An appeal is made when a delegate feels that the Chair has made an incorrect ruling. The delegate formally challenges the Chair in writing by sending a note to the dais, moving to appeal the Chair's decision. The appeal will be taken to the Deputy-Secretary General who will decide if the appeal will be considered. Once the motion is acknowledged, the Deputy-Secretary General will hear from both the delegate and the Chair before making a decision.

## V. POINTS

**Rule 14. Point Of Personal Privilege**
During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may raise a Point of Personal Privilege, and the Chair shall immediately address the point. A Point of Personal Privilege must refer to a matter of personal comfort, safety and/or well being of the members of the committee. The Chair may refuse to recognize a Point of Personal Privilege if the delegate has not shown proper restraint and decorum, or if the point is dilatory in nature.

**Rule 15. Point Of Order**
During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may raise a Point of Order and the Chair shall immediately consider the request. A Point of Order must relate to the observance of the rules of the committee or to the way the Chair is exercising his or her power. A delegate raising a Point of Order may not speak on the

substance of the matter under discussion. The Chair may refuse to recognize a Point of Order if the delegate has not shown proper restraint and decorum governing the use of such a right, or if the point is dilatory in nature.

**Rule 16. Point Of Information (question to other delegates)**
After a delegate gives a speech, and if the delegate yields their time to Points of Information, one Point of Information (a question) can be raised by delegates from the floor. The speaker will be allotted the remainder of his or her speaking time to address Points of Information. Points of Information are directed to the speaker and allow other delegations to ask questions in relation to speeches and resolutions.

**Rule 17. Point Of Inquiry**
If there is no discussion on the floor, a delegate may raise a Point of Inquiry to request clarification of the present procedural status of a meeting. A Point of Inquiry may never interrupt a speaker.

## VI. MOTIONS

**Rule 18. Suspend Debate (Motion to Caucus)**
Upon the recommendation of the Chair or any delegate, the committee may consider a motion to Suspend Debate for the purpose of a moderated or un-moderated caucus. This motion requires a majority vote.

- *Moderated Caucus*: The recommendation for a moderated caucus must include a time limit for delegate remarks and a time limit for the entire caucus (e.g. "The nation of [country name] moves for a five minute moderated caucus with a 30 second speaking time."). During moderated caucus, the chair shall recognize delegates for remarks without the use of a speakers list and yields shall be out of order.
- *Un-moderated Caucus*: The recommendation for an un-moderated caucus requires a time limit to be made (e.g. "The nation of [country name] moves for a ten minute un-moderated caucus."). Un-moderated caucuses allow delegates to have informal discussions.

**Rule 19. Motion to Table Debate**
During the discussion of any matter, the committee may consider a motion to table debate on the item under discussion at the recommendation of the Chair or any delegate. If the motion is seconded, two representatives may speak in favor of and two against the motion. Then, the motion shall immediately be put to a vote. A two-thirds majority is required for passage. If a motion to table debate is passed, the topic is considered tabled and no further actions or votes will be taken on it. A topic may be reintroduced to the committee so that debate can resume through the same process. The motion to resume debate on a tabled topic shall also require a two-thirds majority for passage.

**Rule 20. Closure of Debate**
A delegate may at any time move for the closure of debate on the item under discussion, after which debate will end and all draft resolutions and amendments will be put to an immediate vote. Permission to speak on the closure of debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to a vote. This motion requires a two-thirds majority decision. Upon passage of this motion the Chair shall declare the closure of debate and immediately move into voting procedure on the substantive proposals introduced and pending before the committee. The committee shall also close debate and move into voting procedure when the speakers list has been exhausted.

**Rule 21. Adjournment of the Meeting**
During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may move for the adjournment of the meeting. Such a motion shall not be debated but shall be immediately put to a vote. After adjournment, the committee shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time; adjournment of the final meeting shall adjourn the session.

**Rule 22. Order Of Procedural Motions**
**The motions below shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the committee:**

a. Point of Personal Privilege
b. Point of Order
c. Point of Inquiry
d. Point of Information

e. Introduction of a Draft Resolution
f. Motion to Suspend Debate
g. Motion to Table Debate
h. Motion for Closure of Debate
i. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

## VII. RESOLUTIONS

**Rule 23. Submission Of Working Papers, Draft Resolutions, and Amendments**
Working papers, draft resolutions, and amendments shall be submitted to the Director typed and with the proper number of signatures. (see Resolutions Submission Process.) The Chair may permit discussion and consideration of proposals and amendments once approved, even if the documents have not been circulated through the committee.

**Rule 24. Introducing Draft Resolutions**
Once a draft resolution has been approved by the Director and has been copied and distributed, a delegate may raise a motion to introduce the draft resolution, which is automatically approved and does not require a vote. The content of the introduction shall be limited to summarizing the operative clauses of the draft resolution. Such an introduction shall be considered procedural in nature, hence yields and comments are out of order. Additional questions and comments regarding the resolution are encouraged to be raised through the speakers list and yields.

**Rule 25. Amendments**
Both friendly and unfriendly amendments require the approval of the Chair. An amendment is considered friendly if all of the sponsors of the initial draft resolution are signatories of the amendment. Such an amendment is adopted automatically. Unfriendly amendments are a decision of the Committee. An unfriendly amendment must have the approval of the Director and the signatures by 20% of the committee. *Amendments to amendments are out of order.*

## VIII. VOTING

**Rule 26. Methods Of Decision**
All procedural decisions, except for the closure and adjournment of debate, shall be made by a simple majority of the delegations present. Delegations physically present in the committee may not abstain on procedural motions. Decisions on draft resolutions and amendments shall require a simple majority in favor. However, the passage of all resolutions and amendments in the Security Council requires nine affirmative votes and an affirmative vote or an abstention on the part of all permanent members (People's Republic of China, France, Russian Federation, United States of America and United Kingdom).

**Rule 27. Voting Rights**
Each present delegation shall have one vote. Observing nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) cannot vote on substantive matters. Each vote may be a Yes, No, or Abstain. On procedural motions, members may not abstain. *Members "present and voting" shall be defined as members casting an affirmative or negative vote (no abstentions) on all substantive votes.*

**Rule 28. Conduct While In Voting Procedure**
After the Chair has announced the beginning of voting, no representative may enter or leave the room, nor shall any representative interrupt the voting except on a Point of Personal Privilege, Point of Inquiry, or a Point of Order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Communication between delegates is strictly forbidden. A member of the staff shall secure the doors during voting procedure.

**Rule 29. Method Of Voting**
Delegations may vote in favor of or against a proposal or may abstain from voting. The committee shall normally vote by show of placards, but any delegate may request a roll call vote on substantive matters. The roll call vote shall be taken in alphabetical order of the English names of the countries present.

During a roll call vote, delegations may answer with an affirmative vote, a negative vote, an abstention (when appropriate) or may pass. Delegations passing in the first round of voting will be called upon alphabetically in a second round, at which time they may only answer with an affirmative or negative vote. Delegations that appear to be voting out of policy, while casting an affirmative or negative vote, may reserve the right to explain their vote by Voting with Rights. Delegations must announce that they are Voting with

Rights at the time they cast their vote. The Chair may permit delegations Voting with Rights to explain their votes after voting has concluded but before the decision has been announced.

**Rule 30. Order Of Draft Resolutions**
If two or more draft resolutions relate to the same question, the committee shall vote on the resolutions in the order in which they have been submitted.

**Rule 31. Voting On Unfriendly Amendments**
During the voting procedure on a substantive proposal, unfriendly amendments to a resolution shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are proposed to a resolution concurrently, the committee shall first vote on the amendment that creates the greatest change to the draft resolution, as deemed by the Chair, and then the amendment that creates the second greatest change to the resolution. This process continues until all amendments are voted upon. Where, however, the adoption of the amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment (as decided by the Chair), the latter amendment shall not be put to a vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. Amendment voting is a substantive procedure and adoption requires the simple majority consent of the delegations present.

**Rule 32. Passage Of Resolutions**
If a vote does not result in a simple majority* in favor, the resolution shall be regarded as rejected. A simple majority requires fifty percent of the members present during the last role call, plus one. Example: 99 members present requires 49.5 (50%) + 1= 50.5=51 affirmative votes.

**Exceptions*: The United Nations Security Council requires nine affirmative votes for the passage of resolutions and amendments. In addition to the nine affirmative votes, an affirmative vote or an abstention on the part of all permanent members (People's Republic of China, France, Russian Federation, United States of America and United Kingdom) is required for the passage of all resolutions and amendments.

## IX. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

**Rule 33. Suspension Of The Rules**
These rules may only be suspended following a majority vote.  Any motion to suspend the rules is subject to the Chair’s discretion.

## Committee Overview: The Role of the FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized United Nations agency leading international efforts to defeat hunger. Its core mandate is to achieve food security for all, ensuring people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. The FAO plays a critical role in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) by serving as a custodian for key global indicators, tracking progress on hunger, food security, and sustainable agriculture. It does not work alone; it coordinates with a wide range of partners, including the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), to provide comprehensive support to countries. Its current strategic framework is built on the "Four Betters": Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment, and a Better Life, guiding all its work towards more efficient, inclusive, and sustainable agri-food systems.

## Why Food Systems Transformation Matters

Our current global food systems are failing to nourish everyone. While they produce enough food, over 735 million people face hunger, and billions more suffer from malnutrition—a "double burden" that includes both undernourishment and diet-related diseases like obesity. An innovative and sustainable food system is one that solves these problems by not only producing enough food but also ensuring it is nutritious, accessible to all, and produced in a way that protects the environment for future generations. This requires looking at the entire system through a "lens," from how food is farmed, processed, and stored to how it is distributed, sold, consumed, and how waste is handled. By making each step more resilient and efficient, we can combat hunger, improve nutrition, and build resilience against climate shocks.

## Some key terms that you need to know

**Category 1: Core Concepts**

**1. Food System**

- **Definition:** The entire interconnected web of activities, resources, and people involved in producing, processing, transporting, distributing, marketing, consuming, and disposing of food.
- It's the complete journey of food from the farm to your fork—and even what happens to the leftovers. A sustainable food system is one that does this in a way that is fair, healthy, and doesn't harm the environment.

**2. Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture**

- **Definition:** An approach to farming that deliberately considers and integrates nutritional outcomes into agricultural policies, projects, and investments.
- It’s not just about growing more food (quantity); it's about growing *better*, more nutritious food (quality). It asks: "How can we grow a variety of crops that will improve the health of the people eating them, especially vulnerable groups like children and pregnant women?"

**3. The Double Burden of Malnutrition**

- **Definition:** The co-existence of undernutrition (like stunting and wasting) alongside overweight, obesity, and other diet-related non-communicable diseases (like diabetes) within the same population, household, or even individual.
- This is the paradox where a community can simultaneously have people who don't have enough food to be healthy and people who have too much of the wrong kinds of food, leading to different health problems. It shows that the problem isn't just a lack of calories, but a lack of *nutritious* calories.

**Category 2: Farming & Production Methods**

**4. Agroecology**

- **Definition:** A holistic approach to agriculture that applies ecological concepts and principles to farming. It emphasizes working with nature, enhancing biodiversity, and recycling resources.

- Farming like an ecosystem. Instead of relying on synthetic chemicals, it uses natural processes—like planting a variety of crops together to control pests, using compost to fertilize soil, and integrating trees and animals into the farm. It focuses on long-term sustainability and farmer knowledge.

**5. Regenerative Agriculture**

- **Definition:** A system of farming principles that seeks to rehabilitate and enhance the entire ecosystem of the farm by placing a heavy focus on soil health.
- It goes beyond sustainable ("do no harm") to regenerative ("make it better"). The main goal is to put more nutrients and organic matter *back* into the soil than it takes out, often by using methods like no-till farming, cover crops, and rotating livestock. Healthy soil stores carbon, holds water, and grows more nutritious food.

**6. Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)**

- **Definition:** An integrated approach that helps to transform agri-food systems towards green and climate resilient practices. It has three main goals:
    1. **Productivity:** Sustainably increasing agricultural yields.
    2. **Adaptation:** Helping farmers build resilience to climate impacts (e.g., drought, floods).
    3. **Mitigation:** Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture where possible.
- Farming in a way that prepares for and survives climate change while also trying to minimize farming's contribution to it.

**7. Sustainable Intensification**

- **Definition:** Producing more food from the same area of land while reducing the negative environmental impacts.
- "Doing more with less." It means getting higher yields without clearing more forests, and using water, fertilizers, and energy more efficiently. It can involve both high-tech (precision agriculture) and low-tech (agroecology) solutions.

**Category 3: Nutrition & Health**

**8. Biofortification**

- **Definition:** The process of increasing the nutritional value of food crops through conventional plant breeding, modern biotechnology, or agronomic practices.
- Breeding crops to be more nutritious. Examples include breeding sweet potatoes to be high in Vitamin A or beans to be high in iron. It's a way to tackle "hidden hunger" (micronutrient deficiencies) by improving the staple foods people already eat.

**9. Fortification**

- **Definition:** The practice of deliberately adding micronutrients to food to improve its nutritional quality.
- Adding vitamins and minerals to commonly eaten foods during processing. A common example is adding iodine to salt, iron to wheat flour, or vitamins to milk. It's a public health strategy to ensure populations get essential nutrients.

**10. Dietary Diversity**

- **Definition:** Eating a wide variety of foods across and within different food groups (e.g., fruits, vegetables, grains, protein sources).
- "Eating the rainbow." A diverse diet is a key indicator of good nutrition and health because it ensures you get a wide range of essential nutrients. Lack of dietary diversity is a major cause of malnutrition.

**Category 4: Supply Chain & Technology**

**11. Food Loss vs. Food Waste**

- **Food Loss:** Occurs early in the supply chain during production, post-harvest, processing, and distribution stages. It's often due to financial, technical, or logistical constraints (e.g., lack of storage, poor infrastructure, spoilage).
- **Food Waste:** Occurs later in the chain, at the retail and consumer levels. It's when food is thrown away by shops because it's not sold in time or by consumers in homes and restaurants.
- Food is **lost** on the farm and on the way to market. Food is **wasted** in stores and in our kitchens.

**12. Sustainable Cold Chains**

- **Definition:** A temperature-controlled supply chain that uses energy-efficient and environmentally friendly refrigeration technologies to keep food fresh from farm to market without contributing significantly to climate change.
- A "green" refrigerated network that prevents food from spoiling without using huge amounts of energy or harmful coolants. This is crucial for reducing food loss, especially in hot countries.

**13. Digital Advisory Services**

- **Definition:** The use of digital tools (like mobile phones, SMS, apps, and interactive voice response) to deliver timely information and advice to farmers.
- Farmers getting advice on their phones. This can include weather forecasts, market prices for their crops, tips on pest control, and information on new farming techniques, helping them make better decisions.

**14. Precision Agriculture**

- **Definition:** A farming management concept that uses technology like GPS, sensors, and data analytics to observe, measure, and respond to variability in fields.
- Farming with extreme accuracy. Instead of watering or fertilizing a whole field the same way, precision agriculture allows farmers to apply the exact right amount of water, fertilizer, or pesticide exactly where it's needed, saving resources and money.

**Category 5: Finance & Support**

**15. Blended Finance**

- **Definition:** The strategic use of development finance from public or philanthropic sources to mobilize private capital for projects that have social and environmental benefits.
- Using public or donor money to reduce the risk for private companies to invest in important but risky projects—like building a food processing plant in a rural area. The public money "crowds in" the private investment.

**16. Social Protection**

- **Definition:** Policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability by providing support to poor families.
- Safety nets. In the context of food systems, this includes programs like:
    - **Cash Transfers:** Giving money to poor families so they can afford to buy food.
    - **School Feeding:** Providing meals at school, which improves nutrition and encourages attendance.
    - **Food Vouchers:** Vouchers that can be exchanged for specific nutritious foods.

## The Problem: A System Under Strain

Our global food system is like a complex machine that is being pushed to its breaking point. It is strained by interconnected crises that create a vicious cycle, making it increasingly difficult to feed a growing population nutritiously and sustainably. The core issues can be broken down into four key areas:

**1. The Human Crisis: Persistent Hunger and Malnutrition**

Despite producing enough food to feed the world, our system fails to distribute it equitably or nutritiously.

- **Rising Hunger:** After decades of decline, global hunger is on the rise. Conflicts, economic shocks, and climate extremes have pushed millions back into food insecurity. People may have food to eat, but not enough to lead an active, healthy life.
- **The "Double Burden" of Malnutrition:** This is one of the system's greatest paradoxes. It refers to the co-existence of:
    - **Undernutrition:** This includes hunger (not enough calories), stunting (impaired growth and brain development in children due to chronic malnutrition), and wasting (low weight for height, often due to acute food shortages or disease).

- **Overnutrition:** This includes overweight and obesity, often linked to diets high in processed foods, sugars, and unhealthy fats, which lead to a rise in diet-related diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and some cancers.
- **Micronutrient Deficiencies ("Hidden Hunger"):** Even when people get enough calories, they may lack essential vitamins and minerals (like iron, vitamin A, and zinc). This weakens immune systems, impairs cognitive development, and reduces productivity, affecting billions of people.

This double burden means a country can have high rates of child stunting and high rates of adult obesity at the same time, placing an immense strain on healthcare systems and hindering economic development.

**2. The Environmental Crisis: The Planet's Resources Are Stretched Thin**

The way we produce food is a primary driver of environmental degradation.

- **Climate Change:** The food system is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions through deforestation for farmland, methane from livestock and rice paddies, and nitrous oxide from fertilizers. In turn, climate change punishes farmers with more frequent and intense droughts, floods, heatwaves, and unpredictable growing seasons, reducing yields and threatening harvests.
- **Biodiversity Loss:** Industrial agriculture often relies on monocultures (vast fields of a single crop), which destroy natural habitats. This loss of biodiversity makes the entire system more vulnerable to pests and diseases. The decline of pollinators, like bees, further threatens crop production.
- **Resource Depletion:** Agriculture uses over 70% of the world's freshwater, often inefficiently, leading to water scarcity. Soil is being eroded and degraded at an alarming rate due to intensive farming practices, losing its fertility and ability to grow food.
- **Pollution:** Runoff from fertilizers and pesticides contaminates rivers, lakes, and oceans, creating dead zones and harming aquatic life.

In essence, we are undermining the very natural resources—stable climate, fertile soil, fresh water, and biodiversity—that our food production depends on.

**3. The Social and Economic Crisis: Inequality and Fragility**

The system is plagued by deep inequalities that leave the most vulnerable people at risk.

- **Poverty and Access:** The root cause of hunger is often not a lack of food, but a lack of access. Millions of people cannot afford a healthy diet because they are poor, unemployed, or paid too little. The high cost of nutritious foods like fruits, vegetables, and proteins puts them out of reach for many families.
- **Vulnerability of Smallholder Farmers:** Many of the world's poorest people are small-scale farmers who themselves struggle with hunger. They often lack access to credit, land rights, modern technology, and fair markets. A single bad harvest or a drop in market prices can be catastrophic for them.
- **Gender Inequality:** Women make up nearly half of the agricultural labor force in many developing countries but have less access to land, loans, and education than men. Closing this gender gap is essential for improving productivity and food security.
- **Fragile Supply Chains:** Many countries depend on imports for a significant portion of their food. When conflict, pandemics, or trade disputes disrupt global supply chains, as seen recently, food prices can skyrocket, leading to crisis and instability in import-dependent nations.

**4. The Systemic Failure: Inefficiency and Policy Gaps**

The system itself is incredibly wasteful and poorly supported by policy.

- **Massive Food Loss and Waste:** An estimated **one-third** of all food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted. In developing countries, food is often **lost** early in the chain due to a lack of infrastructure like roads, storage, and refrigeration. In wealthy nations, food is **wasted** at the retail and consumer level. This is not just a waste of food, but a waste of all the land, water, and energy that went into producing it.
- **Policy Fragmentation and Harmful Subsidies:** Government policies are often disconnected. Agricultural subsidies frequently incentivize the mass production of staple grains (like corn and wheat) rather than a diverse range of nutritious foods. There is a critical lack of coordination between agriculture, health, environment, and trade ministries.
- **Underinvestment in Innovation:** There is a significant funding gap for research and development in sustainable agriculture and nutrition, particularly for crops grown by

smallholders in developing countries. Promising innovations often fail to reach the farmers who need them most due to weak infrastructure and support systems.

**The global food system is under strain because it is simultaneously inefficient, unequal, and environmentally destructive.** It fails to get nutritious food to the people who need it, while its methods of production are degrading the planet's health and its economic structures are failing the people who work within it. Addressing one problem in isolation is insufficient; a holistic transformation of the entire system is urgently needed.

## The Global Response: The SDGs and the FAO's Plan

The problems facing our food systems are huge, but the world has not stood by idly. A powerful global framework exists to tackle these challenges, combining a shared vision (the SDGs) with a concrete action plan led by organizations like the FAO.

### The Shared Vision: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Imagine the SDGs as the world's shared to-do list for creating a better future by 2030. They are 17 goals that address everything from poverty and education to climate and peace. **Goal 2: Zero Hunger** is the direct target, but it's deeply connected to many others, showing that you can't fix hunger in isolation.

- **SDG 2: Zero Hunger:** The main goal. It aims to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- **The Connections (How it links to other goals):**
    - **SDG 3 (Good Health):** You can't be healthy without good nutrition. Fighting malnutrition fights disease.
    - **SDG 6 (Clean Water):** Agriculture uses most of our freshwater. We need to farm in ways that save water.
    - **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption):** This is about reducing food waste and creating sustainable supply chains.
    - **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** Climate change hurts farmers. Sustainable farming can help fight climate change.

- **SDGs 14 & 15 (Life Below Water & Life on Land):** This means protecting our oceans from overfishing and our land from deforestation for farming.
- **SDG 17 (Partnerships):** No one country or group can do this alone. We need to work together.

**In simple terms:** The SDGs recognize that solving hunger is tied to improving health, protecting the environment, and creating fair economies.

**The FAO's Action Plan: The Strategic Framework 2022-2031**

If the SDGs are the destination, the FAO's Strategic Framework is the roadmap to get there. It's built on a simple but powerful idea: the **"Four Betters."**

**1. Better Production:**

- **Goal:** Produce more food without harming the environment.
- **How?** By promoting efficient, innovative, and resilient farming practices. This includes:
  - **Climate-Smart Agriculture:** Helping farmers adapt to droughts and floods.
  - **Digital Innovation:** Using apps to give farmers weather alerts and market prices.
  - **Reducing Food Loss:** Building better storage facilities so food doesn't spoil after harvest.

**2. Better Nutrition:**

- **Goal:** Ensure everyone has access to healthy diets, not just calories.
- **How?** By making nutritious food available, affordable, and safe. This includes:
  - **Promoting Diverse Diets:** Encouraging people to grow and eat a variety of foods (fruits, vegetables, pulses) instead of just staples like rice and corn.
  - **Biofortification:** Supporting crops that are naturally bred to be more nutritious (e.g., vitamin-A-rich sweet potatoes).
  - **Food Safety:** Strengthening systems to ensure food is free from contamination.

**3. Better Environment:**

- **Goal:** Protect and restore our planet while producing food.
- **How?** By making farming a part of the environmental solution. This includes:
    - **Agroecology:** Farming in ways that work with nature, not against it.
    - **Restoring Soil and Forests:** Helping farmers improve soil health and stop deforestation.
    - **Protecting Biodiversity:** conserving different species of crops and animals.

**4. Better Life:**

- **Goal:** Reduce poverty and inequality so that everyone benefits.
- **How?** By focusing on the people who are most vulnerable. This includes:
    - **Supporting Small-Scale Farmers:** Helping them get access to loans, land, and technology.
    - **Empowering Women:** Ensuring female farmers have the same resources as men.
    - **Inclusive Growth:** Creating jobs and opportunities in rural areas.

**Turning Plans into Action: Key Initiatives**

The FAO doesn't just make plans; it launches real-world programs. Here are two key examples:

- **OCOP (One Country One Priority Product):**
    - **What it is:** A program that helps individual countries focus on developing one special agricultural product that is unique to them or has high potential.
    - **How it works:** For example, a country might choose its unique variety of mango, quinoa, or coffee. The FAO then helps that country build the entire value chain for that product—from teaching farmers how to grow it sustainably, to helping them process it, market it, and sell it internationally.
    - **The Goal:** To reduce poverty, fight hunger, and promote sustainable farming by creating a high-value, "signature" product for a country.
- **Atoms4Food (with the International Atomic Energy Agency - IAEA):**

- **What it is:** A surprising but powerful partnership that uses nuclear science to improve food and farming.
- **How it works:**
  - **Plant Mutation Breeding:** Using radiation to create new, stronger crop varieties that are more resistant to drought or disease.
  - **Food Safety:** Using nuclear techniques to track and control pests and contaminants, ensuring food is safe to eat.
  - **Water Management:** Using isotopes to measure how much water a plant is using, helping farmers irrigate more efficiently.
- **The Goal:** To use cutting-edge science to create more resilient crops and ensure food safety.

**The global response is a coordinated effort. The SDGs provide the ultimate vision of a world without hunger. The FAO's Four Betters provide a practical blueprint for how to get there by transforming every part of the food system—from how we farm, to what we eat, to how we treat our planet and each other.** Initiatives like OCOP and Atoms4Food are the on-the-ground projects that bring this transformation to life.

## Regional Perspectives on Food Systems

While the global goals are unified, the path to achieving them must be tailored to the distinct environmental, economic, and social realities of each region. A one-size-fits-all approach would fail; what works in a water-scarce desert will not work on a flood-prone island.

**Africa: Building Resilience and Reducing Losses**

Africa's vast agricultural potential is challenged by high climate vulnerability and infrastructural gaps. The primary focus is on building resilience from the ground up.

- **Challenge: Climate Vulnerability:** Many African economies are heavily reliant on rain-fed agriculture, making them extremely susceptible to droughts and erratic rainfall patterns caused by climate change.

- **Solution - Climate Adaptation:** Efforts are centered on helping farmers adapt. This includes promoting **drought-tolerant crop varieties** (e.g., maize, millet), implementing **water harvesting** and small-scale **irrigation schemes** to conserve water, and adopting **conservation agriculture** techniques that protect soil health.
- **Challenge: Post-Harvest Losses:** A significant amount of food is lost after harvest due to a lack of storage facilities, poor transportation infrastructure, and limited access to processing.
- **Solution - Reducing Losses:** Investments are being made in building **granaries and cold storage units**, often powered by renewable energy. There's also a push to create local processing centers that can turn raw crops into more stable products (e.g., turning tomatoes into paste), which reduces waste and adds value for farmers.

**Asia & the Pacific: Boosting Productivity and Diversifying Diets**

This region is home to the majority of the world's smallholder farmers and faces intense pressure to feed huge populations with limited land resources.

- **Challenge: Smallholder Productivity:** Many farmers work on very small plots of land, often with low yields. The goal is to help them produce more food from the same land sustainably.
- **Solution - Sustainable Intensification:** This involves providing access to **improved seeds**, **organic fertilizers**, and **digital advisory services** delivered via mobile phones. The aim is to increase productivity without expanding into forests or overusing chemicals.
- **Challenge: Dietary Monotony:** Diets are often heavily reliant on a single staple crop, like rice, leading to micronutrient deficiencies ("hidden hunger").
- **Solution - Promoting Diversity:** Initiatives encourage farmers to practice **home gardening** of nutritious vegetables and fruits and to integrate **small livestock** (like chickens or fish) into their farming systems. There is also a strong focus on **biofortification**, such as promoting zinc-rich rice or iron-rich beans, to directly tackle nutrient deficiencies.

**Latin America & the Caribbean: Linking Local Farms to Social Programs**

This region is characterized by a stark paradox: it is a global agricultural powerhouse, yet it suffers from high levels of inequality and malnutrition.

- **Challenge: Inequality and Malnutrition:** The double burden of malnutrition is severe, with undernutrition coexisting with one of the world's highest rates of overweight and obesity.
- **Solution - Home-Grown School Feeding:** A standout innovation is the robust **school feeding programs** that are mandated by law in many countries. The key is that they **source food directly from local family farmers**. This creates a "win-win-win": children get fresh, nutritious meals; small-scale farmers gain a stable market and income; and local economies are strengthened. This model directly connects agricultural policy with health and social protection goals.

**Near East & North Africa: Innovating in the Face of Scarcity**

This is the most water-scarce region in the world, making traditional agriculture incredibly challenging and forcing a focus on efficiency and innovation.

- **Challenge: Extreme Water Scarcity:** Farming competes with growing urban populations for every drop of water. Overuse of groundwater and climate change are exacerbating the problem.
- **Solution - High-Efficiency Tech:** The region is a leader in adopting technologies like **drip irrigation**, which delivers water directly to plant roots, minimizing waste. There is also research into **saline agriculture** (growing crops that tolerate saltwater) and **desert agriculture** using hydroponics.
- **Challenge: Food Loss in Hot Climates:** High temperatures cause food, particularly perishables like fruits and vegetables, to spoil quickly after harvest.
- **Solution - Solar-Powered Cold Chains:** To combat this, there is a major push to develop **solar-powered cold storage** and refrigeration units. This renewable energy solution prevents spoilage without relying on an unreliable electricity grid, ensuring farmers can get their produce to market.

**Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Securing Nutrition from the Ocean**

For island nations, the ocean is central to life, culture, and food security, but they are on the front lines of climate change.

- **Challenge: Climate Resilience & Import Dependency:** SIDS are highly vulnerable to sea-level rise, coral bleaching, and extreme weather events like hurricanes. They often depend heavily on expensive imported processed foods, which contributes to poor health outcomes.
- **Solution - Protecting Marine Resources:** A critical focus is on **sustainable fisheries management** to protect coral reefs and fish stocks—their primary source of protein and livelihood. This includes creating protected areas and supporting local, small-scale fishers.
- **Solution - Building Resilient Supply Chains:** Efforts are made to strengthen local food production (e.g., root crops, coconuts) and create **climate-resilient supply chains**. This includes improving infrastructure like ports and storage to withstand storms and ensure a steady supply of food, even after a disaster.

## Who is Involved? Key Stakeholders

Transforming our global food system is a monumental task that cannot be achieved by any single group. It requires a coordinated orchestra of actors, each playing a distinct but essential part. Success depends on collaboration between governments who set the rules, those who work the land, those who drive innovation, and those who represent the voices of the people.

### 1. National and Local Governments: The Architects and Rule-Setters

Governments hold the primary responsibility for creating the environment in which transformation can occur. They are the architects who design the blueprint for a better food system.

- **Policy Coherence:** Their most crucial role is to break down silos. The agriculture ministry must work with the health ministry to ensure policies promote nutritious food, with the environment ministry to protect natural resources, and with the finance ministry to create supportive budgets and taxes. Inconsistent policies (e.g., subsidizing sugar production while running campaigns against diabetes) hinder progress.
- **Incentives and Regulation:** Governments use their power to steer behavior. This can include **subsidies** that support sustainable farming practices instead of harmful ones, **taxes** on sugary drinks, **regulations** on food safety and labeling, and **public**

**procurement policies** that mandate schools and hospitals to buy healthy food from local farmers.

- **Investment in Public Goods:** They are responsible for funding the infrastructure that private actors won't, such as rural roads, irrigation systems, electrical grids, and national research institutions.

**2. Farmers, Fishers, and Pastoralists: The Ground-Level Implementers**

These are the people on the front lines, managing the world's natural resources to feed the population. Their active participation and buy-in are non-negotiable for any successful change.

- **Adoption of Practices:** They are the ultimate adopters of new technologies and sustainable practices. Whether it's switching to drought-resistant seeds, reducing pesticide use, or building soil health, the transition happens on their land.
- **Co-Creation of Knowledge:** Farmers are not just recipients of knowledge; they are innovators themselves. Their practical, traditional knowledge about local conditions is vital for developing solutions that actually work. **Farmer organizations and cooperatives** are essential for aggregating their voices, sharing knowledge, and gaining access to markets and finance.
- **Stewards of the Land:** As the managers of vast tracts of land and coastal areas, their daily decisions directly impact biodiversity, water quality, and carbon sequestration.

**3. The Private Sector: The Engine of Investment and Innovation**

This group includes everyone from large multinational corporations to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and local shopkeepers. They are critical for scaling solutions and driving efficiency.

- **Investment and Innovation:** Large companies invest in research and development for everything from climate-resilient seeds to sustainable packaging and plant-based proteins. Agri-tech startups develop digital platforms, precision farming tools, and mobile payment systems.
- **Inclusive Value Chains:** The private sector builds the supply chains that connect farmers to consumers. They can make these chains more inclusive by sourcing from smallholders, offering fair prices, and providing training and financing. Supermarkets and food brands influence consumer choices through marketing and product placement.

- **Risk and Scale:** They have the capital and capacity to take risks and scale up successful innovations that are too large for governments or small farmers to manage alone, such as building large-scale food processing plants or renewable energy-powered cold storage networks.

**4. Researchers and Academia: The Source of Discovery and Evidence**

This community provides the scientific backbone for transformation. They are the source of new ideas and the evaluators of what works.

- **Technology Development:** Researchers in universities and international centers (like CGIAR) develop new technologies—high-yielding, nutritious crop varieties, vaccines for livestock, sustainable farming techniques, and food processing methods.
- **Data and Analysis:** They study the complex interactions within food systems, model the impacts of climate change, and analyze the economic and nutritional outcomes of different policies. This evidence is crucial for governments and businesses to make informed decisions.
- **Independent Validation:** Academia plays a key role in independently monitoring progress and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions, ensuring that stakeholders are held accountable to scientific evidence.

**5. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): The Advocates and Watchdogs**

This diverse group includes non-profits, community-based organizations, advocacy groups, and international NGOs. They represent the voice of citizens and hold power to account.

- **Community Engagement and Accountability:** CSOs work directly with communities to ensure their needs are understood and addressed. They advocate for the rights of the poor, the hungry, and marginalized groups like smallholder farmers, women, and indigenous peoples.
- **Holding Power to Account:** They act as watchdogs, monitoring government and corporate actions, exposing harmful practices, and lobbying for transparent and fair policies. They fight for issues like land rights, labor rights, and environmental protection.
- **Bridge-Building:** Often, CSOs act as crucial bridges between communities, governments, and researchers, facilitating dialogue and ensuring that top-down policies

are informed by bottom-up realities. They also often pilot innovative community-based models that can then be scaled by governments.

In essence, transforming the food system is a team effort. **Governments set the rules of the game, farmers play the game, the private sector provides the equipment, researchers are the coaches developing the strategy, and civil society ensures the game is fair and everyone has a chance to play.** Only when all these groups work in concert can we build a system that is sustainable, equitable, and nourishing for all.

## Challenges and Opportunities

The path to transforming our global food system is fraught with significant, interconnected obstacles. However, for every challenge, there are innovative and proven opportunities for solutions. Progress hinges on our ability to tackle these hurdles head-on by scaling up what already works.

### The Daunting Challenges

The barriers to creating a better food system are deeply rooted in economics, infrastructure, and inequality.

- **The High Cost of Healthy Diets:** For billions of people, a nutritious diet—rich in fruits, vegetables, proteins, and whole grains—is simply unaffordable. This is often because nutrient-dense foods are more expensive to produce, transport, and store than calorie-dense staple crops like rice, corn, and wheat. As a result, poverty forces families into choosing cheaper, less healthy options, fueling the global crisis of malnutrition in all its forms.
- **The Infrastructure Gap: Storage and Refrigeration:** A massive amount of food is lost after harvest, particularly in developing countries. This is primarily due to a lack of basic infrastructure like reliable roads, energy-efficient storage facilities, and continuous cold chains (refrigerated storage and transport). Without this infrastructure, perishable foods like fruits, vegetables, and dairy products spoil before they can reach markets. This loss represents wasted resources, higher prices for consumers, and lost income for farmers.

- **The "Last-Mile" Technology Problem:** While amazing new agricultural technologies are constantly being developed, they often fail to reach the smallholder farmers who need them most. This "last-mile" gap exists because these farmers may lack the capital to buy new tools, the education to use them, the internet connectivity to access digital services, or the awareness that they exist. This disconnect means that transformative innovations frequently benefit only the largest and wealthiest farms, leaving behind the majority of the world's food producers.

**The Proven Opportunities**

Thankfully, solutions to these challenges are not just theoretical; they are being successfully implemented around the world.

- **Linking Social Protection to Local Farmers:** This is a powerful "win-win" solution. Programs like **school feeding** and **food vouchers** can be designed to source their food from local, small-scale farmers. This creates a guaranteed market for the farmers, providing them with a stable income. Simultaneously, it ensures that vulnerable populations, especially children, receive fresh, nutritious, and locally-produced food. This approach strengthens local economies and builds a more resilient food supply chain from the ground up.
- **Reforming Agricultural Subsidies:** Currently, a large portion of global agricultural subsidies inadvertently supports the production of staple commodities, sugars, and fats, which keeps unhealthy calories cheap. There is a major opportunity to **redirect these financial incentives** to support the production of diverse, nutrient-dense foods like fruits, vegetables, nuts, and legumes. Subsidies can also be reformed to reward farmers for adopting sustainable practices that protect soil, save water, and reduce emissions, making environmental health a profitable choice.
- **Leveraging Digital Tools for Advice and Access:** Mobile technology has become a game-changer for reaching farmers directly. Even basic mobile phones can be used to deliver **digital advisory services**—sending farmers vital information on weather forecasts, optimal planting times, pest control, and market prices. Digital platforms can also connect them directly to buyers, provide access to mobile banking and micro-insurance, and deliver interactive training. This democratizes access to knowledge and financial tools, helping farmers increase their productivity and income.

- **Investing in Sustainable Energy:** Integrating renewable energy into agriculture solves multiple problems at once. **Solar-powered irrigation systems** can help farmers water their crops without relying on expensive or unreliable diesel fuel. **Solar-powered cold storage units** can operate off-grid, dramatically reducing post-harvest losses of perishable goods and allowing farmers to sell their produce when prices are most favorable. Using sustainable energy for food processing (like solar dryers) further adds value and reduces waste, making the entire system more efficient and less dependent on fossil fuels.

While the challenges of cost, infrastructure, and access are immense, the opportunities are tangible and actionable. By strategically connecting social programs to local food producers, shifting financial incentives toward health and sustainability, harnessing the power of digital connectivity, and powering the system with clean energy, we can build a food system that is truly nourishing for both people and the planet.

## Guiding Questions for Delegates

These questions are designed to spark critical thinking and help delegates grapple with the core tensions in food systems transformation. There are no easy answers, and effective policy will require balancing these competing interests.

**1. How can we make healthy food more affordable for consumers while ensuring farmers earn a good living?**

- **The Challenge:** This is the fundamental paradox. If healthy food (like fruits and vegetables) is expensive for consumers, it often means the farmer isn't being paid enough to cover the higher costs and risks of producing it. Squeezing farmer profits to lower consumer prices is not a sustainable solution.
- **Paths to Explore:**
    - **Increase Efficiency:** Can we reduce the costs of production and distribution through better technology and infrastructure, so that more of the consumer's dollar reaches the farmer?

- **Value-Based Pricing:** Can we create markets where consumers are willing to pay a premium for food that is both nutritious *and* sustainably produced, with that premium going directly to the farmer?
- **Targeted Subsidies:** Should subsidies be shifted from staple commodities to nutrient-dense crops, lowering the price for consumers while ensuring farmers are supported?
- **Direct Support:** Should governments provide vouchers or cash transfers to low-income families specifically for purchasing healthy food, thus boosting demand without cutting into farmer income?

**2. What is the best way to finance new infrastructure, like cold storage, in developing countries?**

- **The Challenge:** The high upfront cost and perceived risk of investing in rural infrastructure like cold storage often deter private investment. Governments in developing countries may also lack the public funds.
- **Paths to Explore:**
  - **Blended Finance:** Can public development funds or donor money be used to de-risk the project for private investors? For example, a government might provide a partial guarantee or a grant to build the facility, while a private company operates it.
  - **Cooperatives:** Can smallholder farmers form cooperatives to collectively invest in and own shared cold storage facilities, perhaps with the help of a low-interest loan?
  - **Pay-for-Success Models:** Can financing be tied to outcomes? For instance, an investor gets repaid based on the measured reduction in food loss or the increase in farmer income generated by the cold storage.

**3. How can we ensure food safety standards protect consumers without making it impossible for small farmers to sell their goods?**

- **The Challenge:** Strict, complex food safety regulations are often designed for large corporations. Small farmers may lack the knowledge, resources, or scale to comply with costly certification processes, freezing them out of formal markets like supermarkets.

- **Paths to Explore:**
    - **Tiered Standards:** Can we create different levels of compliance? For instance, simpler, risk-based standards for selling in local markets and more rigorous standards for export?
    - **Group Certification:** Can smallholders organize into groups to be certified together, sharing the cost and burden of compliance?
    - **Technical Assistance:** Can government extension services or NGOs provide direct training and support to help small farmers understand and meet basic food safety requirements?

**4. How do we balance the need to produce more food with the urgent need to protect the environment?**

- **The Challenge:** The old model of increasing production by clearing more land and using more chemicals is environmentally destructive. We must now produce more without further degrading our natural resources.
- **Paths to Explore:**
    - **Sustainable Intensification:** How can we promote practices that increase yields *on existing farmland* through better soil health, precision agriculture, and integrated pest management?
    - **Shift Diets:** Could reducing the demand for resource-intensive foods (e.g., meat) in some regions free up agricultural capacity and reduce environmental pressure?
    - **Payment for Ecosystem Services:** Can we pay farmers not just for the food they produce, but for the environmental benefits they provide, such as carbon sequestration in soils or protecting watersheds?

## Possible Areas for Action: From Ideas to Resolutions

Delegates should frame their resolutions (if they plan to come up with one) around concrete, actionable policies. Here is a deeper dive into what each action could entail:

**1. Creating national plans with clear targets for reducing food loss and waste.**

- **Action:** A resolution could call for member states to establish a **National Food Loss & Waste Reduction Strategy** with a measurable target (e.g., "Reduce food loss and waste by 50% by 2030").
- **Components:** This strategy would include: i) research to identify "hotspot" areas in the supply chain, ii) investment in infrastructure (e.g., cold storage), iii) public awareness campaigns, and iv) policies to facilitate food donation.

**2. Scaling up programs that get nutritious, biofortified foods into school meals.**

- **Action:** A resolution could encourage countries to **integrate biofortified crops** (e.g., vitamin A maize, iron-rich beans) into their national school feeding procurement guidelines.
- **Impact:** This simultaneously tackles child malnutrition, creates a predictable market for farmers growing these nutritious crops, and drives demand for their seeds.

**3. Using public procurement to buy healthy food from local smallholders.**

- **Action:** A resolution could propose that a **minimum percentage** of food for public institutions (schools, hospitals, government offices) must be sourced locally from small-scale producers, with a focus on nutritious foods.
- **Mechanism:** This would require simplifying bidding processes for smallholders, allowing them to form associations to bid for contracts, and providing them with the necessary training to meet quality standards.

**4. Investing in digital platforms that provide farmers with crucial information.**

- **Action:** A resolution could call for funding and support for **national digital extension platforms**.
- **Functionality:** These platforms would deliver personalized advice via SMS or apps on weather, pest outbreaks, sustainable farming practices, and real-time market prices, ensuring even remote farmers have access to vital knowledge.

**5. Reforming agricultural subsidies to support environmentally friendly and nutritious farming.**

- **Action:** A resolution could urge a systematic **review and redirecting of harmful subsidies**.
- **New Focus:** Subsidies would be shifted from supporting only staple crop production to incentivizing: i) crop diversification (e.g., growing vegetables and pulses), ii) adoption of agroecological practices (e.g., cover cropping, organic amendments), and iii) conservation of natural habitats on farms.

**HAPPY RESEARCHING!**