



# AFRICAN UNION (AU)

## Addressing the issue of food security and agriculture in Africa

**Director:** Matteo Salazar

**Moderator:** Dany Ramirez

**Secretary :** Juan Gonzalez

### DESCRIPTION OF COMMITTEE

The African Union, named as AU, is a continental union that is made up of 55 member states from the African continent. This committee was established on July 26, 2001, exactly in Durban, South Africa. It officially was created in 2002 and was established with the intention to replace the Organization of African Unity (OAU). 32 leaders of independent African nations gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May 1963 to sign the charter starting off the OAU, the ambitions of the African people were freedom, justice, equality, and dignity. In a normal session, the African Union provides for the General Assembly; at least once a year, this important session is held. The AU Commission, the Regional Mechanisms, and the heads of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) shall be present in a coordination meeting convened by the Assembly Bureau with the RECs. The Assembly also decided that external parties may only be invited to meetings in extraordinary situations and for a particular objective and that heads of state must be represented at summits by officials with at least the position of vice president, prime minister, or equivalent. Later, it was recommended that foreign ministers occasionally be included in conference participation levels.

### INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

The first thing you must know about this topic is food security; It is said to be in a state of food security when all individuals, always have physical, social, and economic access to an adequate supply of safe, nourishing food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. An estimated 140 million people in Africa face acute food insecurity. Africa's problems with food security are made worse by the war in Ukraine, the supply chain problems, and the drought. Governments in Africa are not as committed to investing in agriculture, particularly in extension services. The change of food systems, including how food is produced, traded, and consumed, must be given top priority.



## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE TOPIC**

Africa, sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), has for more than 10 years recorded steady economic growth since the advent of the new millennium. Despite this stellar economic growth, it faces challenges such as rapid population growth, persistent economic inequality, climate change threats, growth, youth unemployment, undernourishment, and food insecurity. Understanding the state food security in Africa, and addressing the above-mentioned challenges. Not doing so will forever make Africa fail to achieve sustainable economic development and create an inclusive shared-prosperity for its people. The African Union (AU), as well as respective national governments and regional organizations, and the international community at large, have in recent decades launched a multitude of policy initiatives aimed at addressing and tackling Africa's food insecurity and nutrition challenges. Despite those efforts and commitments by the disparate stakeholders, much remains to be done. This chapter presents Africa's food security and nutrition challenges and sheds light on the climate change threats and potential consequences of the rapid population growth on Africa's food security. The chapter concludes with policy recommendations and proposals and makes points about Africa's bright prospects if food security were to be achieved. The problem is deeply ingrained, and several factors can be linked to its roots. The following are some significant elements that have exacerbated the problems with food security in Africa. The Colonial History: Effects of colonialism still can be seen today in African agriculture. The colonial powers frequently organized economies to further their own objectives, which led to resource extraction without adequate support for regional agriculture. Climate change is a major problem because of unpredictable weather patterns, droughts, and floods that lower agricultural productivity, Africa is particularly sensitive to the effect of climate change. Population development. A lot of African nations are experiencing rapid population growth, which it has put tremendous strain on their agricultural systems and raised food demand

## **CURRENT SITUATION OF THE TOPIC**

In recent years, above 20 million citizens and an estimate of 10 million children faced harsh food shortages in Africa. This situation is due to crop collapse and several consecutive dry seasons. Independently, East Africa lost within reach of 2 million livestock in a year "due to recurrent drought and low response capacity." All over the continent, hunger is one of the causes of children's deaths. For example, communities in Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Nigeria are dealing with a severe and ongoing food crisis. This situation is affecting Africa really hard. In Somalia over 6 million people don't really have ingress to enough food. In some districts, the number of children dying is increasing. Some families are dealing with the situation of having to skip meals so that their kids get to eat well enough to grow strong and the healthiest they can be. There are many examples of sacrifices that parents make so that they can get extra money or enough basic supplies. In Africa, agriculture is one of the most important aspects for fostering economic growth, having less poverty, and having much better food security.



## **INTERNATIONAL ACTION OF THE TOPIC**

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) urged that an estimated 27.4 million people in southern Africa currently face food insecurity in the upcoming six months and announced the expansion of their operations to address the issue, which is brought on by poor harvests across the region. Regional thinking has successfully increased human security throughout the world. For instance, through cross-border cooperation, security issues relating to water quality, fisheries, and flooding in the Rhine River in Europe and Lake Uromiyeh in Iran both saw significant improvements. In the Asia region, the pandemics of SARS and avian flu were also jointly tackled.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CREATING A RESOLUTION**

Position papers will need to make resolutions based on a number of factors. Delegates should start by focusing on the primary issue and the existing context. Then, delegates must come up with global solutions to the problem, ones to which all nations can contribute. Consider methods that have been used in other nations as well as every factor that will make them feasible while trying to tackle this issue. Make sure to take into account solutions that keep all nations safe and secure. To ensure fair and honest voting, election supervision should be taken into account. Recall having a fallback strategy or a fix to aid with this issue. Having just one solution won't guarantee success, so make sure you have enough knowledge beforehand.

## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER (to create a Resolution)**

1. What is food security?
2. What is the main reason for this problem?
3. Are your solutions easy to implement worldwide?
4. Do you understand the problem with this topic?
5. Are your research sites trustworthy and have valuable information?
6. How has food security increased over the years in Africa?
7. What steps are being taken to help with food security?
8. What impact does food security have on the regions of Africa?
9. How has food security affected the death rate in Africa?
10. What ensures you that your country will be safe?



## **RESEARCH AID**

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/improving-food-security-africa.pdf>

<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2023/other-publications/food-insecurity-africa-drivers-and-solutions>

<https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/71718>

<https://africacenter.org/spotlight/conflict-remains-the-dominant-driver-of-africas-spiraling-food-crisis/>

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/improving-food-security-africa.pdf>

<https://agricultureandfoodsecurity.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/2048-7010-1-2>

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/food-security-strengthening-africas-food-systems/>

<https://au.int/en/commission>

## **TERMS AND CONCEPTS**

**Continental:** Relating to or characteristic of a continent.

**Ambitions:** Strong desires for success, power, or recognition.

**Acute:** Sudden, severe, and critical condition or situation.

**Nourishing:** Providing essential nutrients for growth and health.

**Foreign:** Of, from, in, or characteristic of a country or language other than one's own.

**Exacerbated:** Made worse or more severe.

**Ingrained:** Deeply established and difficult to change.

**Ingress:** Access or entry.



**Fostering:** Promoting or encouraging the development of.

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(No date) *Stats of the week: Food security in West Africa - OECD.* Available at:  
<https://www.oecd.org/statistics/stats-of-the-week-food-security-in-west-africa.htm> (Accessed: 10 October 2023).