

*Advancing global sustainable  
agricultural development*

## **Committee Guide**

*Food and Agricultural Organization*





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## Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates of the Food and Agriculture Organization,

my name is Wiebke Meißner and I am delighted to serve as a chair of this year's OLMUN conference. I am 18 years old and currently attending year eleven at the Gymnasium Bad Zwischenahn Edeweicht. Two years ago I was living as an exchange student in the United States. It is my first time chairing and my second OLMUN. Although I am not very experienced, the enthusiasm of most people involved in the OLMUN inspired me to apply as a chair this year. I am looking forward to the conference and hope we will all have a good time.

Besides school and the preparation for the conference, I am involved in unicycling, on the one hand teaching small children how to ride theirs and on the other hand practicing myself, and TEN SING, a choir of the YMCA.

Best wishes,  
Wiebke Meißner

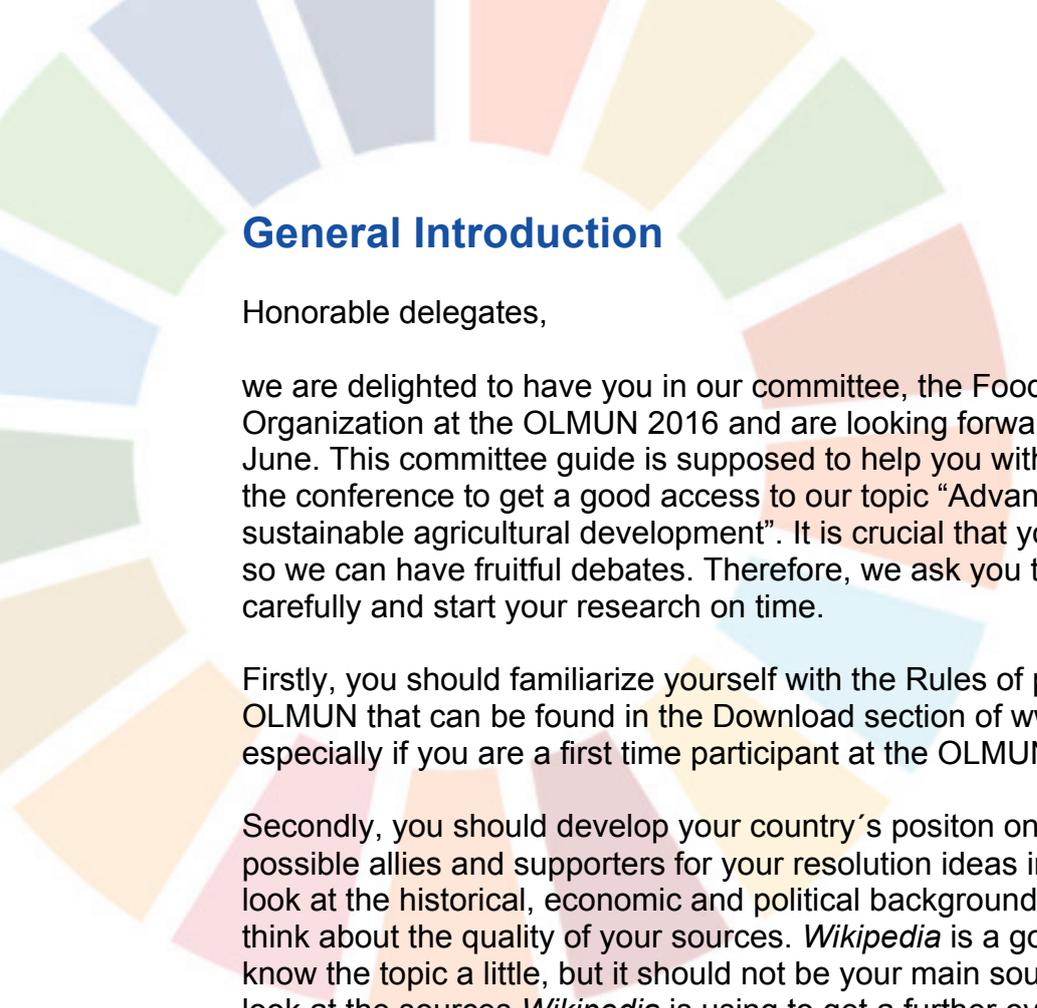


Dear delegates,

my name is Dominik Ulke and I am honored to be chairing this committee at OLMUN 2016. I am 19 years old and after graduating from the Altes Gymnasium Oldenburg in June 2015, I spend the last year in New Zealand to improve my English skills and to gain new experiences. Although this is my 5th OLMUN, it is my first time chairing a committee. After two stunning experiences when I was participating as staff and delegate there was no way back, I needed to join the Inner Circle. Last year I took over the position as Executive Administrative Officer and this year I am going to be a chair. The chance to be chairing the FAO is outstanding and I am really looking forward to this week with my co-chair Wiebke and all you delegates. I am pretty sure that after OLMUN 2016 you will all know why people keep telling you that they had four terrific days in Oldenburg.

Yours,  
Dominik Ulke





## General Introduction

Honorable delegates,

we are delighted to have you in our committee, the Food and Agricultural Organization at the OLMUN 2016 and are looking forward to seeing you in June. This committee guide is supposed to help you with the preparation for the conference to get a good access to our topic “Advancing global sustainable agricultural development”. It is crucial that you are well prepared so we can have fruitful debates. Therefore, we ask you to read the guide carefully and start your research on time.

Firstly, you should familiarize yourself with the Rules of procedure of the OLMUN that can be found in the Download section of [www.olmun.org](http://www.olmun.org), especially if you are a first time participant at the OLMUN.

Secondly, you should develop your country’s position on the topic. Keep possible allies and supporters for your resolution ideas in mind and take a look at the historical, economic and political background. You should also think about the quality of your sources. *Wikipedia* is a good start to get to know the topic a little, but it should not be your main source. We advise you to look at the sources *Wikipedia* is using to get a further overview over the topic and of course take a look at the sources we used.

We also ask you send us a policy statement via email ([fao@olmun.org](mailto:fao@olmun.org)) and to send it to us by **May 22<sup>nd</sup>**. You will receive feedback on it before the conference starts. Moreover, we ask you to prepare a draft resolution. Please send it to us as well before the conference.

Additionally, we would like you to prepare a little opening speech. There is no need to send it to us before, unless you want to receive feedback.

Always keep in mind that a good conference stands or falls by good preparation. The better you prepare the better our session and the more successful our debates will be!

If you have any questions regarding your research or the conference in general do not hesitate to contact us. We are more than happy to help you.

With warmest regards,

Wiebke Meißner

Dominik Ulke

## 1. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is a specialized agency that is engaged in the fight against hunger. It is aiming towards an elimination of food insecurity and malnutrition. Furthermore, it supports ways to make agriculture, fisheries and forestry more efficient and sustainable. In addition, it enables inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems and increases the resilience of livelihood to threats and crises.



In 1943 the idea of an international organization for food and agriculture emerged. After the revelation of new findings on poverty and nutrition in the 1930s, nutritionists were calling for increasing consumption while economists pushed for decreasing production. Convened by president Roosevelt, forty-four governments, meeting in Hot Springs, Virginia, the United States, committed themselves to founding a permanent organization for food and agriculture. The first session of the FAO Conference took place in Quebec City in 1945, Canada and established the FAO as a specialized United Nations agency. In 1951 the FAO headquarters decided to move from Washington, DC to Rome, Italy.

In 1960 the FAO launched the Freedom from Hunger campaign to mobilize non-governmental support. Two years later the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission established to set international food standards becomes operational. In Rome the UN World Food Conference recommends the adoption of an International Undertaking on World Food Security in 1974. Two years after that, the FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme established to afford greater flexibility in responding to urgent situations. The Eighth World Forestry Congress, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 1978, with the theme "Forests for people", has a profound impact on attitudes towards forestry development and FAO's work in this sector. In 1980 the organization concludes 56 agreements for the appointment of FAO Representatives in developing member countries. On October 16th 1981 the first World Food Day was observed by more than 150 countries. In 1986 AGROSTAT (now FAOSTAT), the world's most comprehensive source of agricultural information and statistics, becomes operational. Five years later the International Plant Protection Convention is ratified with 92 signatories.

In 1992 the FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) convoke the first global conference only debating on the world's nutrition problems, the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN). In 1994 the FAO launches the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), targeting low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCs). The Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES), strengthening the Organization's existing contribution to prevention, control and, when possible, eradication of diseases and pests, is established. Furthermore, the FAO begins the most significant restructuring since its founding to decentralize operations, streamline procedures and reduce costs.



Fifty years after its foundation, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries is adopted in October to provide a necessary framework for national and international efforts to ensure sustainable exploitation of aquatic living resources in harmony with the environment. In 1996 the FAO hosts 186 Heads of State or Government and other high officials at World Food Summit in November to discuss and combat world hunger. Heads of state and representatives adopt the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action. A year later it launches campaign against hunger initiative TeleFood. TeleFood '97 reaches a global audience of 500 million.

In 1999 the FAO's Committee on Fisheries adopts plans of action on fishing capacity, sharks and seabirds. FAO's Fisheries Agreement Register (FARISIS) is built that provides up to 34 descriptor fields for each record and contains information on 1,927 agreements dating back to the year 1351. In 2001 the FAO Conference adopts the legally binding International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which supports the work of breeders and farmers everywhere. One year later, the World Food Summit takes place. It is attended by delegations from 179 countries plus the European Commission, reaffirms the international community's commitment to reduce the number of the undernourished by half by 2015.

In 2004 the FAO announces the entering into force of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, an essential legally binding agreement that encourages sustainable agriculture through the equitable sharing of genetic material and its benefits among plant breeders, farmers and public and private research institutions. In the same year they facilitate the implementation of the International Year of Rice (IYR) to promote improved production and access to this crop which feeds more than half of the world's population whilst providing income for millions of rice producers, processors and traders. In 2006 the FAO unveils its high-tech Crisis Management Centre to fight bird flu and other animal health or food safety emergencies. In 2008 the FAO holds a high-level conference on 3–5 June on the impact of climate change and the biofuel boom on food security and food prices attended by 43 heads of state and 100 government ministers. In the same year they facilitate the "International Year of Potato". On November 16th-18th 2009 FAO holds a World Summit on Food Security to inject new urgency into the fight against hunger. In 2010 as a response to one of the worst floods ever to hit Pakistan that wiped out seed stores and killed millions of head of livestock, they distributed wheat seed to half a million farming families in time for the planting season.

In July 2011, the FAO declared a state of famine in two regions of Somalia and appealed for US\$120 million for response to the drought across the Horn of Africa. FAO Member countries elected José Graziano da Silva of Brazil as Director-General, to take office in January 2012. In a landmark decision the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) endorsed the new Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security on 11 May 2012.

FAO launched a major fund-raising campaign with the aim of securing USD 20 million to translate into action the guidelines, aimed at helping governments safeguard the rights of people to own or access land, forests and fisheries. For the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives, FAO took the lead and partnered with WFP and IFAD and others to help the focus on improving the lives of millions of smallholder farmers and their families.

In 2013 the United Nations General Assembly declares the “International Year of Quinoa” with FAO serving as the Secretariat of the IYQ, assisting the International Committee to coordinate the celebrations. Quinoa’s legacy is celebrated at headquarters with Peru and Bolivia during World Food Week. Also, this year a new partnership agreement is signed with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the world’s largest humanitarian network, to help improve food security and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities. FAO and the IFRC agree that FAO will provide technical guidance to complement IFRC’s extensive network of 13 million volunteers - who in turn reach some 150 million people - to assist poor households cope with threats and disasters that impact agriculture, food security and nutrition.

In 2014, during ICN2, FAO members, parliamentarians, members from civil society and private sector endorsed the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework of Action. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition enshrines the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, and commits governments to prevent malnutrition in all its forms. The Framework of Action recognizes that governments have the primary role and responsibility for addressing nutrition issues and challenges.

## 2. What is sustainable agriculture development?

In general, sustainability is the aim to reserve resources for future generations without any harm to nature and other components of it, or in other words trying to meet own needs without future generations having to compromise on theirs. This is a huge challenge humans are facing especially in a time of fast growing population. Sustainable development connects these thoughts and concerns with social, economic and environmental problems.

In our committee we are going to focus on the agriculture aspect that has to be improved not only regional, but also global. Agriculture has changed dramatically in the past years due to new technologies, extended use of chemicals and attempts to maximize the production. These changes have on the one hand solved many problems, on the other hand brought up new ones. To come up for resolution to this topic you have to look into the different areas of agriculture.



Firstly, the Farming and Natural resources, which include water, energy, wildlife, air and soil, have to be considered when coming up with ideas how to improve the sustainability. Keep in mind, that every country has its own most eminent resource they need to worry about.

Secondly, the Plant and Animal Production Practice has a huge impact on the sustainability. The Plant production depends mostly on the grower's interest and on the location. For it to become sustainable the grower should use their availabilities efficiently and choose different species to grow. Similar to the Plant Production it is crucial to the Animal Production to be wisely managed, having a selection of animals, but also the animals have to be fed. Therefore, a farmer should plan what to feed his animals, to obtain good conditions for the animals at low cost.

Last but not least, the Economic, Social and Political Context includes, but is not limited to the Food and Agricultural policies, such as countries as well as the FAO has passed, labor and the consumers. Sustainable agriculture requires commitment to changing public policies, economic institutions and social values. Policies that encourage a more diverse and decentralized system of family farms rather than corporate concentration and absentee ownership or policies that encourage reduced pesticide use need to be created. Another point is the labor that should be more acknowledged and supported, so workers have at least a certain standard of living. Consumers also have a big impact on the sustainability, because their choice influences the supply. Therefore, they should be educated about what to consider when they go shopping.



## 2.1 Measures taken by the FAO

In order to make agriculture more sustainable the FAO supports practices that increase sustainable agricultural productivity by developing and sharing sustainable production strategies with decision-makers. They develop and promote management practices that increase productivity and save natural resources and help producers to adopt the technologies and practices that best suit their needs.

Furthermore, they provide information to support the transition to sustainable agriculture by gathering and sharing information and developing analytical tools for planning the management of natural resources in agricultural systems. They are not only helping the farmers, but also the countries to collect relevant data for use in decision-making and developing tools for setting international policies.

Moreover, the FAO promotes the transition to sustainable agriculture. Hence they help countries to assess the effectiveness, support the development of policies and laws and help national institutions to support the transition to sustainable agriculture.

On top of this, they advocate the adoption of international policies and guidelines for highly productive and sustainable agriculture ensuring that international commitments are backed by national laws and policies. They strongly support country observance to international agreements and partnerships that promote productive and sustainable agriculture. Additionally, they support the implementation of national laws and policies on sustainable agriculture.



### 3. Previous Resolutions and activities about sustainable agriculture development

*5 May 2000*

**E/CN.17/2000/20**

- Report on the 8th Session
- Commission of Sustainable Development

*15 May 2009*

**E/CN.17/2009/19**

- Report on the 17th session of CSD

*11 September 2012*

**A/RES/66/288**

- The Future We Want

*3 October 2014*

**COAG/2014/4**

- Sustainable Production Intensification and Sustainable Food Systems

*27 July 2015*

**A/RES/69/313**

- Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)

*21 October 2015*

**A/RES/70/1**

- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

*15 December 2015*

**A/70/478**

- Agriculture development, food security and nutrition: Report of the Second Committee

*16 December 2015*

**A/70/472**

- Sustainable development: report of the Second Committee



## 4. Finding solutions

Agriculture must change to meet the rising demand, to help more effectively to reduce poverty and malnutrition, and to become ecologically more sustainable. The majority of the world's poor people live in rural areas, and agriculture growth has proven effective in lifting rural families out of poverty and hunger. Sustainable agriculture requires transformative, simultaneous interventions along the whole food chain, from production to consumption. A few major elements of a sustainable development path for agriculture are:

- Ensuring the supply of safe, nutritious food to all through increasing agricultural productivity and making the land more resilient to climatic extremes;
- Preserving the environment by increasing resource efficiency, reducing emissions and conserve natural resources;
- Reducing food losses and waste;
- New visions and business models for smallholder agriculture and rural development that create economic and job opportunities and make rural areas more attractive places to live;
- Clear goals, targets and indicators that address critical areas of food production and consumption, motivate people and provide a structured approach to guide countries in designing their own development paths for agriculture;
- Long-term vision and investments in capacity building and research.

A key principle to recognize is that - given the huge diversity of agriculture and of the starting points for change - there can't be just one solution for everyone.



Countries should follow the most suitable pathways and timelines for addressing their specific challenges. Workable options can be tailored to raising system productivity or diversity, efficiency, resilience, value and profitability of farming. Long-lasting solutions will require re-thinking of rural development and smallholder agriculture towards structural transformations that include and benefit the poor. Improved farming systems and new technologies and business models can create decent jobs, allow the overcoming of resource constraints, enable greater market participation, and also lessen physical hardships in agriculture.

Agriculture in industrialized countries will also need to change, including changes in policies that affect many low- and medium-income countries. High-income countries have to lead in demonstrating how higher standards of productivity, resource efficiency, food safety and traceability, and environmental impact can be met. This can also provide important lessons for developing countries in terms of technologies and policies to consider. New technologies will make it possible for sustainable agriculture to become the new global standard, not the exception; the main factors resisting change are political will, financing, governance and human behavior. Early action is important, but more support and better mechanisms are needed for long-term thinking and action.

The transformation of agriculture will also require re-thinking of international and national structures. The global food system should morph into a true global partnership that widely shares information, experiences and new technology. Good governance will be essential, including supporting farmer groups, managing risks, and deploying tools and accountability measures that foster greater private sector investment in agriculture, but also put clear constraints on unsustainable or inequitable exploitation of land, water, forests and fisheries.

## Sources

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[http://www.soil.ncsu.edu/publications/Bulletins/Biomass%20Prod%20of%20Crops\\_Mustard%20Radish%20Fact%20Sht\\_AG-782\\_Online\\_Final.pdf](http://www.soil.ncsu.edu/publications/Bulletins/Biomass%20Prod%20of%20Crops_Mustard%20Radish%20Fact%20Sht_AG-782_Online_Final.pdf)

<http://asi.ucdavis.edu/programs/sarep/about/what-is-sustainable-agriculture>

<http://www.ucsusa.org/our-work/food-agriculture/solutions/advance-sustainable-agriculture#.Vq951IKuwbN>

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