

Committee: United Nations Development Programme

Topic: The Question of Ensuring Food Security Caused by Climate Crisis

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Introduction

Despite the significant progress that has been made in the last few decades to end hunger, as of 2015, almost 800 million people still experience chronic undernourishment. 161 million children under the age of five are thought to be stunted. Additionally, 500 million people worldwide are obese. The vital micronutrients required for two billion people to lead healthy lifestyles are not available to them. According to the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), food production will need to expand by 60% by 2050 in order to meet the rising demand brought on by population growth and dietary changes.

According to the World Food Summit, 2015, "food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and financial access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." According to this concept, food security has four components: availability, accessibility (both physically and monetarily), usage (how it is absorbed and assimilated by the human body), and stability of these three components.

There are about 800 million hungry people today, despite the fact that there is enough food produced worldwide to feed everyone. What is necessary is for everyone to always have access to food in the correct quantity and quality. The UN estimates that 836 million people worldwide are still living in severe poverty in 2015 (earning less than \$1.25 a day). Additionally, at least 70% of the very poor live in rural regions, with the majority of them relying primarily (or solely) on agriculture for their means of subsistence, according to the IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development).

Nearly 2 billion people are thought to be supported by 500 million smallholder farms in the developing world, and in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa these tiny farms provide about 80% of the food

consumed there. The progress accomplished in the fight against hunger and malnutrition so far is in danger of being undone by climate change. The most vulnerable nations and populations are more at danger for food insecurity due to climate change, as noted by the IPCC's most recent assessment report. Four of the eight major risks associated with climate change listed by IPCC AR5(Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report) directly affect food security: Loss of rural income and livelihoods; destruction of marine and coastal habitats; destruction of terrestrial and inland water ecosystems; food insecurity; and collapse of food chains.

The most susceptible nations and populations, such as those in arid and semi-arid regions, landlocked nations, and small island developing states, are those that are affected first and most severely. Through its influence on trade flows, the food market, and price stability, climate change will also have broader implications and could create new health hazards for people. The ability of food systems to guarantee global food security must be safeguarded promptly, necessitating greatly increased measures to address climate change.

Definition of Key Terms

Food security

According to the Committee on World Food Security of the United Nations, food security is the state in which all individuals consistently have physical, social, and economic access to an adequate supply of food that is safe and nutritious and satisfies their dietary requirements for an active and healthy lifestyle.

Food and Climate change

Food must be produced, processed, distributed, prepared, eaten, and occasionally disposed of. Each of these processes produces greenhouse gases, which trap the heat of the sun and cause climate change. Food is linked to about one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions that are created by humans.

Climate crisis

The term "climate crisis" refers to the effects of climate change and global warming. The threat of global warming to humans and the environment has been described using this concept as well as the term "climate emergency," and urgent climate change mitigation has been urged.

Background Information

Risks: A review of current data relating to Climate Change's effects on food security

The most recent IPCC report confirms the key conclusions of earlier IPCC reports about the evolution of the climate as well as its primary physical effects, including effects on land and ocean temperatures, sea level rise, and ocean acidification. Additionally, it improves knowledge of potential spatial variations in precipitation, including variations in intensity and seasonality. Additionally, advances in modeling, data gathering, and analysis allow us to make better estimates of the medium- and local-term effects of climate change. To more accurately comprehend and project future repercussions on agricultural systems, these advancements are vital.

In many locations, climate change causes a great deal of uncertainty regarding future water supplies. It will have an impact on precipitation, runoff, snowmelt, hydrological systems, water quality, temperature, and groundwater recharge. The rising water scarcity brought on by climate change will pose a significant obstacle to climate adaptation in many parts of the world. The salinity of surface and groundwater in coastal locations will change as a result of sea level rise. The frequency and severity of extreme circumstances could shift as a result of climate change.

Extreme occurrences have already had a significant negative influence on farming. According to an up-to-date review by the FAO of 78 post-disaster needs evaluations conducted in 48 developing nations between 2003 and 2013, 25% of all economic losses and damages caused by medium- and large-scale climate hazards such as droughts, floods, and storms in underdeveloped nations influence the farming and livestock industries.

Climate Change is significantly altering the circumstances in which agriculture operations are carried out.

Both direct and indirect effects of the changing climate are seen in agricultural production systems. Direct effects include the effects on certain agricultural production systems brought on by a change in physical attributes like weather conditions and rainfall distribution. The productivity is impacted by indirect effects when pests, pathogens, invasive species, pollinators, and other species are altered. These unintended consequences may be quite important. Given the large number of interacting characteristics and links, many of which are yet unknown, they are significantly more challenging to evaluate and project. Based on two decades of investigation, the expected effects of climate change on key crop yields are now well-established.

Positive effects are less frequent than negative ones worldwide. The yields of wheat and maize have already been significantly impacted by climate change in several places, as well as internationally, according to studies of the impacts of climate trends on agricultural output. In accordance with findings from significant farming simulation inter-comparison endeavors, there is consensus regarding the direction of yield shifts in many important farming areas at both low and high latitudes, with strong negative impacts especially at higher levels of warming and at low latitudes, despite challenges regarding how models indicate the representation of merged carbon dioxide fertilization, ozone stress, and high temperature effects. In low-latitude nations, food output will likely be continuously and negatively impacted by climate change in the future, whereas northern latitudes may experience either positive or negative consequences. This is based on the IPCC. Even though some high-latitude regions could encounter a shift in their climatic suitability for growing crops, these areas' soil and water conditions may limit long-term gains in agricultural output. The impacts of climate change on the balance among crops, weeds, and pests, as well as the effects on pollinators, are typically not taken into consideration by the models used to estimate crop yields. Following climate change, pests and illnesses are expected to spread to previously immune areas, posing a greater risk of harm due to a lack of biological and institutional capacity to manage and control them. The immediate beneficial benefits of climate change may be somewhat offset by these changes. In particular, the climate in high-latitude areas is likely to shift to favor crops as well as weeds and pests. The production of cattle is impacted by climate change in a variety of methods, both directly and indirectly.

The wellness and productivity of animals, as well as the yields of forages and feed crops, are the most significant effects. During severe drought occurrences in the recent past, 20 to 60 percent reductions in animal populations were seen in a number of sub-Saharan African nations. Climate change could lead to a 10 to 25% decline in dairy yields in South Africa. Significant decreases in forage production can be brought on by rising temperatures and decreased precipitation, as was the case in 2003 when France experienced a 60% shortage of green fodder. The location of the best conditions for all production will change. Thus, adjustments to the reproduction and handling of aquatic creatures, trees, livestock, and crops will be needed to optimize these conditions. In order to successfully transform into increased production, potential positive effects, such as longer growing seasons in some cold regions, would typically require significant changes in agricultural methods and procedures to adjust to changing circumstances and mitigate possible adverse impacts, especially the spread of insects.

Production effects result in economic and social repercussions that have an effect on food security.

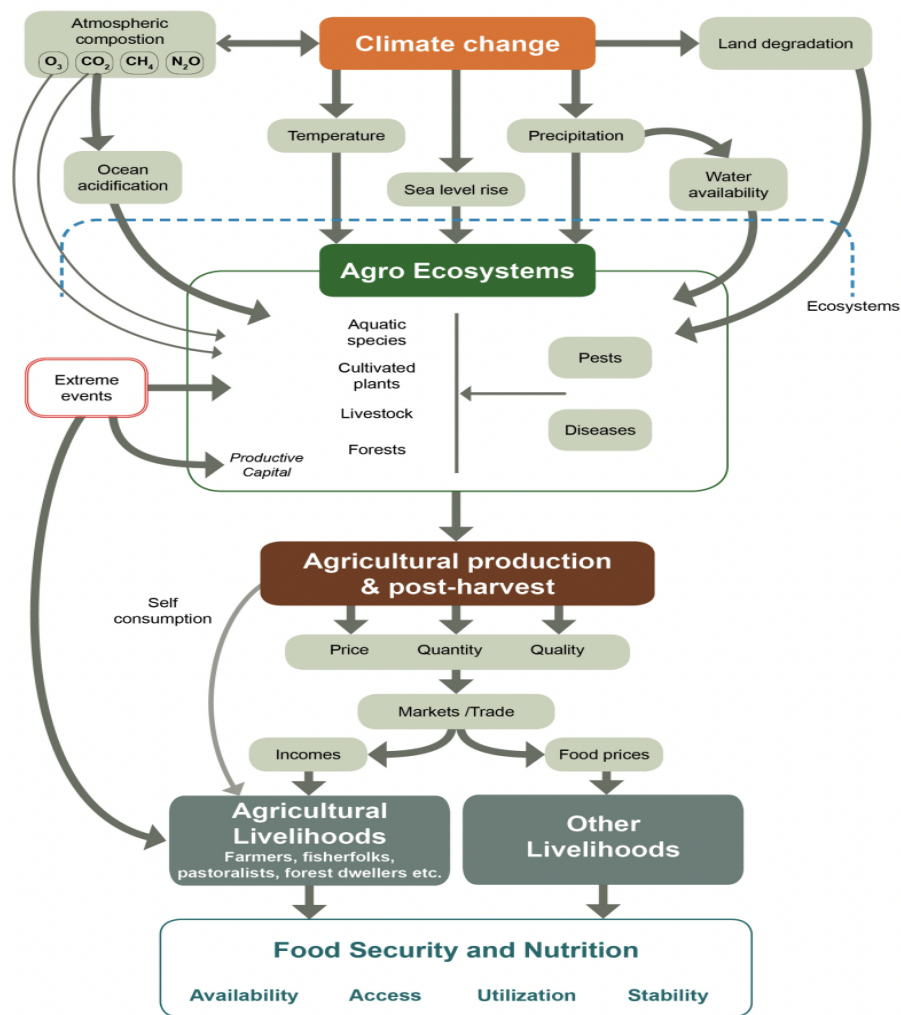
The effects extends from the climate to the environment, to the productive sphere, to the social and economic measurements, posing a variety of extra risks to the supply of food, accessibility to food, and consumption, as well as to the sustainability of these features, for households that are both farm and non-farm households as well.

The effect of climate change influences farms and households may have a negative influence on their financial standing and sustainability through alterations to output, costs of production, or pricing. Such changes may lead to the sale of productive assets like cattle, which would lower long-term household productivity. Risk exposure reduces the incentives to invest in production systems, which frequently has detrimental effects on longevity, long-term productivity, and profits. It has also been demonstrated that agricultural revenue cuts and hazards affect household ability and willingness to spend on health and education. Current studies of the effects of multiple weather anomalies on farm revenue provide proof suggesting those with the lowest incomes are more affected.

At the national level, being exposed to climate hazards can result in fluctuations to crop output and food availability, with risks of market disruptions, effects on supply and storage systems, as well as rises in the costs of agricultural commodities (food and feed), affecting accessibility and equilibrium of food items for the population as a whole, especially in countries where significant portions of the population spend a large portion of their income on food. For nations where agriculture contributes significantly to GDP and/or is a major employer, this has macroeconomic repercussions. By deterring expenditures, climatic concerns might also impede the growth of agriculture.

According to the World Bank, wheat prices were up 42% as of June 30 in comparison to January 2021. Over the same time frame, maize prices have increased by 47%. The majority of nations experience food inflation of more than 5%, and in response, governments attempt to protect themselves from these shocks and stop internal inflation by limiting exports. The COVID-19's impact on the supply chain has also contributed to an increase in food costs. War between Russia and Ukraine is also. Ukraine is a significant producer of some of the most important crops in the world, including wheat, corn, and sunflowers, and the conflict has all but severed its ties to the world's food supply. According to a United Nations Development Programme estimate from July, a further 71.5 million people have fallen into poverty as a result of rising food costs following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Many of them are in nations in sub-Saharan Africa, the Balkans, and the Caspian Basin, where certain economies are completely dependent on humanitarian rations since they are unable to produce their own food. Rising export restrictions are one example. In May, Malaysia imposed export limits on its chicken goods because, in addition to struggling with a feed grain deficit, hens tend to lay less eggs in

exceptionally hot weather. India, the second-largest producer of wheat in the world, recently banned wheat exports after a heatwave in March and April reduced production. (The grain produces significantly less and is vulnerable to high temperatures.) Numerous studies predict that as the earth warms, agricultural yields will continue to drop, which is a worrying trend for global food security. Therefore, scientists predict that if climate change gets worse, we'll see more of these export bans as well as a reorganization of international trade patterns as nations put their national interests first. According to Alex Capri, a researcher at the Hinrich Foundation, a Singapore-based philanthropic organization that promotes sustainable global trade, countries will move toward more regional and "mini-lateral" trade agreements to offset any potential damage from disruptions. Climate change increases the risks to food production and distribution. Nationalistic conduct is undoubtedly influenced by climate change. Even if purchasing key items from across continents is more affordable, economies will choose to do so from nearby nations. According to Capri, "mini-lateral" agreements between strategic and geopolitical partners are already taking place and may be more effective at resolving domestic food shortages. For instance, the United Arab Emirates said this month that India will resume exporting wheat, but only for Emirati consumption. In order to grow their annual trade to \$100 billion within five years, the two already have a trade agreement that lowers tariffs on all items. Similar restrictions on the international food trade have occurred during previous crises. In 2008, amidst an oil shock and other disruptions that led to a food crisis, many nations implemented export limits on basic commodities to safeguard domestic supply. After trade restrictions drove up the price of rice by about 150% that year, over a billion people were forced into poverty. Imposing such regulations comes at a high cost. While these restrictions may temporarily lower domestic costs, they deter farmers from investing in agriculture, which compromises national food security and raises food prices. The situation is much worse now. Data from the IFPRI showed an increase in food export restrictions in the weeks after Russia invaded Ukraine; by mid-July, at least 23 countries had either imposed outright export bans or restricted export licensing. Some nations, like Indonesia, were only compelled to loosen export prohibitions as a result of farmer and small-scale producer protests. At the global level, climatic shocks that affect regions that are crucial for the availability of food may have far-reaching effects by (i) spiking the cost of food as well as supply flows, which increases market fluctuation; and (ii) having an impact on bilateral agreements and/or import/export behavior, which disrupts patterns of trade. Climate change is expected to make the volatility of food prices worse. It is anticipated that economic activity will be crucial in helping people adapt to changes in agricultural and food production patterns brought on by climate change. The latest research suggests that local regulations, including export restrictions, have a significant impact on how volatile food prices are affected by climate change. Without adequate buying power, the lowest-income individuals and nations will eventually be unable to enter global markets.



Schematic representation of the cascading effects of climate change impacts on food security and nutrition. Climate change and food security: risks and responses by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Possible solutions

Addressing climate change right now will make sure everyone has access to secure food both now and in the future

Physical effects on ecological systems, farming systems, agricultural output, food webs, earnings, and trading are just the beginning of the threats brought on by climate change. It also has financial and societal effects on earnings, availability of food, and nourishment.

Enhancing the resilience of livelihoods in the face of climate change through mobilizing social security

Increasing the capacity for resilience (and thus lowering the susceptibility) of occupations is a significant and urgent area for action, particularly among the poor who are disproportionately reliant on resources from nature and subject to climate threats. Programs for social security (social security refers to the safety net that a society offers to individuals and families to ensure that they have access to health care and to assure financial stability, particularly in circumstances of old age, unemployment, illness, invalidity, work injuries, maternity, or the death of a primary earner), are crucial to this endeavor since they have been shown to be successful in ending the cycle of hunger and poverty. Social protection encompasses a wide range of tools and goals, including "safety ropes" and safety nets, or methods that help the poor and vulnerable increase their capacity for earning an income. Ample, well-designed social protection would address some of the primary home threats of climate weaknesses. Social assistance can offer the income necessary for the hungry and destitute to get enough food to meet their basic dietary needs while endangering their ability to earn a living in the future. If such initiatives are focused on the requirements of women, they will be very effective.

Improving the hardiness of agricultural systems

By putting into practice strategies that are extremely system- and location-specific, agricultural systems can be made adaptive. Farmers, woodland dwellers, fisherfolk, and those in the supply network will be required to take a variety of actions; the specifics will depend on each person's situation. Wide-ranging adaptation tactics can be found.

Spending money on enduring growth in agriculture

Investment in resistant agricultural growth can aid in adaptability. Governments, the commercial sector, and groups from civil society all need to help farmers, fishermen, and people who live in forests. The only way to end poverty is to invest in farming, particularly for small-scale farmers. The World Bank has found that investments in agriculture that increase agricultural GDP have a three times greater impact on decreasing poverty than investments in any other industry. Smallholder and family farming should be the focal point of agricultural growth plans, as demonstrated by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition. These methods, which emphasize access to markets and value furthermore, must also be an aspect of overall rural growth.

Improving the marketplaces' and the industry's role in maintaining food safety

Trading and worldwide markets can help keep supply and prices stable while giving places that have been badly impacted alternatives to food. Considering the alteration in agricultural practices and impacts of climate change, climate implications on the future food supply point to a greater role for commerce. Limiting trade restrictions, expanding and deepening markets, and enhancing information flow are three potential strategies that could assist lower market volatility. Current price volatility in the food markets was largely caused by a shortage of accurate and current information on crop supply, demand, stocks, and exportability.

Promoting global and regional collaboration

A "migration" of certain industries, including those between nations, is predicted to occur as a result of climate change. In order to conduct vulnerability examinations, exchange genetic material and practices, value genetic material and practices, manage fish stocks and other transboundary resources, avoid and control global dangers like weeds and diseases of animals, and manage transboundary risks, stronger collaboration between nations and regions will be required.

Major parties involved

Sub-Saharan Africa

Several nations in this area, including Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sudan, and Kenya, are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change on agriculture. Food insecurity can be made worse by crop failures and animal losses brought on by droughts, floods, and heat waves. In order to address food security in Sub-Saharan Africa in the context of the climate catastrophe, comprehensive solutions are needed. These strategies should involve investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, sustainable farming methods, better access to markets and financing, and support for social safety nets. Building regional resilience and ensuring a sustainable food supply for its expanding population require international cooperation and aid.

Southeast Asia

Especially in locations where rice is grown, nations like Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam are susceptible to the effects of climate change on their agricultural sectors. A region that is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change on agriculture and food security is Southeast Asia. Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns can have a big impact on agricultural yields in this region, since agriculture is a major source of income for many nations. Food shortages can also result from infrastructure damage from sea level rise and more frequent natural catastrophes like floods and typhoons. As a result, many Southeast Asian nations must address the challenge of guaranteeing food security in the face of the climate disaster.

The Republic of Yemen

Yemen, which is currently dealing with a serious humanitarian crisis, is also being negatively impacted by climate change, which results in water shortages and decreased agricultural productivity, which increases the shortage of food. With increasingly frequent and severe droughts, floods, and other natural catastrophes impacting agricultural production and food supply networks, Yemen is one of the nations most impacted by the climate crisis. It is challenging to address food insecurity and malnutrition due to these effects, which are exacerbated by violence and political instability in the nation. Yemen also relies largely on imported food, so any interruptions to the world's food supply systems brought on by climate change could make things worse. Therefore, Yemen must address the issue of guaranteeing food security in the face of the climatic disaster.

Syrian Arab Republic

The country's prolonged civil war and the effects of climate change have caused a severe agricultural decrease that has contributed to food shortages and displacement of people. Syria is another nation that has been severely impacted by the climate crisis. Prolonged droughts and other extreme weather conditions have caused crop failures, land degradation, and a shortage of water. These environmental stresses have fueled social and political discontent, which has sparked violence and forced displaced people to flee their homes. Food insecurity and malnutrition have worsened as a result of the ongoing civil war in Syria, which has further impacted agricultural productivity and food supply systems. The fact that climate change has been acknowledged as a cause in this conflict shows how tightly tied achieving food security in Syria is to resolving the climate catastrophe.

United States of America

With one of the greatest economies in the globe, the United States has historically produced a significant amount of greenhouse gasses. Fossil fuel combustion in the energy, industrial, and transportation sectors is the main source of its emissions. As a significant participant in the world's agriculture and food systems, the United States must address the climate problem and how it affects food security. The United States can help to ensure food security both nationally and worldwide by implementing sustainable farming methods, making investments in infrastructure that is climate resilient, and encouraging research and innovation.

People's Republic of China

As a result of its fast industrialization and heavy use of coal for energy production and manufacturing, China is now the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gasses. The most populous nation in the world, China is also one of the biggest producers and consumers of food. Climate change could have a huge influence on China's food security if it continues to bring about increasingly frequent and severe natural catastrophes like droughts and floods. Additionally, China is now one of the biggest contributors to climate change as a result of its fast industrialization, which has boosted greenhouse gas emissions. As a result, China needs to focus on the issue of guaranteeing food security in the face of the climate disaster.

The member states of the European Union

A political and economic union made up of 27 European nations is known as the European Union. Historical greenhouse gas emissions have been considerably influenced by the EU as a whole. In order to maintain long-term food security, European nations must address the climate problem, which entails modifying agricultural practices, promoting sustainable farming techniques, investing in infrastructure, and encouraging research and innovation in the agricultural industry.

Republic of India

India has a rapidly expanding economy and is one of the most populous nations on earth. Its dependence on coal for electricity and industrial activities is a major contributor to its emissions. India is extremely susceptible to the effects of the climate crisis, including unpredictable rainfall patterns, heat waves, and severe weather phenomena like cyclones and floods. Due to crop failures, lower

yields, and farmer job losses, these occurrences have a considerable negative influence on agricultural output.

Timeline Of Event

Date	Description of event
Pre-20th Century:	Food security has always been a top priority for people everywhere. Lots of problems and fatalities have resulted from famines, crop failures, and food deficits.
1945	The FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) was established in: The FAO was formed by the UN to fight world hunger, advance agriculture, and increase food security.
1974	World Food Conference: The inaugural World Food Conference, which addressed concerns of nutrition and food security, took place in Rome.
1980s	Green Revolution: Beginning in the middle of the 20th century, the Green Revolution brought high-yielding varieties of crops, contemporary farming methods, and enhanced irrigation, considerably raising the world's agricultural output and enhancing food security in many areas.
1996	World Food Summit: The Rome-based summit established a target of halving the proportion of undernourished people by 2015.
2000	The first MDG (Millennium Development Goal) was established by the United Nations to end severe hunger and poverty, placing a strong emphasis on attaining adequate food supplies and enhancing health.
2007-2008	Global Food Crisis: A number of variables, such as severe weather conditions and a boost in the demand for biofuels, caused a rapid rise in the cost of food that sparked uprisings and instability in a number of nations.
2009	L'Aquila Food Security Initiative: The G8 nations committed \$22 billion across a three-year period to boost agricultural development and food security in underdeveloped nations as part of the L'Aquila Food Security Project.
2012	The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition: Established throughout the G8 Summit, the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition sought to encourage investment from the private sector in agriculture in a number of African nations.
2015	Paris Agreement: The historic Paris Agreement, which was approved at COP21, aims to maintain global warming at or below two degrees Celsius beyond pre-industrial levels, along with aspirations to keep it below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Concerning food security is one of the agreement's main objectives.
2016	The SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) of the United Nations: Goal 2 of the SDGs, which was accepted, is dedicated to eradicating starvation, establishing food security, enhancing nutrition, and advancing agricultural sustainability.
2017	A Special Report of the IPCC on the Global Warming of 1.5°C: In a report released by the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), the implications of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels are highlighted, including increasing threats to food security and greater incidences of severe weather.

2019	UN Climate Action Summit: The world's elite convened in New York for the UN Climate Action Summit to talk about specific strategies to combat global warming, especially how it will affect the security of food and agriculture.
2019	The EAT-Lancet Commission Report: To address issues of food security and the preservation of the environment, this document makes suggestions for healthy diets based on ecologically sound food systems.
2020	COVID-19 pandemic: Agricultural instability among those in need was made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic, which also brought attention to the significance of durable and resilient agricultural systems.
2021	COP26: The 26th UN Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP26) was held in Glasgow, giving nations the chance to review and strengthen their pledges to combating global warming and its effects on food security.
2022	Extreme weather events: Floods, droughts, and heatwaves were among the severe weather conditions that several nations faced. These disasters had an impact on agricultural output and created food shortages in certain regions.
2023	International efforts: Global endeavors to solve the climate issue and advance sustainable food systems are still going strong, with an emphasis on bolstering disadvantaged areas, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthening resiliency.

UN Involvement, Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- Security Council Adopts Presidential Statement Addressing Conflict-Induced Food Insecurity in Situations of Armed Conflict, 3 August 2023 (SC/15377)
- With Climate Crisis Generating Growing Threats to Global Peace, Security Council Must Ramp Up Efforts, Lessen Risk of Conflicts, Speakers Stress in Open Debate, 13 JUNE 2023 (SC/15318)
- General Assembly Adopts Resolution Addressing Global Food Crisis, 23 MAY 2022 (GA/12421)
- Resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first session on 27 June 2014, 27 JUNE 2014 (K1402364)

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