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Hey guys! My name is Irene Kim and I will be your head chair for this year's MVHSMUN Security Council committee. In school, some activities I'm involved with are Lacrosse, Cross Country, and Red Cross Club, and this year is my second year of MUN! I like to spend time with my friends in my free time. Despite the situation, I'm so excited to chair this year and I know we'll all have a great virtual experience. I look forward to meeting you all in committee!

Hi delegates! My name is Heidi Franzini and I will be the vice chair this year in the 38th MVHSMUN conference. I am a junior this year, and this is my second year as a part of the model UN program. I am on the water polo as well as the swim team. I am super excited to be chairing this committee this year and can't wait to see you all at the conference, even though it is virtual this year.

Food Insecurity amid COVID-19 and its Impacts

I. Background

Food insecurity prevents millions of people worldwide from obtaining affordable, nutritious food, increasing the risk of malnutrition and other severe health problems relating to behavioral and emotional consequences. This is already a significant world issue, as 135 million people already suffered from this in 2019 and this number has since spiked due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pushed by the closure of nursing homes, homeless centers, school lunch programs, food pantries, and the lack of funding for the remaining facilities due to the slow economy, many people were left food insecure. With the alarming rates of people faced with food insecurity,

many NGOs, programs, and committees have stepped in to work towards the goal of lowering these rates. The World Bank Group is monitoring domestic food and agricultural supply chains. Food insecurity has become a huge problem because of the death rates that have been increasing due to malnutrition and hunger. The Committee on World Food Security has been working to lessen the issue of food security, but the issue stems directly from the supply and demand of food and how its trade is being affected. Food insecurity affects everyone who is already insecure: low income households, impoverished families, and the poor. Some factors that are causing this to become a bigger issue are places with less sanitation are having trouble distributing food safely, there are labor shortages, and the cost of food being imported has risen. The UN had already noticed this issue prior to the pandemic and stepped in to provide aid, but the pandemic has just worsened any effects they had intended for. The UN recognizes how famine disrupts all aspects of life, and with increasing numbers of the food insecure, they are working to help lower these numbers.

II. UN Involvement

As food insecurity has continued to be a significant problem, United Nations assistance has been apparent even before the devastating effects of the pandemic. The World Health Organization and Security Council have been two organs very involved in combating the issue. In a Security Council meeting on September 17, 2020, representatives from the World Food Programme, Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief, and UN Food and Agricultural Organization met to discuss the disruption food insecurity has caused worldwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a 2016 General Assembly meeting, a Zero Hunger goal by 2030 was established, but it does not look like this goal will be met especially due to the setbacks. Later

established by the General Assembly from 2016-2025, the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition in collaboration with the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the United Nations Children's Fund, was developed.

III. Possible Solutions

With the primary component of food insecurity being the lack of nutritious foods, solutions should be to ensure that everyone across the world has access to them as opposed to malnutritious substances. Obviously with this issue occurring simultaneously with the pandemic, worsening a majority of relief possibilities with the fear of contracting COVID-19 on both the donors and receivers end, it may seem impossible to end food insecurity. The international community needs to make solutions that make sure that obtaining food is safe and easily accessible to those in need. It is unknown whether or not the impacts of food insecurity will be long term depending on the UN goal of 2030 and the setbacks created by the pandemic.

In addition to direct UN involvement, citizens can participate by committing to donations to food banks. This can then be used to support smaller food banks and centers, so the food can be properly distributed and the carryover funds can be used to support the dilemma. However, financial donations are more recommended than food donations given the expiration date of a number of foods. Consumers should lessen the amount of times they go to grocery stores to once every two weeks to prevent the amount of people in stores. This will then allow people of higher risk to go to grocery stores to get food. Families First Coronavirus Response Act(FFCRA) was enacted which allows for workers on leave due to COVID-19 to still get paid.

IV. Bloc Positions

Asian Bloc: The countries in Asia have been significantly worse than a majority of the places in the world because of their high density populations such as in China and India. Since the risk of the pandemic is high for a majority of these people, due to the limited health care and social services, food insecurity is built upon their underlying issues of poverty.

European Bloc: Although a majority of the European nations had an effective impact on reducing the effects of the pandemic early on, the second wave has caused them to relapse into sickness and danger. This has prevented a number of Western European countries like France and Germany from maintaining their citizens' safety as they try to obtain food.

North American Bloc: The United States effectively had one of, if not the worst policies when dealing with the pandemic and thus suffer the major consequences brought on by the virus. While the pandemic doesn't have a significant impact on the wealthy population, those who are living below the poverty line are in immense danger.

African Bloc: Since Africa has very scant dense populations, the impact of the pandemic has not hit them as hard as North America and Asia. Nevertheless, there are still many people in the regions of Africa who struggle with food insecurity, and the trade restrictions brought on by the pandemic have certainly affected them.

V. Guiding Questions

1. How has food insecurity from COVID-19 impacted your country?
2. What is your country already doing to help stop food insecurity?
3. Given the circumstances of poverty, what reparations can be made by the government to ensure that essential workers will have access to the necessities they need?

4. With the majority of the world struggling to deal with the pandemic, which nations should receive prioritized help?
5. How can the UN implement policies that will effectively guarantee that people in food insecure will receive aid from legitimate associations?

VI. Works Cited

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