

Lahn Model United Nations
2011



Preparation Guide

for the Economic and Social Council

Combat Increasing Food Insecurity
The Yasuní-ITT Initiative in Ecuador -
A Challenge for the International Community



Foreword

Honorable Delegates,

on behalf of the LahnMUN 2011 staff, we welcome you to the Economic and Social Council of LahnMUN 2011.

This preparation guide will provide you with initial information on the issues of this year's agenda to assist you in your preparation for the simulation. We, Zuher Jazmati, Markus Leonhardt and Cora-Marie Pinter, are very proud to serve as your chairs during the session of the Economic and Social Council of LahnMUN 2011. We are looking forward to meeting you all at the conference and we will do our very best to make these four days a great experience for you.

Bear in mind your responsibility as members of this high body and take the chance to prove that you are willing and able to find wise solutions for the issues at hand which have a lasting and sustainable effect on humankind and the international community.

Honorable Delegates, once again, welcome to the LahnMUN 2011 Economic and Social Council.

Zuher Jazmati, Markus Leonhardt and Cora-Marie Pinter

The Chairs of the Economic and Social Council

Combat increasing food insecurity

written by Magnus Adler

Introduction

Close to a billion people still suffer from hunger in 2011, one in six of all humanity. At least 225 million of the world's children under the age of five suffer from acute chronic undernutrition. Hunger is life-threatening and undermines health and development.¹ Despite of the fundamental human right to be free from hunger, recognised in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, undernutrition is one of the world's most serious but least addressed socioeconomic and health problems.² The number of undernourished people worldwide is continuing to rise, as the world reels from weather-related, political and financial shocks. This year food prices are again soaring at record pace. 2011 may be one of the most challenging in the fifty-year history of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) because of rising food prices as well as historic floods and droughts.

Undernutrition is caused by inadequate food intake and disease. Most vulnerable are those whose nutritional needs are higher and social status is lowest: young children, pregnant and lactating women, the sick and the elderly.³ Nutrition is linked to most - if not all - Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which are themselves closely interlinked and the right to food and good nutrition for all is fundamental to achieving the MDGs.^{4,5}

The changes in food supply over the last decade

The world saw many decades of increasing supply and declining food prices. This helped to halve the proportion of urgently hungry between 1967 and 2004.⁶ But the

¹ United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition: Nutrition and the MDGs: accelerating progress towards 2015. 2010.

http://www.unscn.org/files/Statements/2010_SCN_MDG_Statement_160910_final.pdf

² United Nations Human Rights Council: The right to food. A/HRC/RES/13/4.

³ United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition: Nutrition and the MDGs: accelerating progress towards 2015. 2010.

http://www.unscn.org/files/Statements/2010_SCN_MDG_Statement_160910_final.pdf

⁴ United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition: Nutrition and the MDGs: accelerating progress towards 2015. 2010.

http://www.unscn.org/files/Statements/2010_SCN_MDG_Statement_160910_final.pdf

⁵ Josette Sheeran: Opening remarks at the WFP Executive Board. 14.02.2011.

<http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp231695.pdf>

⁶ Josette Sheeran: Opening remarks at the WFP Executive Board. 14.02.2011.

<http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp231695.pdf>

proportion of undernourished people in the world began increasing in 2004, preceding the food and financial crises three years later in 2007.⁷ "(...) the 2007/2008 food crisis sent the hunger MDG into reverse, with hard won gains being lost as the three Fs, food, fuel and financial crises threw an additional 140 million people into abject hunger."⁸ This unprecedented volatility in food supply and food prices lead to historic levels of hunger among the most vulnerable. The crisis did not create the current situation but rather significantly worsened an already existing problem. It has to be kept in mind that most people living on less than 1,25 US-Dollar a day, spend at least 80 percent of their household budget on food. Even a small increase can force a terrible choice between food or healthcare, sending children to school or to beg.⁹

The current developments in food supply

Today three factors are threatening food security in these most vulnerable communities:

1. Record food prices, FAO's food price index is at a record high, higher than 2008.
2. Water related disasters have triggered devastating droughts and floods throughout the world.
3. Fast-moving political changes from Sudan to Cote d'Ivoire, to Yemen, Egypt and Tunisia.¹⁰

Food prices are climbing with corn prices 88 percent higher than in the past year and wheat 76 percent up. As fuel prices are rising all farm inputs such as fertilizer and diesel have an considerable impact on the recent food price development.¹¹

Climate change directly affects food and nutrition security of millions of people, undermining current efforts to address undernutrition. It affects food and nutrition security through the reduction of income from animal production, reduction of yields

⁷ United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition: Sixth report on the world nutrition situation. <http://www.unscn.org/files/Publications/RWNS6/html/index.html>

⁸ Josette Sheeran: Opening remarks at the WFP Executive Board. 14.02.2011. <http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp231695.pdf>

⁹ Josette Sheeran: Opening remarks at the WFP Executive Board. 14.02.2011. <http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp231695.pdf>

¹⁰ Josette Sheeran: Opening remarks at the WFP Executive Board. 14.02.2011. <http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp231695.pdf>

¹¹ Josette Sheeran: Opening remarks at the WFP Executive Board. 14.02.2011. <http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp231695.pdf>

of food and cash crops, lowered forest productivity, changes in aquatic populations and increased incidence of infectious disease.¹² As the FAO stated, the debilitating drought in China has affected the wheat production, Australia has lost one billion US-Dollars in wheat alone due to flooding and Pakistani farmers suffered 500 million US-Dollars in agricultural losses due to the rains and floods.¹³

Political instability is one of the most common persistent challenges to food security. Conflict disrupts or prevents agricultural production, transportation and market access. Furthermore it creates large populations of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) who make heavy demands on local and national food supplies.¹⁴

If prices continue to rise, or even stay at these record highs for the rest of the year, WFP is stating that they will face a serious hit to their budget, and have to seek additional resources or they will have to reduce rations from the cup of food for children and decrease the number of people in total that get food back to the number as it was in 2008.¹⁵

The commitment of the WFP concerning food insecurity

“After World War II and the Korean War had left millions facing abject hunger and poverty and even starvation throughout Europe, Japan, Korea and beyond, there was a profound realization that peace cannot be built on an empty stomach and a need to therefore build an anti-famine mechanism into the global system.”¹⁶

In 1961 the United Nations General Assembly created the World Food Programme. The organisation feeds more than 90 million people in more than 70 countries each year on average. In situations where there is simply not enough food and people are urgently hungry, like in Darfur or Afghanistan, the WFP is mostly needed. “If we brought in cash, people would still go hungry because they cannot eat cash. This is the

¹² United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition: Sixth report on the world nutrition situation. <http://www.unscn.org/files/Publications/RWNS6/html/index.html>

¹³ Josette Sheeran: Opening remarks at the WFP Executive Board. 14.02.2011. <http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp231695.pdf>

¹⁴ United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition: Sixth report on the world nutrition situation. <http://www.unscn.org/files/Publications/RWNS6/html/index.html>

¹⁵ Josette Sheeran: Opening remarks at the WFP Executive Board. 14.02.2011. <http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp231695.pdf>

¹⁶ Josette Sheeran: Opening remarks at the WFP Executive Board. 14.02.2011. <http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp231695.pdf>

traditional WFP where we deploy, with excellence, whatever it takes, planes, ships, boats, camels, donkeys – to ensure access to nutritious food because that is needed and that is what saves lives.”¹⁷ At any given time, the WFP has 30 ships at sea, 70 aircrafts in the sky and 5000 trucks on the ground moving food and other assistance to where it is needed most. In the first six months of 2009, WFP purchased food valued at 532 million US-Dollars (1.4 million tonnes). 74 percent was purchased in developing countries.¹⁸ Anyhow one of biggest challenges for the WFP is, that they simply have greater demand in some places than they have capacity to currently deliver.¹⁹

Questions to consider

- What is the situation concerning food security in your country?
- Is your country’s population dependent on food deliveries from the WFP and the international community?
- What are your country’s economic connections and dependencies?
- What was and is your country’s role in the current food and financial crises?
- What are your country’s strategies to fight hunger and food insecurity?

¹⁷ Josette Sheeran: Opening remarks at the WFP Executive Board. 14.02.2011.

<http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp231695.pdf>

¹⁸ WFP Factsheet 2010: Fighting the hunger worldwide.

<http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/communications/wfp215812.pdf>

¹⁹ Josette Sheeran: Opening remarks at the WFP Executive Board. 14.02.2011.

<http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp231695.pdf>

Further information

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2010). The State of Food Insecurity in the World. Addressing food insecurity in protracted crises. Rome: FAO.

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), 2010. Scaling Up Nutrition: A Framework for Action. Accessed online at: http://www.unscn.org/en/nut-working/scaling_up_nutrition_sun/sun_purpose.php on 10 November 2010

FAO High Level Conference on Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy. Rome: FAO.

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World Health Organization (2008). Protecting Health from Climate Change. Geneva: WHO.

United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (2010). 6th Report on the World Nutrition Situation. Geneva: UNSCN.

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) (2008). Climate Change and Disaster Risk reduction: Briefing Note 01. Geneva: UNISDR.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2008). Food Safety and Climate Change. Rome: FAO.

The Yasuní-ITT Initiative in Ecuador – A Challenge for the International Community

written by Jonas Jordan

*Innovation in climate economics –
Keeping the oil in the soil!*

Introduction

In 2007, the Ecuadorian government of President Raffael Correa Delgado started an initiative to save the rain forest in the Yasuni National Park and to respect the indigenous population in that area: the so called Yasuní-Ishpingo-Tambococha-Tiputini (ITT) Initiative. President Correa proposed to refrain indefinitely from exploiting the oil reserves of the ITT oil field in the Yasuní National Park. In exchange the international community should pay for 50 percent of the value of the reserves.



San Rafael falls in Yasuní National Park

Source: <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/dc/Yasuni.jpg>

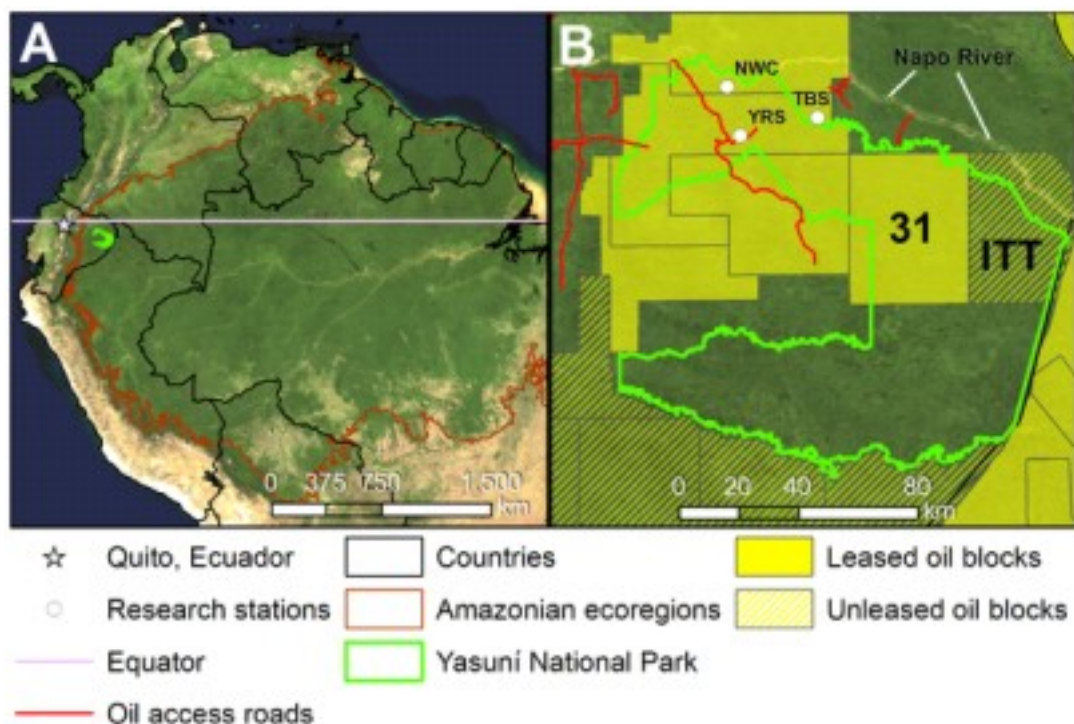
Background information

In 1967, big oil companies started to produce oil in the Amazonian area of Ecuador. Until recent years this happened neither with respect to the natural resources, nor with respect to the indigenous populations in that area. In this regard the Yasuní-ITT initiative is a turning point in Ecuadorian environment policies. Furthermore, the new Ecuadorian constitution - which was passed by the parliament in September 2008 - prohibits the production of non-renewable energies such as oil in protected areas such

as the Yasuní National Park. That means e.g. that every new project aiming to produce oil in a protected area needs explicit permission by the Ecuadorian Government.

In 2008, the Ecuadorian Government eventually signed an agreement with the United Nations which officially arranged the realization of the Yasuní-ITT initiative. On August, 3rd 2008 the Yasuní-ITT Trust Fund was officially launched, administered by the Multi-Donor Trust Fund of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). An appropriate agreement with potential donors for the fund still has to be made. The goal of the initiative is that the donors pay about 1.5 billion US-Dollars in compensation for about 850 million barrel oil, thereby saving about 982 thousand square kilometers of rain forest from destruction.

At the moment the Ecuadorian Government is in the negotiation process with potential donors. Countries like Chile or Peru already officially proclaimed their support for the project.



A) Location of Yasuní National Park at the crossroads of the Amazon, Andes, and the Equator. B) Oil blocks and oil access roads within and surrounding the park. ITT = Ishpingo-Tambococha-Tiputini oil fields, NWC = Napo Wildlife Center, TBS = Tiputini Biodiversity Station, YRS = Yasuní Research Station. The image background is the Blue Marble mosaic of MODIS satellite images.

Source:

<http://www.plosone.org/article/slideshow.action?uri=info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0008767&imageURI=info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0008767.g001>

Innovative steps against climate change through the Yasuní-ITT initiative

With the Yasuní-ITT initiative the Ecuadorian Government aims on taking a significant step to sustainably save the Amazonian rain forest in the area of Ecuador. Furthermore the Yasuní-ITT Trust Fund should not to be seen as a compensation but as a solidarity surcharge for common international goals in fighting global warming. In that context the initiative is a unique and crucial step. The Fund also gives developing countries like Ecuador the chance to evolve from being a country with an economy dependent on the exploitation of natural resources like the production of oil to a trendsetting country with an economy based on renewable energies.

In addition, the initiative allows the indigenous populations in the area of the Yasuní National Park to live self-determined and respected by the rest of the Ecuadorian society. It also provides for the conservation of the great biodiversity in the national park, which since 1989 is also a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. At last, the initiative inhibits the emission of 407 million barrels of CO₂-emissions into the atmosphere.

Questions to consider

- What economic interest does your country have in oil production in Ecuador and the region?
- What is your country's position on fighting global warming?
- Is your country a potential donor to the ITT Trust Fund?
- What are potential conditions of your country for joining the ITT Trust Fund?
- What is your country's general position to the ITT initiative?
- What decisions has your country made in the past, pondering economic interests and environmental protection? How might this affect your position to the ITT initiative?

Helpful Links

http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2010/100927_UNDP.doc.htm

<http://yasuni-itt.gob.ec/espanol/trust-fund-terms-of-reference/>

<http://www.theglobalist.com/storyid.aspx?StoryId=8535>

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/E.C.19.2010.12.11EN.pdf>

<http://amerika21.de/nachrichten/2011/05/33557/ecuador-deutschland-itt-yasuni>

<http://www.sosyasuni.org/de/index.php>

[http://www.klimabuendnis.org/317.html?&cHash=88f54e9da46c71003b4902c76a826fdc&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=316&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=836](http://www.klimabuendnis.org/317.html?&cHash=88f54e9da46c71003b4902c76a826fdc&tx_ttnews[backPid]=316&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=836)

Abbreviations

ITT Ishpingo Tambococha Tiputini

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization