



Research Report

Forum: Economic and Social Council

Issue: Combating Food Waste

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Table of Contents

Personal Introduction.....	3
The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).....	4
Issue: Combating Food Waste	5
An introduction to the issue	5
General information on the issue.....	5
Previous attempts to resolve the issue.....	6
Possible solutions to the issue	6
Major organizations/countries involved	7
Timeline of related events	8
Key terms	8
Sources	9



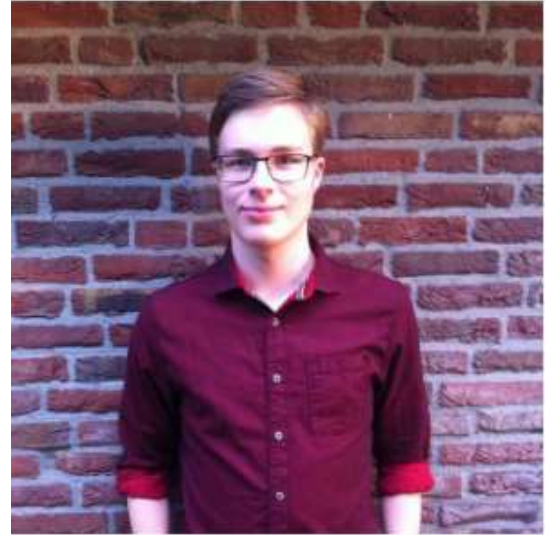
Personal Introduction

Bart van Donselaar

Dear delegates,
I'm Bart van Donselaar, I'm 17 years old and I will be your chair of the ECOSOC here at CalsMUN 2018, working together with Roan. This conference will mark my 14th MUN session and my 6th time chairing. I currently study at the Vechtdal College Hardenberg, where I follow a curriculum of natural sciences.

When I'm not occupied with my work for school, I'll be reading, watching videos online, listening to music, doing a little gaming and making my friends laugh at my stupidity and clumsiness. I also love to sing, even though I know my singing isn't good in any way.

I started being part of MUN's when I was 14 years old. After my first MUN conference, I have participated as a delegate, chair or secretariat member in other MUNs. Even though I adore the debating and public speaking you do at an MUN, I can't help but love the social aspect of MUNs, getting to know many different people and making friends. I hope you will learn a lot from your experiences in our committee!



Roan Kremer

Dear delegates, My name is Roan Kremer. I'm 17 years old and I will be your deputy chair of the ECOSOC, here at CalsMUN 2018, together with Bart. This will be my 7th MUN and my first time chairing. I study at the Vechtdal College Hardenberg, I follow a curriculum of culture and society. In my spare time I play football at my club, Hardenberg 85. I play in the U-19 2 and First Team as reserve goalkeeper. When I'm not playing football with my team, I'm most likely playing it with my friends or I'm hanging out with them. Besides that I also watch F1 from time to time and watch series like Game of Thrones. Although I love debating at an MUN, what truly makes an MUN unforgettable are the people who you share the experience with. I'm looking forward to meeting you and hope you will all learn a lot in our committee.





The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the key organizations within the UN. Established in 1946, the ECOSOC is responsible for coordinating the economic, social and related work of 14 UN specialized agencies, their functional commissions and five regional commissions. As such, the ECOSOC has broad responsibility for 70% of the human and financial resources of the entire UN system. The council consists of 54 member-states, which are elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms. Seats in the council are also allotted based on geographical representation of different regions of the world.

The ECOSOC holds one four-week session each year in July. Since 1998 additional meetings are held every April with the highest-ranking officials of the International Monetary Fund as well as the World Bank.

The main areas the ECOSOC focuses on, are sustainable development and growth, protection of human rights, accomplishing the Millennium Development Goals, higher living standards and employment as well as solving environmental issues. It furthermore oversees the work of a large number of UN programs and agencies. There are five regional commissions controlling how the UN's programs in a particular region are working together. The ECOSOC can enforce resolutions on its own and can suggest or make recommendations to the General Assembly as well.



Issue: Combating Food Waste

'Combating food waste' is one of our committee's three issues. After reading this document, you should have enough information to be able to write a proper policy statement/position paper and resolution on this issue. Of course we still encourage you to research your nation's stance on the issue and any past actions they have taken relating to it.

An introduction to the issue

Food waste is a global issue that has moved up in both the public and political agenda over a long term of time. The importance of this issue will only grow over time, especially with the need to feed the rising global population.

Food is a precious item of both import and export and its production can be resource intensive. Current estimates indicate that, globally, around one third of the food produced for human consumption is either wasted or lost, with a lot of consequent economic and environmental cost.

General information on the issue

It is estimated that simply halving the current amount of food waste by 2050 could reduce the projected amount of food required to feed 9 billion people by 25 percent compared to today's production numbers. Doing so requires a better understanding of where food waste occurs and the root of its causes.

Low-income countries

In less economically developed countries (LEDC's), much of the food waste occurs on the farm or soon thereafter. Depending on the crop, an estimated 15 to 35 percent of food may be wasted in the field because of poor techniques and other factors, including droughts, flooding and pests. Another 10 to 15 percent is lost during processing, transport and storage given a lack of modern facilities, trucks and access to refrigeration. In many LEDC's the storage infrastructure, such as grain silos is worse than it was 30 years ago, the net result of reduced government investment in agriculture.

High-income countries

In more developed countries (MEDC's), the problem results less from a lack of techniques and financial resources, but more from behaviour. The cultivation and harvesting is more efficient than in the LEDC's, but the post-harvest waste downstream is significant. Around 30 percent or more of the food is discarded in either processing, transportation, the retail environment and people's kitchens



- In the United States, 34 million tons of food is wasted each year. With 97 percent ending up in landfills or incinerators, food represents nearly 14 percent of the total municipal solid waste stream. The U.S. per capita food waste has increased approximately 50 percent in the last 43 years, reaching more than 150 trillion kcal per year.
- In the EU, 47 percent of food waste occurs at the household level (agriculture is excluded from this calculation). 25 Percent of the food purchased gets discarded according to the WRAP

Climate change

Excess food that is disposed of in a landfill, decomposes and is a significant source of methane gas, which is 20 times more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide.

Energy wasting

Wasted food is simply wasted energy. Wasted food contains calories, which are never consumed and the energy that went into growing the food, processing it, packaging it and transporting it to the consumer is also wasted.

Global water crisis

Wasted food also means wasted water. Water losses accumulate as food is wasted before and after it reaches the consumer. Calculations estimate that food waste accounts for more than a quarter of total fresh consumption globally. To meet the current demand of food, more than 3000 litres of water per person are used in crop production.

Previous attempts to resolve the issue

The drivers of food waste differ between MEDC's and LEDC's, food waste has recently emerged as an urgent global issue. In 2012, The European Parliament passed a resolution to halve the food waste in the EU by 2025. In 2015, the U.S. government declared a similar national food waste reduction of 50% by 2030. In 2016, a gathering of world leaders at the UN agreed on the need to halve per capita food waste.

Research by the NRDC, the FWRA and BioCycle have been critical to measuring the magnitude and building awareness of the issue.

Possible solutions to the issue

Below are some ideas you can elaborate on in your resolution.

- ❖ Addressing food waste sales in marketing
- ❖ Reducing in-store food losses



- ❖ Rethinking production processes

Major organizations/countries involved

Of course this issue is not bound to one specific area in this world. The whole world is involved with this issue, and below we list a selection of major organisations and countries that are involved.

The United States of America (USA)

The food waste in the USA is among the highest of the world, wasting around 50% of the food, about 60 million worth. The annual wastage per family is 1600\$. In 2015 the U.S. government declared a national food waste reduction of 50% by 2030

Australia

Being a developed country, Australia faces many environmental issues like higher levels of carbon dioxide, less rainfalls and one of the major concerns is food wastage.

Every year, 400,000 tons of food is wasted. This costs around \$8 million, 345kg comes from every household, which equals the size of 3 average size fridges. Most of the food is wasted by the young consumers, households with an income more than \$100,000 every year and families with children. According to a study, 20-40% of the fruits and vegetables are rejected even before they reach the stores because they don't match their cosmetic standards.

Canada

Canada is a country in the North America, consisting of 10 provinces and 3 territories spreading over Atlantic to Pacific and into Arctic Ocean from north. It has a population of 36,155,487. Even though Canada is a developed country, it has been facing the problem of food wastage.

In Canada 51% of the waste comes from household, 11% from retailers and 18% from the packed and processed food. Food waste just doesn't have its effect on the economy but environment as well. The landfills produce gasses which contribute to global warming and other environmental problems.

Germany

Germany is a sovereign state in central-western part of Europe with a population of 81,770,900. It has 16 states and has Berlin as its largest city and capital. Germany has high level of skilled labour force and service sector contributes 71% of the GDP, with industry contributing 28% and only 1% comes from agriculture. Like any developed country on the list, Germany also faces the problem of food wastage.



Required measures have been taken to reduce the wastage. An initiative “too good for the bin” has been taken and as a part of it, a website will be launched where people can read about the food wasted and what exactly “best before date” means.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is a specialized organization whose aim is to fight hunger in the world. The organization was established in 1945 in the city of Quebec in Canada.

Timeline of related events

2012: The European Parliament passed a resolution to halve food waste by 2025

2015: The United States government declared a national food waste reduction of 50% by 2030

2016: A gathering of world leaders at the United Nations agreed on the need to halve per capita food waste.

Key terms

MEDC's

More economically developed countries

LEDC's

Less economically developed countries

NRDC

Natural Resources Defense Council

FWRA

Food Waste Reduction Alliance

Food waste per Capita

The amount of food an individual wastes



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