



FOOD AND DIPLOMACY

FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

Food and Food security have always been a key issue in politics and international relations, influencing directly or indirectly diplomatic relations.

More than enough food is produced around the world to feed the global population, but as many as 811 million people still go hungry ! After steadily declining for a decade, world hunger is on the rise, affecting 9.9 percent of people globally. From 2019 to 2020, the number of undernourished people grew by as many as 161 million, a crisis driven largely by conflict, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before this increase in recent years, the world had been making significant progress in reducing hunger. In fact, in 2000, world leaders joined the United Nations and civil society in committing to meet eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015: the first of which was “to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.” Historically, States have always competed (and even fought) for control of and access to food just like for land, water, and energy, as they are all essential factors for all countries’ social, economic, and political development.

In cooperation with the relevant International and Regional Organizations, the **World Diplomatic Academy**, associated to the **Crans Montana Forum**, is proposing high level activities dedicated to “**Food and Diplomacy**”

Indeed many countries take advantage of their political and economic resources to influence global food systems in gaining competitive advantage on the global food market or gaining access to external food resources, but also to influence other countries’ political economic systems beyond the food issue.

Others take advantage of their own food resources and food production potential to influence international political and economic relations, with the aim to advance their geostrategic interests abroad, increasing economic cooperation or strengthening political relations with some countries, and punishing or sanctioning others.

A number of countries suffer from a high poverty rate, conjugated to a low agricultural productivity and a permanent malnutrition. These phenomena are aggravated by the impact of climate change, the spoilage of environment, as well as, at a general level, the lack of know-how, technologies, and infrastructure.



The dependency of such governments on (1) other countries and the (2) international community to achieve food security undermines their political independence, perverts their international relations, social cohesion, and internal progress.

To avoid this and ensure that all countries can equitably participate and have their say in the international food security policy making process, FAO, WFP, and IFAD joined forces to create the **Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**.

This Committee on World Food Security (CFS), hosted by FAO, is a multi-stakeholder, inclusive platform to develop and endorse international strategies, policy recommendations, and voluntary guidelines on a wide range of food security and nutrition topics.

The Initiative of the World Diplomatic Academy takes place in the spirit of this innovative and necessary approach.

THE FOOD AND DIPLOMACY DIALOGUES

Starting in October 2021, the World Diplomatic Academy will host a series of 4 high-level discussions on **Food and Diplomacy**.

Each session, for about 90 minutes, will be moderated by an outstanding international journalist.

Top Officials from UN, EU, CFS, FAO, WFP and IFAD will be invited as well as senior diplomats, FAO member States' delegates, and representatives of the Civil Society, CGIAR, The World bank, and WTO.

The FDDs are intended for an audience of government and international organisation Officials, diplomats, diplomatic students, international policy makers and decision makers from the private business sector.



PROGRAM

FOOD AND DIPLOMACY
SESSION 1

**THE HISTORY OF DIPLOMACY
ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY ISSUE**

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SESSION 2

**THE IMPORTANCE OF MULTILATERALISM
IN ADDRESSING FOOD RELATED ISSUES**

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SESSION 3

**BRINGING TOGETHER ECONOMIC INTERESTS
AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

FOOD AND DIPLOMACY
SESSION 4

**IMPROVING THE WORLD FOOD FRAMEWORK
THANKS TO ENHANCED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS**