

Food and Agriculture
Organization



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Overfishing Brief:

The world's fishing fleet is about 2-3 times larger than it should be, meaning that humans are taking out more fish than can be replaced through reproduction of the remaining fish. This practice of overfishing has caused the extinction and severe depletion of many species of fish. When you add rising water temperatures, severe weather caused by global warming, and ocean acidification, overfishing is putting the world in danger of losing fish as a reliable food source.

However, alternative practices such as aquaculture or "fish-farming" are seen as unnatural and unsafe. Many organizations are fighting for more standards and restrictions to existing aquaculture, while others denounce aquaculture completely on the basis that they discharge chemical waste into our fragile ocean ecosystems, putting them in even more danger. Many are in opposition to fish-farming for the same reason they are against other types of farming: under-regulation and maltreatment of animals.

This resolution to the United Nations is preventing overfishing and promoting aquaculture as an alternative. As you research, find out which practice the nation you are representing supports (fishing vs aquaculture). Also, figure out if the fishing industry is important to your nation's economy, or if your nation would find this resolution excessive and unnecessary at this time.

Good luck and have fun!

Helpful links:

<http://www.peta.org/about-peta/faq/is-aquaculture-bad-for-the-environment/>

<http://www.fao.org/Newsroom/en/news/2005/102911/index.html>

<http://ocean.nationalgeographic.com/ocean/explore/pristine-seas/critical-issues-overfishing/>

http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/blue_planet/problems/problems_fishing/

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/sofia/en>

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Department: Food and Agriculture
Organization

Principal Authors: Olivia McKenzie

Resolution No: 1

Co-Authors: Julian Kraidelman

Title of Resolution: A Resolution to Reduce Fishing Subsidies that lead to Overfishing

RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

1 Expressing the sense of the people of United Nations regarding overfishing and the
2 general exploitation of fisheries:

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4 Whereas Almost 80% of the world's fisheries are fully-to-overexploited, depleted,
5 or in the state of collapse.

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7 Whereas The World Wildlife Fund is encouraging nations to reduce and reform the
8 fisheries subsidies that contribute to overfishing.

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1 Whereas 12% of the world's population rely on fisheries and aquaculture for their
0 livelihoods, and fish exports are a valuable source of foreign exchange for
1 impoverished and developing countries.

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1 Whereas Over 852 million people in the world do not have enough food and about
2 85% of fish caught is used for global consumption.

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3 Whereas A study of catch data published in 2006 in the journal *Science* that if
1 fishing rates continue with their current pace, all of the world's fisheries will have
4 collapsed by the year 2048.

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5 **Resolved** by the People of the United Nations Nations,

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6 1. It will be strongly encouraged that all member nations will implement
1 aggressive fisheries management and better enforce laws governing catches.

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1 2. The body will strongly encourage that all member nations will work to
8 increase their use of aquaculture as a substitute for fishing.

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3. The body will strongly encourage member nations to severely limit or cease fishing in the waters of developing countries and promote and execute fair fisheries partnership agreements.

An Overview of Wheat Rust:

Scientists are warning that wheat is facing a serious threat from a fungal disease that could wipe out the world's crop if not quickly contained. Wheat rust, a devastating disease known as the "polio of agriculture", has spread from Africa to south and Central Asia, the Middle East and Europe, with calamitous losses for the world's second most important grain crop, after rice. There is mounting concern at the dangers posed to global food security. Rust diseases are airborne and respect no boundaries. They can spread over borders and cause significant yield losses over large areas.

According to scientists, climate change is in part behind the threat. The aggressive spread of two-forms of the fungus is widely believed to be linked to its rapid adaptation to warmer conditions. Dr Hodson said this is resulting in outbreaks in countries not previously affected, with epidemics in several countries from North Africa to South Asia.

Pests and diseases are a major threat to agriculture around the world, producing blights that not only costs farmers millions in lost production but also threatens a food source for billions of people around the world.

There is no question that the wheat rust epidemic needs to be addressed by the United Nations, but what is there to do? Genetic modification, chemical control, replacement of crops, simple field monitoring, or a shifted focus to lessen global warming are all possible solutions to this dilemma, but which one is most culturally acceptable, realistic, and most effective for your country?

WEBSITES TO RESEARCH:

[HTTP://WWW.FAO.ORG/NEWS/STORY/EN/ITEM/469467/ICODE/](http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/469467/icode/)

[HTTP://WWW.FAO.ORG/AGRICULTURE/CROPS/NEWS-EVENTS-BULLETINS/DETAIL/EN/ITEM/165881/ ICODE/5/?NO_CACHE=1](http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/news-events-bulletins/detail/en/item/165881/icode/5/?no_cache=1)

[HTTP://EXTENSION.UGA.EDU/PUBLICATIONS/DETAIL.CFM?NUMBER=C1060](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C1060)

[HTTP://WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK/NEWS/UK/HOME-NEWS/WHEAT-RUST-THE-FUNGAL-DISEASE-THAT-THREATENS-TO-DESTROY-THE-WORLD-CROP-9271485.HTML](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/wheat-rust-the-fungal-disease-that-threatens-to-destroy-the-world-crop-9271485.html)

ESSENTIAL QUESTION TO CONSIDER

1. DOES THE THREAT OF WHEAT RUSTS INCITE THE USAGE OF CHEMICAL PROTECTION OR GENETIC MODIFICATION TOWARDS WHEAT CROPS? IS BURNING CROPS A REALISTIC SOLUTION? IS GLOBAL WARMING THE UNDERLYING ISSUE AT HAND?

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

**Department: Food and Agriculture
Organization**

Principal Authors: Julian Kraidelman

Resolution No: 2

Co-Authors: Olivia McKenzie

Title of Resolution: A Resolution to Terminate Wheat Rust

RESOLUTION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- 1 Expressing the sense of the people of the United Nations regarding the danger of
2 wheat rusts;
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- 4 Whereas Wheat rust, a family of fungal diseases that can cause crop losses of up to
5 100 percent in untreated susceptible wheats are growing;
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- 7 Whereas the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), show
8 the emergence of new races of both yellow rust and stem rust in various regions of
9 the world in 2016;
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- 0 Whereas At the same time, well-known existing rust races have spread to new
1 countries underlining the need for early detection and action to limit major damage
1 to wheat production;
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- 2 Whereas Wheat rusts spread rapidly over long distances by wind. If not detected and
1 treated on time, they can turn a healthy looking crop, only weeks away from harvest,
3 into a tangle of yellow leaves, black stems and shriveled grains.
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- 4 Whereas Wheat is a source of food and livelihoods for over 1 billion people in
1 developing countries. Northern and Eastern Africa, the Near east, and west, Central
5 and South Asia – which are all vulnerable to rust diseases – alone account for some
1 37 percent of global wheat production.
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- 1 Whereas a large percentage of the world's population relies on the manufacturing of
7 wheat for a healthy diet; many agricultural jobs would be lost through the decline in
1 wheat production; this isolated issue for wheat farms in dry lands and near the
8 Mediterranean can easily become a global issue without immediate action.
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- 2 Resolved by the People of the United Nations,

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2 1. Countries apart of the United Nations will be strongly urged to collaborate
1 with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
2 towards research to rid all wheat rusts by creating facilities to investigate
2 four critical areas to rust prevention.

2 A. Preparedness: creating awareness, planning and coordination.

3 B. Prevention: the right seed (using seeds of resistant cultivars)

2 C. Early detection and warning: field surveillance, monitoring and timely reporting
4 of disease occurrence.

2 D. Timely response: the appropriate treatment at the right rime.

5 Encourage the relocation of wheat farms away from areas susceptible to wheat rusts
2 to safer, more farmable land.

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