

Ezra Cooper

WFP: Welcome Letter

YUNMUN XXXIV

Dear Delegates of WFP,

Welcome to YUNMUN XXXIV!

My name is Ezra Cooper and I will be your chair for the WFP. I'm super pumped.

First, a word about me: originally from Memphis, TN, I went to the Cooper Yeshiva of the South for high school, then took my talents to the old city of Jerusalem for two years at Yeshivat Hakotel. I'm in my third and final year at Yeshiva University where I study psychology, amongst other sciences. This will be my fourth YUNMUN, including my two high school experiences. Last year I was the chair for SPECPOL, but this year I am juiced to be the chair for all of you in the WFP committee. Crazy enough, in my first YUNMUN during high school, I was a delegate in WFP. Insert mind blown emoji here.

Now let's talk about the WFP. The World Food Program was founded in 1961, per the suggestion of US President Dwight Eisenhower. At the time, the goal was to create a branch of the UN that focused on food aid. Over time, however, the WFP's role would grow and as it currently stands, the WFP is the world's leading humanitarian organization.¹ In just its first few months, the WFP was put to the test. Between 1961 and 1963, the WFP had already provided aid for natural disasters in Iran and Thailand. During that same time period, the WFP had its first school meals project - which took place in Togo - approved.²

Over time, the WFP continued to intervene and provide humanitarian aid in the form of food in many dire situations. Moreover, the WFP continued to set its sights even higher on what it might accomplish. In the year 2000, the first blueprint to rid the world of poverty, hunger, and ills came

¹ <https://www.wfp.org/overview>

² <https://www.wfp.org/history>

to fruition. While not yet the case, it's a vision of hope for the WFP. In 2020, the WFP received the Nobel Peace Prize for its continued efforts in providing food in emergency situations, combating hunger, and serving as an essential source of humanitarian aid.³ Perhaps most important of all, the WFP has its sights on a brighter future, and hopes to eradicate world hunger by 2030, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁴

The two topics we will be focusing on at this year's conference are as follows. First, we must address the enormous amount of food that goes to waste. Per the WFP's commitment to ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030, coming up with solutions to reduce waste and to efficiently use our resources becomes an incredibly important issue. While the WFP has instituted some measures to tackle this issue, our task will be to consider where we are lacking and how we can and should do more.

The second issue we will address is how the WFP can utilize technological innovation to reduce hunger and malnutrition. Notably, some of the places that suffer from the worst cases of hunger also suffer from conflict and are incredibly poor. It will be important to consider how technological innovations can be used in those places that lack the resources of more affluent nations. While the WFP has successfully utilized technology in the past, we will have to consider what more we can do, especially considering recent advances in AI technology and the like.

As you embark on your research missions, remember that you are representing your country's perspective, not your own. Also, try to use and cite reliable sources. And finally, plagiarism is totally unacceptable (and only for dweebs). Thankfully, our committee has a strict #NoDweeb policy, so I don't anticipate this being an issue.

One of my favorite parts of YUNMUN is seeing the preparation and the coming to fruition of the delegates' hard work. I cannot wait to see what you each have in store. If y'all have any issues, questions, or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at ecooper1@mail.yu.edu. Looking forward!

³ <https://www.wfp.org/history>

⁴ <https://www.wfp.org/ending-hunger>

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Chair, WFP

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