

Ayelet Friedman

WFP: Welcome Paper

YUNMUN XXXVI

Distinguished Delegates,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to YUNMUN XXXVI! My name is Ayelet Friedman, and it is my privilege to serve as the Chair for the United Nations World Food Programme. I am eager to guide you through what promises to be a challenging and rewarding committee experience.

I hail from Baltimore, Maryland, where I attended Bais Yaakov before continuing my studies at MMY in Israel. I am a junior at Yeshiva University pursuing a dual degree in political science and philosophy with a concentration in international studies, with plans for law school in human rights advocacy and international relations. This year marks my second time serving as a presiding officer for the World Food Programme, where I look forward to facilitating meaningful debates on urgent global issues. Beyond YUNMUN, I serve as a Sacks-Herenstein Leadership Scholar, resident advisor, Shabbat Coordinator at Stern, and I am actively involved with the Tikvah Fund and AIPAC. I have also gained valuable experience through various think tanks as well as internships in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. These efforts have significantly strengthened my commitment to policy, leadership, and international cooperation, values that I hope will guide our committee's work throughout the conference.

The World Food Programme (WFP) was originally founded in 1961 as the food-assistance branch of the United Nations.¹ As the world's largest humanitarian agency, its mission is to address emergencies, improve nutrition, and build resilience. Currently, WFP operates in more than 120 countries and territories, reaching over 150 million people annually.²

WFP addresses several different international dilemmas, including delivering food in conflict zones and natural disasters, supporting smallholder farmers, running the world's largest school meals program for children, and pioneering anticipatory action against climate-related

¹ [History | World Food Programme](#)

² [Who we are | World Food Programme](#)

disasters. As a result of these crucial actions, the WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020 for its efforts to combat hunger and its contributions to promoting peace in unstable areas.

Foremost, at the epicenter of WFP's mandate is neutrality: all people deserve sustenance, regardless of origin. Working impartially enables WFP to operate in some of the world's most fragile, conflict-affected regions, serving as a powerful lifeline for vulnerable populations.

Our committee sessions this year will focus on two of the most urgent crises in the world today, the first being the **hunger crisis in Somalia**. The numbers are staggering: 4.6 million people face food insecurity, including 1.8 million children suffering from acute malnutrition.³ Somalia's crisis is not distant, it is burning, and it demands our action as a committee of people dedicated to change.⁴

Equally important is our second issue at hand: **microplastics**. An ever-growing environmental and public health crisis with international implications. Nearly inescapable, these plastic particles are ubiquitous in land, air, and sea through infiltrating ecosystems, food chains, and eventually the human body. Delegates will be tasked with considering how WFP, and the international community, can respond to both the immediate humanitarian emergency and the long-term resilience needs of the crisis in Somalia, as well as the increasing microplastic dilemma and its implications for global health.⁵

As you prepare for the conference, keep in mind that you are representing the official stance of your assigned country and not your own personal opinions. I strongly encourage you to conduct thorough research so that you arrive ready to engage in substantive and thought-provoking debate. When drafting your position papers, please ensure that all sources are properly cited. Papers will be reviewed through Turnitin and AI detectors, and plagiarism in any form will NOT be tolerated under any circumstances. If detected, all potential awards will be revoked.

³ [Somalia | World Food Programme](#)

⁴ [WFP Somalia Country Brief August 2025 | World Food Programme](#)

⁵ [Microplastics: Are we facing a new health crisis – and what can be done about it?](#)

I look forward to convening, collaborating, and drafting resolutions that balance urgent humanitarian needs with long-term resilience. I look forward to seeing your research and creative approaches in debate. Please feel free to email me at afried21@mail.yu.edu with any questions or comments leading up to the conference. I am here for you! You got this.

Warmest regards,

Ayelet Friedman

Chair, United Nations World Food Programme

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