# UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency, established in 1945. Its headquarters are located in Rome, Italy and it has 142 country offices. The mandate of FAO is to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, improve the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, and better the condition of rural populations, and thus contribute toward an expanding world economy. In order to fulfill its mandate, FAO's activities are driven by the following 5 strategic objectives:

1. Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition;
2. Make agriculture, forestry, and fisheries more productive and sustainable;
3. Reduce rural poverty;
4. Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems; and
5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department is responsible for the development of policies, strategies and guidelines. It is funded by its 197 members, including the United States. The United States has historically provided 20% of FAO's member contributions. It provides technical services to FAO members in the context of FAO's strategic framework and objectives. It is also responsible for promoting and supporting the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments and is guided by its vision and mission:

- ***Vision***: A world in which responsible and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources makes an appreciable contribution to human well-being, food security, and poverty alleviation.
- ***Mission***: To strengthen global governance and the managerial and technical capacities of members and to lead consensus building toward improved conservation and utilization of aquatic resources.

## FAST FACTS

**197**

members,

with the **United States** being the largest monetary contributor

Established in

**1945**

## Opening Position

- FAO wants to help stakeholders find consensus and practical solutions.
- It is a neutral forum that facilitates policy discussion among member countries. FAO is not empowered to decree a solution to this fishing issue.

- FAO could provide a platform to encourage dialogue between member states concerning standards and best practices.
- FAO can provide useful information and data to relevant parties on resource management, stock assessment, sustainability, and the consequences of overfishing.

## Questions to Consider

- What progress has the FAO made on improving the situation facing the fish industry and maintaining sustainable fisheries and livelihoods?
- What global instruments and measures are in place to prevent further damage to the oceans? How effective are these measures?
- How could member states involved in this scenario utilize various FAO processes to address some of the issues in this simulation? Which existing international frameworks would be particularly relevant and how could the member states best coordinate their efforts in such forums?
- How can the FAO better assist nations with the regulation of IUU fishing?
- What are possible funding sources?