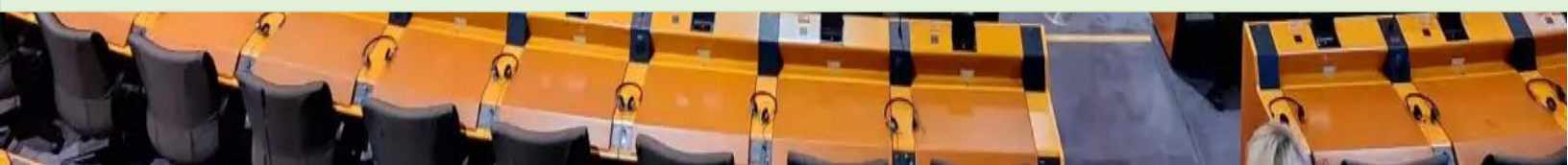




## **General Assembly 3**

**Topic 2: Mitigating Food Shortages in the Sahel Amid Climate Shocks.**

**President: Julie Al Madani**



## President's Letter

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pride and sincere honor that I welcome you to the United Nations Third General Assembly at MontessoriMUN'25. My name is Julie AlMadani, a Junior at the International Academy-Amman, and I am privileged to serve as your President for this year's conference. My chairing panel and I are deeply committed to cultivating an atmosphere of intellectual rigor, intense debate, and collective growth. Whether this is your first Model United Nations experience or one of many, I hope this conference becomes a key part in your journey that improves your ability to think critically, speak confidently, and engage meaningfully in discourse.

Walking into my first MUN experience, I was no more than a thirteen-year-old seeking means of amplifying my voice. Feeling helpless as I read different news articles about the violations of human rights, it wasn't until my first conference that I found a channel to use my voice to catalyze change and satiate my curiosity. MUN became the answer to that hunger; it became a place where my voice and those of other young people could reverberate amidst global challenges. I hope this conference can do the same for you, giving you the chance to use your voice and discover just how powerful it can be.

This year, our committee will be addressing two issues that stand at the heart of resilience. The first, Protecting Communities Displaced by Climate Change in the Pacific Islands, compels us to reflect on what it truly means to defend human dignity when entire nations face the threat of disappearing beneath rising seas. It is a topic that forces us to think beyond borders and to consider identity, sovereignty, and justice in an era of climate crisis.

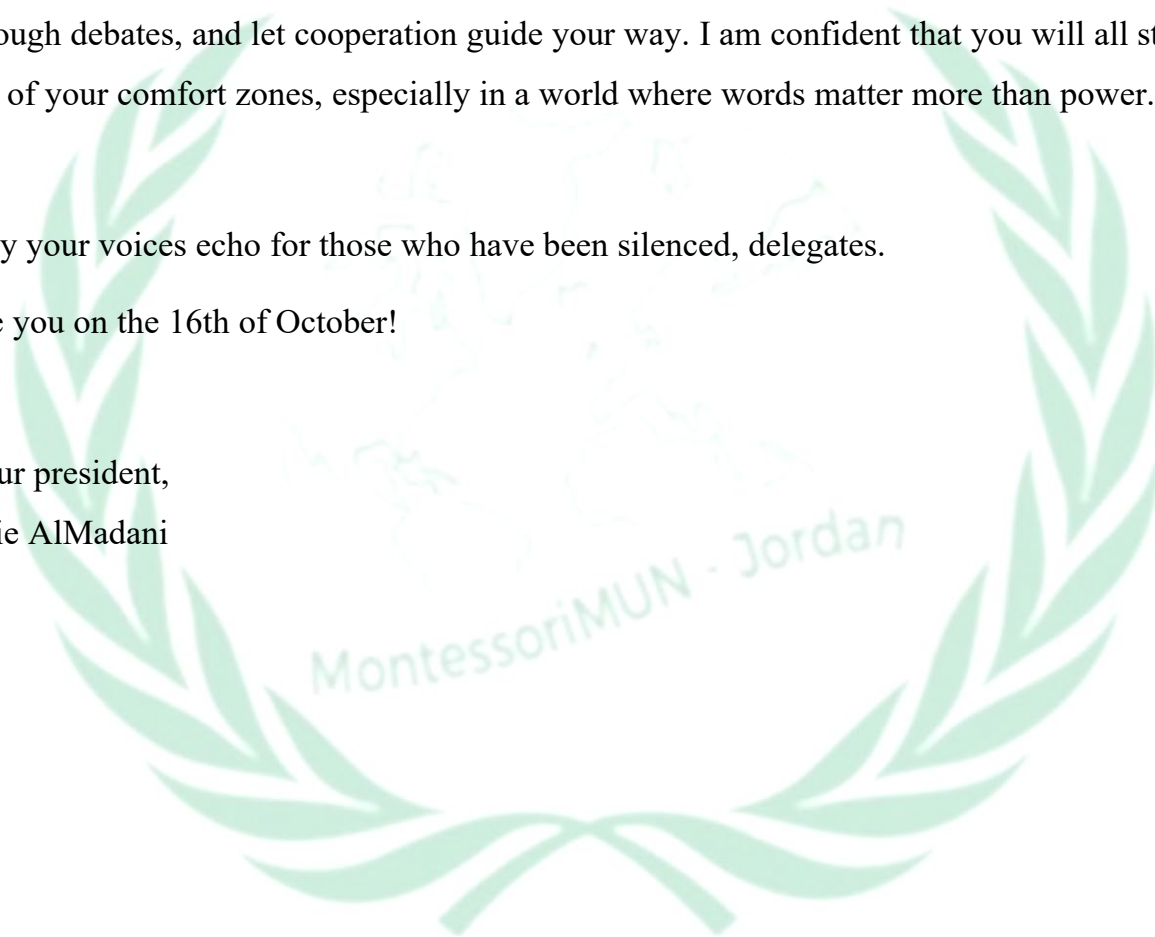
The second, Mitigating Food Shortages in the Sahel Amid Climate Shocks, draws our attention to a region where environmental pressures and humanitarian need collide. The Sahel reminds us that hunger is tied to security, development, and survival. As you debate on this topic, I want you to think about the struggles people face right now, while also imagining how their future can be made more resilient.

Let understanding lead your discussions, prove your commitment to the greater good through debates, and let cooperation guide your way. I am confident that you will all step out of your comfort zones, especially in a world where words matter more than power.

May your voices echo for those who have been silenced, delegates.

See you on the 16th of October!

Your president,  
Julie AlMadani





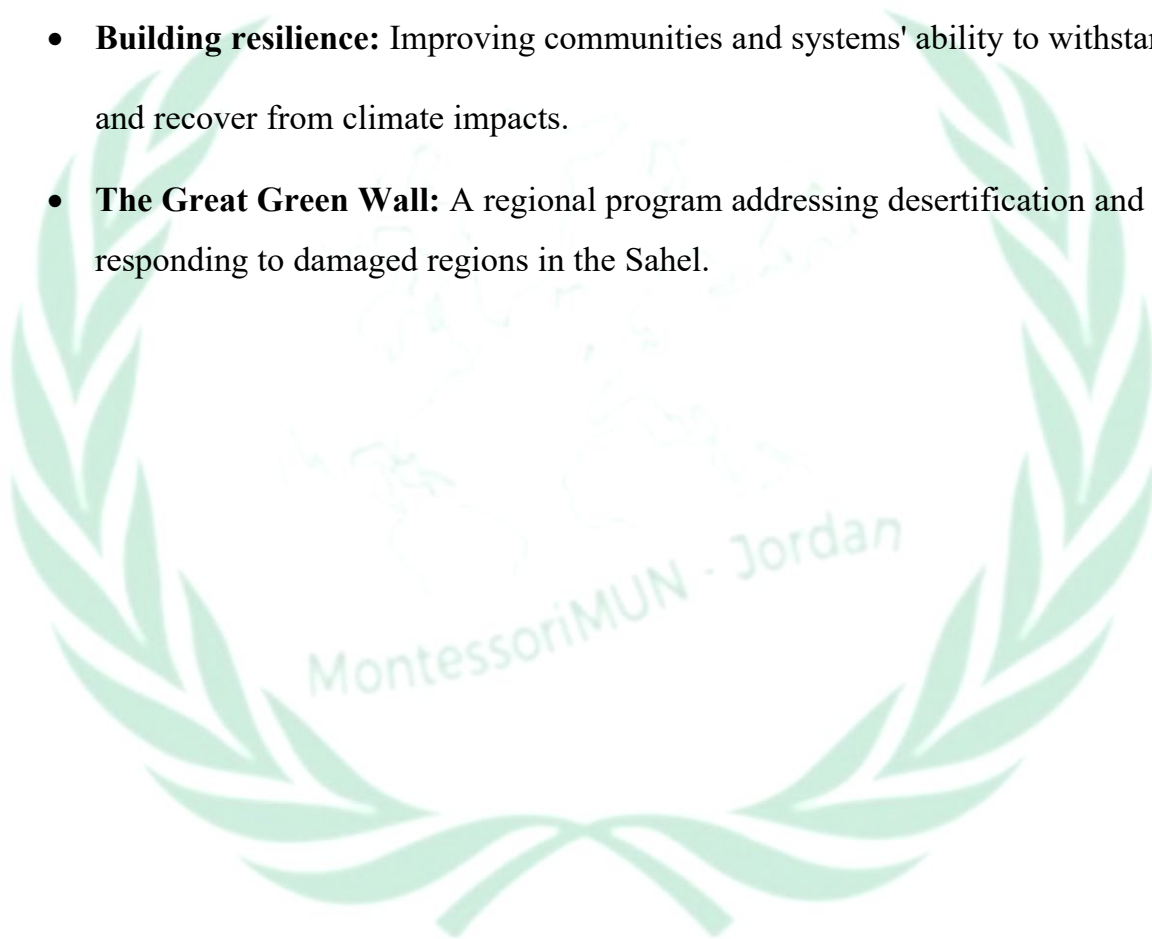
## Introduction to the Committee

The Third General Assembly Committee (GA3) is the primary body responsible for addressing social, humanitarian, and cultural issues that affect communities worldwide. This committee stands out for its focus on the promotion of human rights, advancement of social justice, and the protection of vulnerable populations in times of both peace and crisis. It plays a vital role in shaping global norms of equality, dignity, and inclusivity.

The importance of GA3 lies in its role as a platform for dialogue and cooperation on matters that define human well-being. Beyond responding to immediate humanitarian concerns, the committee works to uphold universal values, bridge cultural divides, and foster understanding between nations. Its work forms the moral backbone of the United Nations' broader mission: to promote peace through respect for human rights and social progress.

## Terminology

- **Food security:** Having enough, safe, and nutritious food to meet daily demands.
- **Rain-fed agriculture:** Agriculture that relies on rainfall rather than irrigation.
- **Building resilience:** Improving communities and systems' ability to withstand and recover from climate impacts.
- **The Great Green Wall:** A regional program addressing desertification and responding to damaged regions in the Sahel.



## History

Mitigating food shortages in the Sahel amid climate shocks is a developing environmental and humanitarian issue that first gained international attention in the late 20th century. Early climate studies in the 1980s warned that the Sahel, a semi-arid belt stretching across Africa from Senegal to Chad, was highly vulnerable to prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall, and advancing desertification.

These warnings began to materialize in the early 2000s as recurring droughts, unpredictable rainy seasons, and soil degradation reduced crop yields, killed livestock, and left millions facing chronic food insecurity.

One of the first large-scale hunger crises linked to climate variability occurred during the 2010 drought in Niger, which displaced farming families and strained regional food markets. Since then, countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, and Chad have experienced repeated harvest failures that force communities to rely on emergency food aid and seasonal migration.

Regional governments and international partners have promoted measures such as drought-resistant crops, improved irrigation, and early warning systems, but climate shocks continue to threaten livelihoods, making the Sahel a critical example of how changing weather patterns directly drive food shortages and humanitarian crises.

## Current Situation

The Sahel is facing one of the most pressing food crises in the world today, as climate shocks and instability converge to threaten millions of lives. Erratic rainfall, recurring droughts, and advancing desertification are steadily undermining rain-fed agriculture, the primary livelihood for the majority of the region's population, while occasional floods wipe out fragile crops and livestock.

These environmental pressures are compounded by armed conflict in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, which has displaced farming communities, restricted access to fertile land, and cut off trade routes, leaving local markets unstable and humanitarian agencies struggling to deliver aid. As a result, grain prices have soared, and more than 30 million people are currently experiencing acute food insecurity, with child malnutrition rates reaching emergency thresholds in several areas.

In response, regional governments and international partners have introduced measures such as drought-resistant crops, small-scale irrigation systems, and land restoration projects under the Great Green Wall, alongside programs like USAID's Feed the Future and France's Sahel Alliance.

However, these efforts remain uneven, underfunded, and hindered by insecurity, meaning that the pace of adaptation is falling behind the scale of climate shocks. Unless stronger and more coordinated action is taken, the Sahel will remain locked in a cycle of worsening food shortages, humanitarian crises, and instability. Your role is to write

resolutions that deliver practical solutions to end food insecurity in the Sahel and help communities withstand future climate shocks.





## Parties involved

- **The United States of America (USA):** Since the region's severe climate-related troubles started appearing, the United States of America has played a significant role in addressing food insecurity in the Sahel. Its goals involve strengthening food supply chains, assisting with humanitarian relief, and encouraging agricultural resilience. Through USAID's Feed the Future program, the United States has provided funding for initiatives and regularly participates in international forums to coordinate strategies for climate adaptation, food assistance, and drought response. The United States keeps coming up with new ways to help prevent hunger in communities that are at risk, such as investing in crops that can withstand drought and early warning systems.
- **France:** Given its historical connections and strategic interests in West Africa, France has taken an active role in addressing food shortages throughout the Sahel. Its efforts focus on stabilizing unstable regions, promoting sustainable agriculture, and averting mass displacement brought on by climate shocks. Through the Sahel Alliance, France makes a substantial financial contribution and collaborates with regional governments to increase local food production, upgrade water supply, and strengthen emergency response ability. It is also essential for advancing global collaboration on food security and climate adaptation.

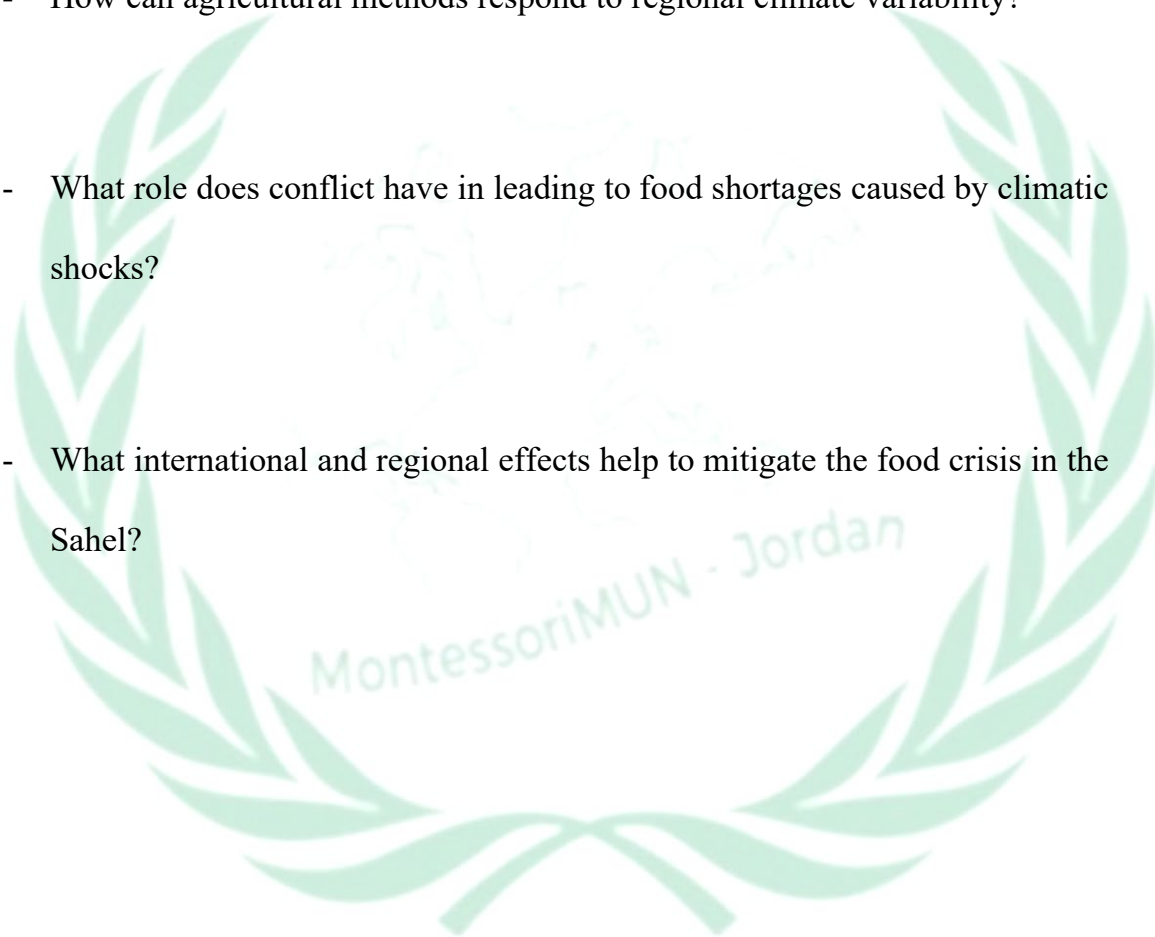
- **Niger:** One of the nations most impacted by the food shortages brought on by climate change is Niger, which is situated in the Sahel. Improving agricultural productivity, lowering its dependence on food imports, and shielding its people from frequent droughts are its top priorities. Programs have been implemented in Niger to increase water supply, restore damaged land, and promote the use of seeds resistant to drought. To protect lives, it actively works with partners around the world to develop community-based mitigation plans and increase food supplies.
- **Mali:** Mali experiences severe food insecurity as a result of climate shocks. Its main objectives are to lessen the effects of drought and desertification, assist farmers in rural areas, and restore agricultural output. In order to expand sustainable farming projects, distribute emergency food aid, and improve climate-smart agriculture, Mali collaborates with the UN and regional organizations. Policies to increase resilience and lessen dependency on humanitarian aid are still being implemented by the government.
- **Burkina Faso:** Burkina Faso has led the way in tackling food shortages caused by climate change by implementing community-driven adaptation initiatives. Improving water management systems, improving rural economies, and increasing food production are its main concerns. In addition to working with the World Bank and African Union to implement new farming practices and increase grain

reserves, Burkina Faso has made investments in reforestation projects like the Great Green Wall project. Long-term food security remains a top priority for the nation despite frequent droughts and security issues.



## Guiding questions

- What are the primary geographic and non-climatic elements impacting food security in the Sahel?
- How can agricultural methods respond to regional climate variability?
- What role does conflict have in leading to food shortages caused by climatic shocks?
- What international and regional effects help to mitigate the food crisis in the Sahel?



## Helpful Resources

<https://www.alliance-sahel.org/en/news/agriculture-rural-development-and-food-security/priority-food-security/>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/09/19/sahelian-countries-can-boost-and-diversify-their-economies-to-take-on-the-climate-crisis-and-food-insecurity>

<https://ascendclimate.org/climate-vulnerabilities-conflicts-and-livelihood-dynamics-in-the-sahel/>

<https://www.rescue.org/article/central-sahel-how-conflict-and-climate-change-drive-crisis>

