

Diplomacy Barcamp

John Cabot University, 18th October 2013

A Call for Ideas: Sustainability, Production, and Distribution in Fighting World Hunger

“**Food security** exists when all people, at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”.

Inspired by the words that underlined the concept of food security during the World Food Summit in 1992, **John Cabot University** will host the **Diplomacy Barcamp**, an event within the frame of the Festival of Diplomacy, supported by ItaliaCamp and Giovani nel Mondo. The goal of the Barcamp is to propose ideas in line with the post-2015 global agenda that will re-define the roadmap to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Projects responding to the three call for ideas outlined below will have to be submitted before the deadline of October 1st to diplomacybarcamp@johncabot.edu. The best ideas will be presented during the Barcamp on October 18th.

The initiative is a unique opportunity to propose new ways to achieve food security within a broader and more comprehensive strategy for development.

Indeed, the very specific goal of food security can be achieved only if envisioned in a broader framework of good governance, sustainable development policies, resource distribution, and transnational economic cooperation. With this in mind, states and international and non-governmental organizations are joining up their resources, expertise, and efforts to reach these common objectives. They are promoting good governance and offering their support to the governing structures of fragile states, especially in order to allow the implementation of long-term strategies that include food security as a main objective. However, despite international efforts up to this point, nine hundred million people are still hungry today. The Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty and world hunger is the only one that is unlikely to meet its goal by the 2015 deadline. Defining the way forward is paramount.

Food security for all is difficult to attain because of a broad range of issues. The political pressure of Western powers, specific features of the international trade system, and some assumptions underlying the international system of food aid are all just some of the issues to overcome in the quest for food security. The big picture is extremely complex. Thus, addressing the problems of production, distribution, and sustainability is of paramount importance to achieve the economic and political development of fragile states, with the final objective of promoting autonomous and sustainable growth.

In light of the immense difficulty of achieving food security, considering the deadline of 2015 and the dire necessity of defining a way forward beyond that, John Cabot University recognizes the need to spearhead a conversation on possible strategies and ideas for solving this problem in an efficient and environmentally responsible and sustainable way.

Reply to one of these calls:

1. **Sustainability**

Knowing that poverty is globally unsustainable, this call aims at gathering and valorize proposals regarding what developed countries can do to foster sustainable growth in developing countries. Propose your idea relative to themes as: food waste management, community building around the production of food, sustainable development, etc.

2. **Production**

How can we promote self-sufficiency in developing countries? Expose your idea relative to agricultural practices that respect indigenous traditions and biodiversity, saving seeds, soil renewal methods such as crop and grazing rotation, the establishment of polyculture, etc. The objective of this call is to discuss effective and efficient methods for rural communities to develop their own resources, foster economic growth, independence, and social empowerment.

3. **Distribution**

Analyze and investigate different factors related to food distribution from producing states to needing communities. Propose your idea regarding: what producing states can do with their surpluses, whether or not Food Aid is effective and how it can be improved, rethinking international trade and whether or not the status quo is effective or even favorable to developing nations, etc. The purpose of this call is to promote a discussion on updating the international system so that globalization becomes a favorable reality for all.

The best ideas responding to the three calls will be presented during the **Diplomacy Barcamp** (on October 18th at John Cabot University). A number of experts coming from the public and private sectors will be present, as well as representatives of the academic community and the media. The objective is to discuss challenges and possible rewards that motivate the different actors involved, from global IGOs to small rural communities.

Answer the call and send your ideas before **12:00pm of October 1st** at diplomacybarcamp@johncabot.edu.

Your project must be presented in a word document, and should not exceed 7,000 characters (including spaces). The document must also contain your first name, last name, phone number, and university affiliation. All proposals must be in English.

For further information contact trillo@johncabot.edu



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