

Off-campus visit: Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

On the 12th of December 2017, we were given the opportunity to visit the FAO headquarter.



The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations is an intergovernmental organization comprised of 194 member states, two associate members and one member organization (EU).

It was founded in 1945 in Quebec to free humanity from hunger and malnutrition and to achieve food security. In 1952 the Italian Government offered the organization the present building near Circo Massimo, which was the office of the “Ministero per l’Africa Italiana” during the fascist regime.

Security was high and our guide wanted to stress the importance to always have our badge since stepping into international territory. Sculpted on the walls of the entrance was the FAO’s constitutional law in the six official languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian; Italian has been recognized as one of the official languages after an agreement with the Italian Government.

In 1952 the Library dedicated to David Lubin was founded, the man who ideated the foundation of the International Institute of Agriculture with the help of King Vittorio Emanuele III. It contains over one and a half million books, equal to over 15 km of bookshelves, and in occasion of the 65th anniversary of the library we were able to see some of the incunabula given by Marchese Cappelli, normally closed to the public, which are precious books printed in Europe during the earliest period of typography.

After the visit to the library, we continued with the tour of the building and our guide brought us to the Plenary Hall, the room where the FAO conference takes place every two years. In all assemblies, every member state is equally represented.

This is also the room where on the 16th of October of every year the World Food Day is celebrated. The theme of this year was migration: how to change its future and to invest in food security and rural development since migration should be a choice.



We were given the possibility to seat and act like real diplomats and to take some pictures. We found ourselves dreaming of our future working in an international organization.

FAO is a technical organization whose main goal to achieve zero hunger by 2030 aligns with the UN's sustainable development goals.

To succeed in this aim, FAO focus its resources and programmes to achieve five strategic objectives: help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable; reduce rural poverty; enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems; increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

It has been a unique experience that made us realize which are the global issues we, as Global Governance students, will have to work on, in order to contribute to the improvement of relations between nations and both economic and social development with the objective to fulfill the UN's motto: "leave no one behind".

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