FAO’s mandate is to build a world without hunger through technical cooperation and assistance and its Members have agreed on three main objectives:

**Eliminating hunger:** FAO is working to build a world where everyone has access to safe, nutritious food. With almost one billion people living in chronic hunger, the need for coordinated action is acute and immediate.

**Fighting poverty:** FAO is working to eliminate poverty, particularly in rural communities to:
- boost agricultural production,
- fight plant, animal and aquatic pests and diseases
- support the development of sustainable agricultural industries that can help communities store, process and deliver safe nutritious foods to the consumer
- build rural institutions so that impoverished farmers can make their needs known and have their rights respected.

**Caring for the Earth:** FAO’s Member Nations are working together to ensure that global and national food and agriculture systems are environmentally sustainable. This involves:
- intensifying production to keep pace with population growth and ensuring that these systems do not put an unsustainable strain on the planet’s finite natural resources;
- reducing the use of chemical inputs, such as chemical pesticides and fertilizers that can pollute soil and water;
- working with countries to adopt ‘climate smart agricultural practices; practices that can help mitigate climate change and help farming communities adapt to changing climatic conditions.

To achieve its mission, the Organization focuses its activities in four main areas.

1. **Putting information within reach** (Without sound data on food and agricultural production, eliminating hunger and making food and agricultural systems sustainable is impossible)
2. **Sharing policy expertise** (Because FAO believes that right policies create lasting solutions, it assists countries to design and implement policies that improve their food and agricultural production and reduce hunger and poverty)
3. **Bringing knowledge to the field** (This work covers many different areas including agricultural development, forestry planning, land tenure systems, agricultural investments and revenues, social safety nets and rural services)
4. **Providing a meeting place for nations** (FAO provides a forum where Member Nations can negotiate international legal frameworks for determining national responsibilities and obligations in matters related to global food and agricultural production)

FAO provides an umbrella under which countries can identify strategic priorities and coordinate their efforts to find solutions and plans of actions to pressing problems affecting food and agricultural production.

FAO organizes high-level summits to mobilize political action and establish specific targets to be met in the fight to eliminate hunger.
**FAO Membership/Organization:**

FAO’s members are the countries of the world, it has **191 Member Nations, 1 Member organization** (European Union) and **2 Associate Members** (Faroe Islands and Tokelau). It is an inter-governmental organization, Member Nations are represented by officials from their governments who serve as delegates on FAO’s governing bodies. FAO is a United Nations specialized agency, accountable to the FAO Conference of member governments. FAO participates in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which coordinates economic, social and related work of the 14 UN specialized agencies as well as regional commissions.

**Governance Structure:**

**FAO Conference**
- highest governing body at FAO
- meets every two years in Rome.
- decides on the policies of the Organization and approves the Organization’s programme of work and the budget.
- elects the Director-General and votes on other important matters.

**FAO Council**
- appointed by the Conference
- reviews important matters between its regular sessions,
- meets four times between each session of the Conference and
- has 49 Members who serve three-year terms.

**FAO Regional Conferences**
Convened by during the years between Conference session by Member Governments in each major geographic region.

**FAO Committees**
Established by the FAO Constitution to help Conference and Council members make informed decisions about matters of policy and technical issues.