



diplomatische  
akademie wien

Vienna School of International Studies  
École des Hautes Études Internationales de Vienne



# DASICON

## The Future of Food Sustainability, Security and Stability

### When/Where:

25 February 2022, Friday

9am – 6pm

Diplomatic Academy in Vienna/Online

Favoritenstraße 15a, Wien 1040

### Contact us:

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[www.dasicon.org](http://www.dasicon.org)

@dasicon (Instagram)



City of  
Vienna



Embassy of Sweden  
Vienna



# WHAT IS DASICON? WHO ARE WE?

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DASICON is a student-led, one-day online conference at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, attended by its affiliates and the general public. The 2022 edition is titled “Sustainability, Security, and Stability: The Future of Food”, with panels focusing on future developments in the food industry throughout different sectors: technology, security, digitalization, economy, society, and politics. The aim of the conference is to invite speakers from diverse backgrounds, engage in critical discussions, and urge participants to consider food sustainability in their daily lives.



# TIMETABLE

09:00-10:00 Opening Panel

10:15-11:00 Panel 1

11:15-12:00 Breakout Sessions 1+2

## **Lunch Break**

13:30-14:15 Breakout Sessions 3+4

14:30-15:15 Breakout Sessions 5+6

## **Coffee Break**

15:45-16:30 Breakout Sessions 7+8

17:00-18:00 Closing Remarks +  
Networking with Club DA

# GENERAL INFORMATION

Our two panels and eight breakout sessions will be held entirely online. However, generating participant interaction remains one of our key priorities and therefore, all sessions will be rather brief, lasting approximately 45 minutes. Two breakout sessions will take place at the same time and participants can easily jump between the sessions.

Each session will be moderated by one of our university students. After a few introductory remarks, the floor will be given to our speakers whose input should not exceed 7 minutes. A period of 15 to 20 minutes is allotted to questions, allowing our participants to present their input. Our moderators can choose from a set of questions, either audience or preselected questions of our students.

We encourage an exchange of ideas and views — not only of the speakers but also of the audience. The intimate format makes it possible to ask more detailed questions about the work and experience of the speakers.

Access details can be found below. We ask you to be so kind as to log in around 5 minutes before the session.

For the purpose of easy operability, we will be using only two different zoom-links. Additionally, sessions will be live streamed on Facebook.

Link 1 will give you access to the Opening Panel, Panel 1 as well as Breakout Sessions 1, 3, 5 and 7:

## **DASICON 2022 (Session A): Opening Panel, Panel 1, Breakout Sessions 1/3/5/7, Closing Remarks**

Time: Feb 25, 2022 09:00 AM Vienna

<https://da-vienna-at.zoom.us/j/93746447938?pwd=VU0vczNGOHBRL3JwRDNJandNUno1UT09>

Meeting ID: 937 4644 7938

Passcode: DASICON@22

Link 2 will allow you to access Breakout Sessions 2, 4, 6 and 8:

## **DASICON 2022 (Session B): Breakout Sessions 2/4/6/8**

Time: Feb 25, 2022 09:00 AM Vienna

<https://da-vienna-at.zoom.us/j/92269089464?pwd=anJWSIJPYWizZDnVbzBIK3IHY0hXUT09>

Meeting ID: 922 6908 9464

Passcode: DASICON@22

## 09:00 - 10:00: OPENING PANEL: THE FUTURE OF FOOD

The production and consumption of food has always been an essential consideration throughout human history. Current global challenges in connection with climate change are forcing everyone – from politicians to farmers and consumers – to rethink the role food plays in our societies. At the same time, technological progress in agriculture or supply chain management provides necessary tools to tackle the nutritional challenges of our time. The opening panel will provide a broad overview of the Future of Food, particularly in the areas of Sustainability and International Security.

### Opening Remarks:

- DASICON President Valentin Frick
- DASICON Vice-Presidents Mareike Wiederhold & Melanie Petrov
- Director of the Diplomatische Akademie Wien, Ambassador Dr. Emil BRIX

### Keynote Speeches:

- Austrian Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, **Leonore Gewessler**
- Austrian Federal Minister for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, **Elisabeth Köstinger**

### Zoom Link:

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The presidents of this year's DASICON combine different areas of expertise as they are pursuing studies in the fields of cultural studies, political sciences and environmental studies. All these backgrounds contribute to our particular concern regarding the future of sustainable, secure and stable food. In addition to the pursuit of their Master's degree, a significant amount of time has been dedicated to implementing this year's DASICON in the most efficient way possible. Hence, actions speak louder than words, so let's make sure everyone hears them.



## 10:15 – 11:00 PANEL 1: SDG 2 – ZERO HUNGER

Despite years of constant decline, the number of people suffering from hunger – as assessed by the prevalence of malnutrition – starts to gradually rise again. Our earth has huge reserves, but inequalities in access and inadequate management have resulted in millions of people dying of hunger. We can feed the entire world's population and ensure that no one goes hungry again, if we encourage sustainable agriculture with contemporary technologies and equitable distribution mechanisms. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbates the situation. Supply chains have been disrupted, income opportunities have been lost and many farmers have been unable to produce enough food.

### Speakers:

- Dr.in **Anja Appel**, Director of KOO (Coordination Office of the Austrian Bishop's Conference)
- Director of the Diplomatische Akademie Wien, Ambassador Dr. **Emil Brix**

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### Moderator: Anubhav Banerjee

Anubhav is a 23 year old law graduate from India and enjoys exploring new ideas and perspectives in most things. He hopes to bring out the schizophrenic optimism and pessimism of GenZ to supplement his professional and lived experience as an advocate and volunteer at governmental and non governmental agencies in India.

## 11:15 – 12:00: BREAKOUT SESSION 1 – FOOD SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The production, distribution and consumption of food is not merely an economic but also a political challenge. Scarcity and overabundance intensify existing divisions and turn the concept of food security into a vital concern of the future. Global levels of food production provide sufficient means to fight hunger and feed all mankind. It is not the lack of food posing the problem, but global governance, international dynamics and geopolitical factors. By framing food as a security issue, the concept of food security becomes an important policy field. The involvement of states, as well as international organizations, NGOs, corporations and other actor's links questions of food security to the study of international relations.

### Speakers:

- Dr.in **Maja Bučar**, Professor, Chair of International Relations at the University of Ljubljana
- **Polina Sergeevna Tonkikh**, Director General of the WTO Center of Expertise

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### Moderator: Marta Wawrzyniak

Marta was born and raised in Poland, where her deep interest in international relations developed while she was working for the local youth council, representing her high school community and bringing changes within educational system. This experience led her to continue her studies in the chosen area firstly in the United Kingdom and then in Austria, where she is currently studying MSc in Environmental Technology and International Affairs at DA/TU Wien. She was faced with the problem of sustainable food production as a political matter while she was working for AIESEC and educating the international youth about the importance of SDGs. Today Marta hopes to bring the diversity of her experience and academic knowledge to the discussion related to the connection between international relations and the future of food.



## 11:15 – 12:00: BREAKOUT SESSION 2 – DIGITALIZATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN FOOD PRODUCTION

With the help of technological innovation, digitalization in the food business has begun. Due to the rise of mobile app development, data processing, robots, and cognitive technologies, digital transformation has facilitated cost-efficient food production. Individuals are becoming busier as their contemporary lifestyle evolves, particularly in cities and suburbs. In this context, the food-tech industry was created to respond to rapidly changing consumer demands. Food companies have further increased their digital transformation initiatives in response to a slew of difficulties. They have concentrated on increasing the efficiency of their processes and stronger durability of their supply networks.

### Speakers:

- Dipl. Ing. **Linda Staib**, Corporate Senior Sustainability Manager at ALPLA
- Andrew Cannavan, Head of Food and Environmental Protection at FAO/IAEA Joint Centre
- **Manfred Borer**, CEO Koltiva AG

### Zoom Link:

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### Moderator: Rory Hughes

Rory was born and raised in the UK and it was here where he took his first steps into the Food and Drink industry. Whilst supporting the running of cafes and working in restaurants he witnessed the growing role of technology in food production. He has a wealth of experience working in Trade for the Chilean-American Chamber of Commerce and the Department for International Trade at the British Embassy Vienna. Furthermore, he also works in the Wine & Spirits Industry in Business Development. Throughout all these roles Rory has seen the impacts of digitalisation on this sector. Rory has worked and studied across the globe including in Russia, Chile, Europe, and the US across numerous sectors and experienced the variety of approaches to food production. Today Rory hopes to bring this diversity of knowledge and experience to the panel to help foster discussion and to hopefully find some innovative solutions.





## 13:30 – 14:15: BREAKOUT SESSION 3 – EVERY STEP COUNTS

Big change can often be achieved when enough individuals take a couple of small steps in the right direction. With the motto “Every Step Counts”, this session explores, analyzes and compares different ways in which individuals can consume food more sustainably. To facilitate this transition, the creativity of entrepreneurs all around the world knows no limits. The necessity of such ideas is unquestionable, but how far can the efforts of consumers go in solving the global sustainability issues we are facing today? Do individual dietary choices have the potential to make a difference on the international stage?

### Speakers:

- **Julia Piechotta**, Founder of Spooonainable
- **Theresa Imre**, Founder and CEO of markta.at
- **Theo Koch**, Public Affairs Specialist at Too Good To Go

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### Moderator: Ema

Ema Odra Raščan works part-time for the American-Slovenian Education Foundation. She obtained her bachelor’s degree in International Relations from the University of Ljubljana with a specialization in European Studies. She has pursued her interests in sustainability and European policies by interning at the European Parliament in Brussels and participating in the Young Europe Ambassador program. Before that, she was the first female president of Globallis – Slovenian Student Society for International Relations, a Young Commentator on the European Parliament Election chosen by the Radio and Television Slovenia, and a columnist for the European Student Think Tank. Ema Odra is a freelancer in arts in her free time, notably being a published poet and an improvisational theatre actress and educator.



## 13:30 – 14:15: BREAKOUT SESSION 4 – SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES IN AGRICULTURAL POLICY

In both developing and developed countries, subsidies for agriculture take up a considerable share of states' budgets. Until today, it remains the biggest budgetary post of the EU, together with rural development. Also, agricultural policy has changed considerably all over the world since the 1990s, as the WTO rulebook demands less distortion of trade and markets. Still, most states' farming policies are heavily criticized for their lack of sustainability. Will policymakers prove their capabilities in the innovation of this subsidized sector? And what are the adjustments needed to ensure that governance in agriculture will be sustainable in the future?

### Speakers:

- **Rene Hartinger**, MBA, Secretary-General at Ökosoziales Forum Wien
- **Kirsten Luxbacher**, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Regional Agricultural Attaché for Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia
- **Franc Bogovič**, Member of the European Parliament

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### Moderator: Leonard Hartinger

Leonhard was born and raised in Salzburg, Austria. Since his youth, he takes part as singer and musician in different concert, broadcast, and CD productions. After studying Geography and Music, he taught in two secondary schools and started working as freelance cultural journalist for the Salzburger Nachrichten. His personal focus lies also in transportation and alpine development. As current student in the ETIA program at the Diplomatic Academy Vienna, he operates in the interface between culture, nature, education, and international relations.



## 14:30-15:15: SESSION 5 - THE RESILIENCE OF FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

**Strength & Dependency:** The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has sparked discussions about the resilience and vulnerability of food supply chains. Imposed lockdowns, restrictions and changing measures have disrupted world food systems and have created a domino effect inherent to global supply chains. Traditional methods and approaches are not sufficient to manage shocks and adapt to dynamic developments. Gaps in supply chains jeopardize the quality and accessibility of food; a problem which requires new government policy responses and strategies to build robustness, avoid chain reactions and facilitate recovery from crises and disruptive forces.

### Speakers:

- Prof. Dr. **Christian Fikar**, Professor for Food Supply Chain Management
- **Bettina Rosenberger**, MA, CEO at NeSoVe (Netzwerk Soziale Verantwortung)

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### Moderator: Aron Ortner

Aron, who was born and raised in Austria, studied and worked in the United States, Finland and Switzerland. He did his bachelor's degree in Logistics Management, where he wrote about the development of the Chinese food and pharmaceutical supply chain system. After his studies, Aron worked as a project manager in the aviation industry. There, he explored new ways to facilitate international transport and connectivity. Through these experiences, Aron learned to understand both the value and the enormous complexity of modern and resilient supply chains, which are the basis of any logistical system.



## 14:30 – 15:15: BREAKOUT SESSION 6 – FARMING OF TOMORROW

With the demand for agricultural produce steadily rising, it is estimated that by 2050, we will need to produce 70% more food. Meanwhile, agriculture's contribution to global GDP has dropped. In reality, there has been very little innovation in the business in recent years – and nothing to suggest that food scarcity and famine will not be a problem in the next decades. Farms and agricultural operations need to be operated considerably different in the future, paying more attention to technological improvements such as sensors, devices, equipment, and information technology. Will modern equipment and artificial intelligence render farms more efficient and environmentally friendly?

### Speakers:

- **Tsuamba Bourgou**, Regional Coordinator for West Africa at Groundswell International
- **Mag. Philipp Loidolt-Shen**, Designer and Founder of Azolla Ecosystems
- **Marianne Neumüller-Klapper**, Customer Care & Service Director at Nespresso Austria

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### Moderator: Maria Khoruk

Maria is Belarusian and comes from a cultural background. Working at art festivals and in cultural institutions, she often observed artists' engagement with the topic of sustainability. Later on, she could gain first-hand experience working in a regional security organization with an environmental dimension. Maria believes in finding innovative interdisciplinary solutions to promote sustainability and address environmental challenges. Apart from her academic and professional encounters with the topic, Maria enjoys being in nature and had a great time volunteering in an urban community garden in England. As a coffee buff, she finds research on the future of coffee – a crop that is significantly affected by climate change – absolutely fascinating.



## 15:45 – 16:30: BREAKOUT SESSION 7 – THE ECONOMICS OF FOOD: MODEL AND MECHANISMS

Food is a precious resource for the creation of energy; Energy human bodies use to function, breathe and work. Simultaneously, food is a powerful tool and a means to an end. Prices of food production, the optimization of processes, its fair allocation and proper governance play vital roles in creating sustainable and resilient agriculture. Fair wages, high quality and overall affordability shall not be mutually exclusive but realistic, compatible goals. What are the theories, principles and studies underlying the economics of food? Which economic models and mechanisms can help us work toward food security, sustainability and stability?

### Speakers:

- Priv. Doz. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. **Franz Sinabell**, Economist at WIFO - Austrian Institute for Economic Research
- Mag. **Adelheid Sagmeister**, Coordinator for sustainable food handling at the City of Vienna
- **Neha Mehta**, Founder Femtech Partners

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### Moderator: Lydia Lienhart

Growing up on a small farm in Southern Austria, Lydia had always been questioning her parents about the impact agriculture and food consumption have on our planet. Yet, it was her degree in economics that sparked her curiosity for its systemic effects on the economy and society. Today, she has a **Youtube-Channel** dealing with these questions and she is looking forward to moderating an interactive, insightful panel.



## 15:45 – 16:30 BREAKOUT SESSION 8: IS THERE A HUMAN RIGHT TO FOOD?

Food is a fundamental human right. It safeguards everyone's right to a healthy life and freedom from hunger. Hunger is both a violation of human dignity and an obstacle to social, political and economic progress. Everyone, regardless of ethnicity, color, sex, religion or origin, has the right to adequate nourishment and the avoidance of malnutrition. The primary responsibility for ensuring the fundamental right to freedom from hunger rests with national governments. However, up until now, no country has adopted national legislation to specifically realize this right. Next to national governments, what are the roles of international food corporations and NGOs in enforcing food as a human right?

### Speakers:

- Prof. **Amy Bentley**, New York University Food Studies Professor
- Member of EU Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski's Cabinet, **Roberto Berutti**

### Zoom Link:

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### Moderator: Natasha

Natasha Mwala is a post graduate student who has developed a keen interest in digitalization of international relations and the integration of artificial intelligence. She is also interested in the paradigm of Human Security which centers the concept of security around the individual instead of the traditional lens of security from a state's point of view. Born and raised in Nairobi, she hopes to promote social inclusion, improve livelihoods and dignity of all marginalized group and contribute to Sub-Saharan's voice in international the international arena. With her knowledge, as a moderator, she will look into Food security and the human right to food.



**17:00 – 18:00 CLOSING REMARKS  
& NETWORKING EVENT IN  
COOPERATION WITH CLUB DA**



DASICON is delighted to announce a networking session for our participants and speakers which is happening right after the closing remarks at 5 p.m. in cooperation with ClubDA. Take this opportunity to connect with professionals and students to discuss the issues of the day and extend your network with like-minded people. Small groups with max. 10 people, divided according to field of studies, work, and areas of interest, will allow for lively discussions to close out an eventful day. Everyone who signs up for DASICON 2022 will receive a separate email through which they can sign up for this exclusive networking opportunity.

**Zoom Link:**

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