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## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Integrated Programme for Commodities

### REPORT OF THE FOURTH PREPARATORY MEETING ON VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
from 2 to 5 March 1981

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## INTRODUCTION

(i) The Fourth Preparatory Meeting on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds was convened by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD at Geneva on 2 March 1981, in pursuance of Conference resolution 93 (IV) on the Integrated Programme for Commodities, section IV, paragraph 4, and in accordance with the calendar of meetings.

(ii) In the course of its session, the Preparatory Meeting held 3 plenary meetings. At its first plenary meeting, on 2 March 1981, it decided that its substantive proceedings should be in private.

### Tribute to Mr. G. Wanamaker (United States of America), the late Chairman

(iii) In opening the Fourth Preparatory Meeting, the representative of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD paid tribute to the late Mr. George Wanamaker (United States of America), who had been Chairman of the Preparatory Meeting at its first three sessions. All were indebted to Mr. Wanamaker for his valuable contribution, over a considerable period of time, to promoting international co-operation in matters related to vegetable oils and oilseeds. Several representatives also paid tribute to Mr. Wanamaker and stressed the personal loss felt by many who had worked with him during the preceding meetings.

(iv) The Preparatory Meeting observed one minute's silence in memory of Mr. Wanamaker.

## Chapter I

### CONSIDERATION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES ON VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS (Agenda item 2)

#### A. Research and development

1. The Fourth Preparatory Meeting on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds noted with appreciation the reports by the FAO and UNCTAD secretariats on the Revised Draft Programmes of Research and Development for Coconuts and their Products (TD/B/IPC/OILS/14) and for Groundnuts and their Products (TD/B/IPC/OILS/15). The Meeting also took note of the Report of the Panel of Experts on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds (TD/B/IPC/OILS/13) and expressed its satisfaction with the efficient manner in which the Panel had carried out its task.

2. The Meeting approved the two programmes as being in conformity with the criteria established by the Third Preparatory Meeting and as being suitable for submission to appropriate financing institutions, including in particular the Second Account of the Common Fund when the latter becomes operational. The Meeting recognized, however, that the summary project proposals contained in the above programmes would have, at some appropriate time, to be further elaborated.

3. The Meeting agreed that the projects included in the above programmes could be broadly classified into the following categories:

- (a) Production and productivity improvement;
- (b) Processing improvement and product development;
- (c) Information and documentation.

The classification does not imply any order of priority between the three categories. The Meeting stressed the need for flexibility in allocating the projects to these categories. The Meeting noted that it might become necessary, at some appropriate future time, to establish priorities among projects falling within each of the above categories. The precise order of over-all priorities would need to be determined in the light of the facts existing at the appropriate time. The Meeting recognized the difficulties in establishing priorities between projects for two main reasons. Firstly, because there were still various uncertainties regarding the modalities and conditions under which the Second Account of the Common Fund would operate. Secondly, because any order of priority established among these project proposals might change over time.

#### B. Other issues

4. The Meeting, recalling the decision of the Third Preparatory Meeting, in October 1979, <sup>1/</sup> reiterated that its work of elaborating research and development programmes for groundnuts and coconuts should be considered as a pilot undertaking and that, "once experience had been gained with programmes for those two product groups, it would be possible to expand the coverage of the programme progressively and with speed to cover other important oilseeds and their products". Several producing countries expressed their desire that research and development programmes suitable for submission, inter alia, to the Second Account of the Common Fund, should be prepared as soon as possible for other oilseeds and oils of particular interest to them. It was agreed that this issue should be taken up at the next Preparatory Meeting.

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<sup>1/</sup> See TD/B/IPC/OILS/11, para.4.

5. The representative of the International Olive Oil Council (IOOC) informed the Meeting that the last session of the IOOC, held in November 1980, had adopted a resolution requesting its members to submit to it proposals on measures likely to be eligible for financing by the Second Account of the Common Fund. The relevant proposals for measures received would be incorporated in a report to be submitted by the IOOC secretariat to the November 1981 session of the Council. The IOOC would keep the Preparatory Meeting informed of developments in this regard.

C. Consideration of follow-up action (Agenda item 3)

6. The Preparatory Meeting agreed that, in order to minimize administrative costs, it was not desirable to set up any new international commodity bodies for sponsoring the research and development programmes for coconuts and groundnuts for the purpose of financing by the Common Fund through its Second Account. The Meeting agreed that the FAO Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats would be an appropriate body for sponsoring the above two programmes if it proved possible to have it designated by the Common Fund as an eligible International Commodity Body (ICB) meeting the criteria set out in Schedule C of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities.

7. The Meeting considered that, regarding the execution and location of projects, this would be more appropriately decided upon - when the projects had been accepted for financing - by the international commodity body (if relevant), the financing agency and the competent national, regional or international agencies responsible for the commodity in question. In this respect, while recognizing the continuing role of United Nations agencies, the Meeting reiterated its agreement that, to the extent possible, use should be made of expertise available in the producing regions concerned, and in particular of competent regional commodity bodies such as the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community and the African Groundnut Council, as well as of existing research and development agencies and institutions (whether national, regional or international).

8. The Meeting decided that the above two programmes should be brought to the notice of the FAO Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats, which should also be informed of the conclusions of the Fourth Preparatory Meeting and of relevant future developments regarding the Second Account of the Common Fund.

9. The Meeting considered it inappropriate to suggest a date for the next Meeting, which would depend on developments relating to further progress on the above programmes.

## Chapter II

### ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

#### Opening of the session

10. The Fourth Preparatory Meeting on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds was opened on 2 March 1981 by the representative of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, acting in place of the late Chairman, Mr. G. Wanamaker (United States of America), to whose memory he paid tribute in his introductory statement.

#### Replacement of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur

11. At its opening meeting, on 2 March 1981, the Meeting elected Mr. K.H.A. Jallow (Gambia) as its Chairman to replace the late Chairman, Mr. G. Wanamaker (United States of America). At its second meeting, on 3 March 1981, it elected Mr. Y. Chiba (Japan) as Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur in place of Mr. I.H. Sahai (India), who was not able to be present at the beginning of the Meeting.

#### Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 1)

12. At its opening meeting, on 2 March 1981, the Meeting adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/IPC/OILS/12) as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Consideration of outstanding issues on vegetable oils and oilseeds
  - (a) Research and development
  - (b) Other issues
3. Consideration of follow-up action
4. Other business
5. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Meeting.

#### Establishment of a sessional committee

13. Also at its opening meeting, the Meeting decided to establish a sessional committee to consider items 2 and 3 of its agenda, it being understood that the Bureau of the Sessional Committee would be the same as that of the Meeting itself, and authorized the Rapporteur to report to the plenary direct.

#### Attendance 2/

14. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented at the session: Argentina; Australia; Belgium; Canada; Colombia; Denmark; Ecuador; Finland; France; Gambia; Germany; Federal Republic of; Greece; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Iraq; Italy; Ivory Coast; Japan; Madagascar; Malaysia; Malta;

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2/ For the list of participants see TD/B/IPC/OILS/INF.4.

Morocco; Netherlands; Niger; Nigeria; Norway; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Romania; Senegal; Spain; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Sweden; Syrian Arab Republic; Thailand; Tunisia; Turkey; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Zaire.

15. The following other State member of UNCTAD participated in the session: Brazil.

16. The Economic Commission for Europe was represented at the session. The International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT was also represented.

17. The following specialized agencies were represented at the session: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Monetary Fund. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was also represented.

18. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session: African Groundnut Council; Asian and Pacific Coconut Community; 3/ European Economic Community; International Olive Oil Council; League of Arab States.

Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Meeting (Agenda item 5)

19. At its closing meeting, on 5 March 1981, the Meeting adopted its draft report, with a number of amendments, and authorized the Rapporteur to complete the final version as appropriate.

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3/ Participating by decision of the First Preparatory Meeting.

Annex

CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
TD/B/IPC/OILS/12	Provisional agenda and annotations
TD/B/IPC/OILS/13 TD/B/IPC/OILS/AC/4	Report of the Panel of Experts on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds
TD/B/IPC/OILS/14	Revised draft programme of research and development for coconuts and their products: report prepared by the FAO secretariat, in consultation with the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/IPC/OILS/15	Revised draft programme of research and development for groundnuts and their products: report prepared by the FAO secretariat, in consultation with the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/IPC/OILS/INF.4	List of participants