

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION
*Official Records **

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SECOND COMMITTEE
21st meeting
held on
Thursday, 25 October 1979
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MURGESCU (Romania)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/34/SR.21
29 October 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

79-57805

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 61: FOOD PROBLEMS: REPORT OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (continued)
(A/34/19)

1. Mr. SALERNO (Observer, European Economic Community) said that the European Economic Community shared the concern of the Executive Director of the World Food Council regarding the world food situation. In spite of national and international efforts and advances in production techniques, progress had been frustrated by population growth and structural difficulties, which in fact had aggravated the world food situation.

2. Famine and malnutrition were the main problems that humanity must face. EEC was aware of that fact, and actively co-operated with the various bodies within the United Nations system; it also engaged in bilateral and multilateral efforts to contribute to the solution of food problems. It had welcomed the completion of the discussions in the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes on recommendations and criteria for food aid. As one of the main donors to the World Food Programme, the Community hoped that the General Assembly would adopt the draft resolution on the subject approved by the Economic and Social Council. It reiterated its support for the target of \$1 billion in contributions for the next period (1980-1982). It had duly taken note of the statement by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes that a larger portion of food aid should be channelled through the World Food Programme. It agreed that the Programme's resources devoted to emergency assistance should be increased, and hoped that co-operative programmes with other bodies would be worked out.

3. EEC endorsed the resolution adopted at the fifth session of UNCTAD, urging the resumption and successful conclusion of the negotiations on a new international grain arrangement. World food security and market stabilization would only stand to benefit from such an arrangement. The FAO Five-Point Plan of Action on world food security was also a sign of progress in that field. Although many aspects of the Plan were interesting, it was only provisional and could not serve as a substitute for a new grain agreement. The Community fervently hoped that the countries which had participated in the Conference would strive to find a way of successfully concluding the negotiations.

4. With regard to bilateral and multilateral efforts outside the United Nations system, he said that 36 per cent of the aid programmed under the Lomé Convention, or nearly \$1 billion for the period 1976-1980, related to rural development activities. Much of that aid was for integrated rural development projects aimed primarily at increasing food production. Furthermore, the amounts devoted to rural development activities in developing countries other than those participating in the Lomé Convention had increased greatly, from \$27.5 million in 1976 to \$150 million in 1979. Most of the projects were aimed at promoting the development of food crops and strengthening food security. They also involved contributions to international research institutes operating under the auspices of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research in the Philippines, India, Peru and Colombia.

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(Mr. Salerno, Observer, EEC)

5. It was important to note that the level of carry-over stocks in the European Economic Community, which was normally about 4.5 million metric tons, had reached 7.5 million metric tons in 1979. In future, the Community planned a more active stocking policy, keeping in mind both world food security and the stabilization of the Community and world markets. It was also aware of the important role which EEC played internationally in the import of agricultural products. Its total imports of those products had amounted to approximately \$37 billion in 1977, half of which had been from developing countries, mostly free of charge or with ad valorem custom duties ranging only from 4 to 20 per cent. For almost half of those imports, the Community accorded preferences to developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences, the Lomé Convention or agreements with Mediterranean countries.

6. The Community wished to stress the importance of the work of the fifth session of the World Food Council, and hoped that the Council would continue to make a positive contribution to the solution of world food problems. EEC was ready at all times to offer its full support and co-operation in finding the most appropriate machinery to ensure world food security.

7. Mr. LLOYD (Australia) said that his delegation shared the concern expressed by the Executive Director of the World Food Council regarding the increasingly difficult world food situation. The problem was particularly acute for developing countries, where food production had not kept pace with rising food needs. As a result, many developing countries were becoming increasingly dependent on imported food. The steep increases in the prices of wheat and coarse grain had exacerbated the situation. His delegation agreed with the Executive Director that the world hunger problem seemed to be getting worse, and that a major crisis might ensue unless a concerted effort was made to forestall it. Renewed efforts must therefore be made to increase over-all food production.

8. The fifth session of the World Food Council had rightly stressed the value of developing national food sector strategies. As stated by the Council, that approach offered a promising instrument for food-deficit countries to review their food efforts, to provide a framework for identification and preparation of investment projects, and, where desirable, to step up the capacity and mobilization of investment, including additional external finance. His delegation welcomed the action already taken by a number of developing countries to develop such strategies. The Council had also correctly emphasized that more attention must be paid to structural reforms with emphasis on improved land tenure, more equitable access to services and credit, technology adapted to the needs of developing countries and decentralization of the decision-making process. Without proper direction and a substantial increase in food production within the developing countries themselves, it was quite possible that the international community and the countries concerned would not be able to handle and finance the food imports which would then be required.

9. His delegation welcomed the adoption by the Second Committee of the draft resolution on the Conference and had been generally pleased with the outcome of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (A/C.2/34/L.6).

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(Mr. Lloyd, Australia)

10. Australia strongly supported the negotiation of a new International Wheat Agreement, and would support resumption of negotiations as soon as feasible. However, the United Nations Conference should not be reconvened before sufficient progress was made towards resolving the differences among the major participants. Only a commercially viable agreement with adequate safeguards for normal commercial trade would genuinely improve long-term world food security.

11. Australia also supported the need for a minimum level of food aid in order to insulate food aid programmes from excessive fluctuations in production and processing. The most suitable mechanism for ensuring food aid flows was the Food Aid Convention, which his delegation saw as linked to an International Wheat Agreement. It recognized, however, that others did not share its view and was prepared to reconsider its position.

12. As a leading food producer, Australia was continuing to play an important role in easing the world's food problems. It had allocated over \$58 million in 1979 for the food aid programme, an increase of nearly 22 per cent over expenditure in 1978. It had repeatedly endorsed the international target of 10 million metric tons of food aid per annum, and would urge traditional and new donors to be forthcoming in achieving that target. Australia had indicated that its minimum food aid commitment under a new Food Aid Convention would be increased by 78 per cent, from 225,000 to 400,000 metric tons per annum, compared to the average increase by existing donors of 40 per cent.

13. His delegation was particularly conscious of the need for an adequate international emergency food reserve to meet growing emergency needs. It had supported the International Emergency Food Reserve since its inception in 1977, endorsed its target of 500,000 metric tons of grain and would encourage new donors to come forward in order to ensure its attainment. Australia's former contribution of 10,000 metric tons of grain had been increased to 30,000 tons in 1979-1980.

14. Australia's contribution to the World Food Programme was also expected to rise significantly in 1979-1980. The amount of wheat channelled through WFP was to be increased progressively to 20 per cent of all Australia's food grain aid. The cash and commodities pledge of \$7 million for 1977-1978 would rise to \$9.4 million for 1979-1980. In 1979-1980, the total value of Australia's assistance to WFP would be approximately \$15 million.

15. His delegation fully agreed with the concern expressed in the report of the World Food Council (A/34/19) regarding those protectionist trade practices that adversely affected the export possibilities of developing countries in particular. Such practices also created difficulties for efficient developed country producers, and their cost to developing and developed countries alike should not be ignored.

16. Mr. LOHANI (Nepal) said that, despite recent improvements in the world food situation, the food-deficit developing countries continued to face hardships. The per capita food production of developing countries had stagnated, and that of the least developed and most seriously affected countries had either remained the same

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(Mr. Lohani, Nepal)

or declined. It was generally agreed that world food problems could be solved by increasing the food production of developing countries. Those countries were making efforts to develop the food and agricultural sector of their economies. While the primary responsibility for the solution of their food problem rested with the developing countries themselves, the importance of international support and co-operation could not be minimized.

17. A consensus was emerging on the main elements of the development strategy for the food and agricultural sector: an increased flow of external capital for investment, a larger supply of physical inputs, transfer of technology and a suitable institutional infrastructure. It had been agreed in the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 that external assistance of \$8.3 billion, with \$6.5 billion on concessional terms at 1975 prices, would have to be made available by the end of 1980 if the target of 4 per cent annual growth rate in agricultural production of developing countries was to be reached. It was reported, however, that current and projected levels of investment in food production and distribution would not meet the food needs of the world's growing population.

18. It was quite obvious that vigorous and concerted action on the part of the international community alone could make possible the achievement of food security in the next decade. Nevertheless, a world food security system was highly desirable to make up for the inevitable shortfalls in production. The conclusion of a new International Wheat Agreement and a new Food Aid Convention were the critical components of world food security. The proposal to raise the target for the Food Aid Convention to 15-16 million tons by 1985 was reasonable, and his delegation was pleased that the FAO Five-Point Plan of Action had been endorsed by the World Food Council. It was to be hoped that, in response to the Council's appeal, countries lagging behind in contributions to the International Emergency Food Reserve would make contributions in order to achieve the target. In view of the growing requirements of developing countries, food aid should be substantially enlarged, and it should be essentially in grant form so far as the least developed and most seriously affected countries were concerned.

19. Although liberalization of food trade had been looked forward to as an effective means of strengthening the economic development and helping to meet the food needs of developing countries, reports indicated that their share of agricultural exports had continued to decline. One of the major factors responsible for that situation was the widespread protectionism practised in developing countries. One of the central tasks of the second window of the Common Fund should be to finance research and development in order to promote and diversify the agricultural exports of developing countries and increase their competitiveness in world markets.

20. International agencies and regional commissions should provide facilities for developing countries to strengthen their project formulation and implementation capabilities. The least developed countries should be provided with technical assistance in the identification and formulation of investment programmes and projects in the food sector. It was to be hoped that FAO would continue to play a vital role in providing assistance both for training facilities and for project formulation.

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(Mr. Lohani, Nepal)

21. His delegation wished to express its appreciation to the Canadian Government for allocating a special fund of \$2 million for technical assistance to developing countries in preparing national food strategies for the 1980s. It had also noted with appreciation the offer made by the Indian Minister of Rural Reconstruction to share India's experience in agriculture by extending co-operation, consultancy and assistance to other developing countries.

22. His delegation wished to reaffirm the continuing need for the FAO Technical Co-operation Programme. Many FAO activities, including special action programmes, had greatly benefited the developing countries. His delegation was confident that FAO would continue to contribute effectively to the improvement and development of food and agriculture, which would be an essential component of a new international order based on justice and equity.

23. Mr. WALTON (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that the persistence and deterioration of the world food problem did not result from the lack of a strategy, but from the failure to apply effectively in practice what had been agreed upon in principle. He stressed the importance of the role of Ministries of Agriculture in that connexion, and urged that all Ministries concerned should recognize the importance of making difficult decisions if food problems were to be alleviated.

24. On the basis of preliminary figures, it must be stated that any increase in world food and agricultural production in 1979 would be the smallest since 1972, when food production had actually decreased. For the developing countries as a whole, the increase was provisionally estimated at 2 per cent, which was less than population growth. It was possible that the developing market economies of the Far East would experience a decline in production for the fourth time in the current decade. FAO's Early Warning System had recorded unfavourable crop conditions in 32 countries, compared with 19 at the same time in 1978. The food situation in Kampuchea had reached a stage of advanced crisis.

25. In addition to its analysis and prescription activities, FAO was, of course, primarily involved in practical field action to help Governments in coping with their problems of agricultural production and rural development. Special action programmes were significant among those activities, and a number of them had been singled out by the World Food Council for particular support.

26. Of particular importance among those programmes was the Food Security Assistance Scheme, whose purpose was to help countries to build up their national food reserves. Because of the failure of the negotiations on a new international grains arrangement, increased support for that scheme was one of the objectives of the FAO Five-Point Plan for world food security. Voluntary contributions to the scheme currently totalled \$35 million, but much more was needed.

27. The Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses stemmed directly from the resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its seventh special session. Projects at the farm and village level emphasized storage and the training of farmers. Contributions were still more than \$4 million short of the target of \$20 million set by the Conference of FAO in 1977.

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(Mr. Walton, FAO)

28. The Seed Improvement and Development Programme assisted developing countries in the development and evaluation of crop varieties, and in seed production, quality control and distribution. A \$20 million target had been supported by the Conference of FAO, the World Food Council, the General Assembly and the Committee of the Whole, but actual contributions fell far short of that figure.

29. Other programmes included the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, the programme of assistance in the development and management of fisheries in exclusive zones and the programme for the control of African animal trypanosomiasis. All of those programmes urgently required funds, and he hoped that the support of the World Food Council and the General Assembly could be translated into increased contributions.

30. The World Food Council had placed great emphasis on national food sector strategies. FAO had done some work in that field, for instance its perspective study of the agricultural development of the Sahelian zone. Its regional food plan for Africa was being translated into specific plans and programmes at the country level. The decision whether to embark on the preparation of a food sector strategy should be made by countries individually. FAO was ready to help them if requested but, before Governments embarked on such a strategy, they should have a clear idea of how it was going to be translated into actual decisions on policies and the allocation of funds, including decisions on external aid. FAO could play an important role in the identification and preparation of investment projects. It had mobilized approximately \$8 billion for investment activities over the past three years through its co-operation with the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other sources of finance.

31. Mr. GORITZA (Romania) said it was a cause of concern that, instead of decreasing, the strain on the world food situation, the severe malnutrition suffered by millions of people in developing countries and the food gap between those countries and the developed countries, were increasing. His delegation endorsed the World Food Council's urgent appeal to the international community to elaborate a strategy that would lead to far-reaching changes in the structure of the world food economy. Appropriate steps should be taken immediately to increase agricultural production in developing countries as a prerequisite for food security. Sustained efforts on the part of every developing country were required for that purpose, and international co-operation and assistance from developed countries and international organizations should be significantly increased.

32. Romania considered that a special programme, running until the year 2000, for agricultural development in developing countries should be drawn up under United Nations auspices and with the participation, in particular, of FAO, IFAD and the World Bank. The programme should include subprogrammes with clear and definite objectives and specific deadlines which should be monitored periodically, a role that could be played by the World Food Council.

33. International negotiations had not yet resulted in action to overcome the difficulties besetting international trade in food products. It was therefore necessary, especially for developed countries, to take steps to facilitate the

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(Mr. Goritza, Romania)

access to international markets of exports from developing countries. Furthermore, the Generalized System of Preferences should be expanded to cover as many manufactured and semi-manufactured food products as possible from developing countries.

34. The discussions of food and agricultural problems in the Committee of the Whole had furnished a broad perspective on the situation and led to conclusions regarding the measures that must be taken to overcome the difficulties in that field. Although the measures agreed upon by the Committee of the Whole did not really meet the needs of the developing countries, they could serve to strengthen international assistance for the development of agriculture and the food industry in developing countries. They could also assist in eliminating the obstacles to international trade in agricultural and food products, expanding their access to the markets of developed countries and establishing remunerative prices for the agricultural exports of developing countries. Those statements of intent should, however, be translated quickly into action; otherwise, the necessary conditions for finally ending hunger and malnutrition would not be met.

35. Mr. WALKER (Chile) said his delegation was glad that the World Food Council had been able to reach a consensus on a number of action-oriented recommendations, rather than mere generalities. The Council had made valuable suggestions concerning the need for structural changes into the world food economy, the desirability of establishing national food strategies, a system of world food security and greater assistance to the developing countries in increasing food production. One of the most interesting recommendations was that food-deficit countries should consider the establishment of a high-level food management authority to oversee the preparation and implementation of a national food strategy. An interministerial co-ordinating committee of the type suggested would make it possible to keep a more careful eye on all aspects of a food strategy, such as production, distribution, nutrition and food security. It must, of course, be understood that it was for individual countries to decide whether they needed a food strategy, and that development aid agencies must not make their assistance conditional on the preparation of such strategies.

36. The Council's recommendations regarding the implementation of the decisions reached by the Committee of the Whole were also interesting; particularly important were the recommendation that the resources of IFAD should be replenished and the appeal to donor countries to increase their contributions to the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme and the Special Account for FAO's Action Programme for Prevention of Food Losses.

37. Two of the recommendations were of special importance to Chile. The first was that agricultural research capacity in developing countries should be strengthened through both national and international efforts. His delegation believed that, in countries where land was the limiting factor in increasing agricultural production, it was vital to have a technological policy that would enable agricultural potential to be exploited to the full and that could serve as a complement to pricing policies. In the case of Chile, a special research

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(Mr. Walker, Chile)

programme had made it possible to increase wheat production by 45 per cent. Chile was therefore in favour of increasing financial aid for research into products where there was a comparative advantage, and the financing of extension work to reduce the lag between technology in the research laboratory and at the farm level. Public expenditure on agricultural research in Chile had increased almost eight times between 1959 and 1977. The system of establishing research priorities had also been improved, with funds being allocated preferably to products in which Chile enjoyed a comparative advantage. Clearly, agricultural research could play an extremely positive role in solving world food problems. Moreover, successful agricultural research in the developing countries themselves could have a valuable impact on technical co-operation among developing countries and strengthen the concept of collective self-reliance. The Chilean Government was ready to share with other developing countries the results of its national agricultural research.

38. One of the conclusions of the Committee of the Whole which the report of the World Food Council (A/34/19) unfortunately omitted to mention concerned the support which donor countries should give to FAO's programme of assistance to developing countries in the exploitation of fisheries in their exclusive economic zones. The Executive Director of the Council had stressed the importance of fish as a source of protein, and his delegation was entirely in favour of placing the subject on the agenda of the sixth session of the Council and giving it priority.

39. The failure to negotiate a new International Arrangement to replace the International Wheat Agreement, 1971, as extended, was indeed regrettable. As noted in the report, such an Arrangement and a new Food Aid Convention were key elements of world food security, in view of the steady decline in the production and availability of food over the last 10 years. The early resumption of negotiations on a new International Wheat Agreement establishing appropriate reserves and trade patterns and procedures for preventing violent price fluctuations and alleviating the effects of poor harvests was essential. His delegation endorsed the recommendation that the conclusion of a new Food Aid Convention should not await acceptance of a Wheat Agreement, and that aid should be increased from the 4.2 million tons envisaged in the current Convention to a minimum of 10 million tons a year. The conclusion of a convention of that kind, no later than the middle of 1980, would be a vital step towards the system of world food security which was essential in order to minimize the effects of cyclical fluctuations in world production that threatened food supplies, particularly in the developing countries.

40. Another important step towards a system of food security was the FAO Five-Point Plan of Action adopted in March 1979. There were a number of considerations which should be borne in mind in that respect. For instance, if a system of national reserves to ensure a minimum world supply was to be viable for any length of time, all countries would have to contribute to the formation of those reserves, and that meant that the countries with the greatest deficits, which would be the most affected by a shortage, would be forced to maintain the largest reserves, even though they were precisely the ones least able to finance such an operation. It would also be important, in order to attain the objective of stabilizing prices, for all countries to participate in setting up the grain reserves in proportion to

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(Mr. Walker, Chile)

their importance in the world market. At the same time, price stabilization policies, while introducing a security factor, affected the optimum allocation of resources. Thus, to reduce the distorting effect, it would be advisable for the largest possible number of agricultural products to be covered by policies of stabilization through a system of reserves. Careful negotiations would be needed to define functions and responsibilities. Chile was therefore in favour of holding early conversations with a view to implementing the Five-Point Plan suggested by the Director-General of FAO.

41. There was a tendency to confuse a country's grain deficit with a food deficit, but the case of Chile showed that that was incorrect. In the five-year period 1973-1977, the agricultural sector had had an annual growth rate of 8.7 per cent. That increase, well above the 4 per cent target for the developing countries, had been due to the fact that the reduction in wheat production had been more than offset by an increase in the production of fruit and livestock. Self-sufficiency in grain on the part of the developing countries was not the best solution to the world food problem. That solution could only be found in the best possible utilization of the developing countries' resources, together with free trade with all countries for their agricultural products. Clearly, the solution of comparative advantage could not be viable if there was protectionism on the part of the industrialized countries. In Chile, continued growth in food production at current rates was predicated on an increase in fruit-growing at the expense of grains. It was unlikely, however, that those rates could be maintained, because of the imposition of export quotas by a group of industrialized countries in order to protect their domestic production. That would hold back the development of the food sector by preventing expansion in the area of greatest profitability. It would also lead to a lower rate of growth in employment, since five times as much manpower was needed for fruit-growing as for cereal production.

42. Any limitation on the exports of the developing countries would have a negative effect on their capacity to import the food they needed. The reduction of their foreign currency earnings would also unfavourably affect national development efforts, which would in turn impede their efforts to reduce poverty and hunger among the neediest groups. His delegation therefore shared the deep concern of the World Food Council at protectionist trade practices which affected the agricultural exports of developing countries, to the industrialized countries in particular. General Assembly resolution 33/90 had specifically requested the World Food Council to study the impact of trade, including the protectionist measures harming the exports of the developing countries, on the solution of the food problems of the developing countries and put forward specific recommendations in that respect. It was not enough simply to ratify the initiatives taken by UNCTAD at its fifth session. The Council should consider the topic again at its forthcoming sixth session as a matter of the highest priority. The Committee of the Whole had attached special importance to trade in agricultural products, and it had been agreed that it was essential for the developed countries to make every possible effort for the adjustment and restructuring of those sectors of their agricultural and manufacturing economies that required protection against developing country exports. It had also been recommended that the Generalized

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(Mr. Walker, Chile)

System of Preferences should be extended to a wider range of manufactured and semi-manufactured products, including the greatest possible number of agricultural commodities.

43. Those recommendations had not received full recognition in the Council's report. It was essential to enhance the contribution that trade could make to the solution of food problems. The Council should therefore make specific recommendations to the developed countries for the gradual restructuring of the agricultural sector so as to facilitate access to their markets for food and agricultural products which developing countries could export either in processed form or in their natural state. The Council might also review and evaluate at its next session the results of the multilateral trade negotiations with respect to agricultural products.

44. His delegation endorsed the Council's recommendation regarding the need to inform public opinion in the developed countries of the negative effects of protectionist trade policies on their own standard of living, as well as on the development possibilities and import capacity of developing countries. More information on the negative effects might encourage effective action to change those policies.

45. Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, said it had been generally agreed at the fifth session of the World Food Council that the current world food situation was far from satisfactory, with more people than ever suffering from hunger and malnutrition. It had also been agreed, however, that there had been some encouraging developments. World grain production and grain reserves had reached record levels in recent years, and there had been an increase in per capita food production in a number of developing countries.

46. Against that background, the Council had taken some important steps towards a more action-oriented approach to the solution of world food problems. It had endorsed the common view of the developing and developed countries on the importance of giving the highest political priority to food questions and had recommended the formulation of food sector strategies as a crucial instrument for national food planning. It had also stressed the importance of direct action to overcome malnutrition and achieve a more equal distribution of food. The Nordic countries had always maintained that considerations regarding food production must always include explicit considerations regarding its distribution.

47. The March session of the Committee of the Whole had been the first occasion on which a committee of the General Assembly had devoted a full session to food and agricultural matters. The text of the agreed conclusions adopted at that session had become useful reference material for such important meetings and conferences as the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, various FAO meetings and the fifth session of the World Food Council.

48. In considering solutions for the world food problem, it was important to distinguish between short-term and long-term perspectives. In the short term,

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(Mr. Valtasaari, Finland)

considerable efforts must be made to overcome the acute crisis of hunger and malnutrition. A sufficient flow of food aid must be secured, efforts must be made to establish a new Food Aid Convention with a substantially higher level of food aid, and appropriate international emergency reserves must be kept on a permanent basis. In the long run, however, the aim was to secure a continuous and sufficient flow of food within the developing countries. That meant, among other things, higher levels of self-reliance in food production, the creation of decentralized storage facilities and improved infrastructure, together with an over-all increase in the real income of the neediest population groups. That could only be achieved within an over-all integrated rural development effort which was part of a national development process.

49. In that connexion, the Nordic countries welcomed the General Assembly's endorsement of the important Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. The Programme of Action, which stressed the importance of development based on growth with equity, of integrating the broader population groups, not least women, into the national development process and of securing more equal access to productive resources, was a guideline for future development efforts and should be reflected in the new International Development Strategy. It was encouraging that the developing countries had indicated an interest in evaluating development processes in the light of the results of that Conference, and FAO, in co-operation with other United Nations agencies, should assist them in that task.

50. It was generally agreed that overcoming the food problems in the developing countries was primarily the responsibility of those countries themselves. However, their task could be eased by increased assistance from the developed countries and by concerted international efforts, and the Nordic countries were fully aware of their responsibilities in that regard.

51. Miss GARCÍA-DONOSO (Ecuador) said that the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade had set a target of 4 per cent annual growth in agricultural production in the developing countries. In 1974, the World Food Conference had agreed on means whereby the developed and developing countries could take concrete action to eliminate hunger and malnutrition and overcome food deficits. However, those goals had not been achieved; the developing countries as a whole had attained an average growth of 2.7 per cent in the period 1971-1978, and available statistics showed a decline in agricultural production in the last four years in all three regions of the third world.

52. Economic under-development was the fundamental cause of the food problem. Other factors, such as population growth, could affect it at a particular moment and in specific areas of the world, but they were not the determinants. Thus, the solution of the food problems of the developing countries required simultaneous action on the many fronts related to economic and social progress. The developing countries' own efforts could not suffice without international co-operation in regard to production, consumption, security, exchange rates, redeployment, standardization of prices, and secure markets for agricultural products.

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(Miss García-Donoso, Ecuador)

53. The Government of Ecuador, for example, had given high priority to integrating and strengthening activities in regard to food supplements and nutrition education, and had paid special attention to programmes to combat nutritional diseases; yet its efforts had been insufficient to eliminate the problems because of a lack of resources and because it had not been possible to develop agricultural production fully. Considerable international support was needed to expand the infrastructure, train specialized personnel and bring integrated multisectoral programmes into full operation.

54. A more efficient use of resources for and investments in food production might result from the stabilization of international prices and guaranteed access to external markets for the food products of developing countries. It was therefore essential that, firstly, the developed countries should abandon protectionist or dumping policies, and, secondly, that reserves of certain food products should be accumulated in those countries not simply as part of a system of price supports but as a factor in easing the world supply of agricultural products.

55. The establishment of a joint fertilizer reserve to alleviate shortages in the developing countries was a matter of urgency, as was the implementation of programmes to increase fertilizer production capacity in those countries.

56. International agreements designed to ensure for importers a permanent supply and for food commodity exporters a permanent demand, at reasonable prices, should help the developing countries to expand their exports on the basis of a sustained world market. All developed countries, whether with market economies or centrally planned economies, should participate.

57. The Declaration and Programme of Action on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development was an important step towards the adoption of integrated programmes for rural development in accordance with national policies. The activities of the World Food Council to advance the implementation of the Programme of Action to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition, and the resolutions adopted by the World Food Conference, were also of value. All the activities of the various organs, agencies and programmes in the United Nations system dealing with matters of food and agriculture complemented each other in helping the third world countries to eliminate hunger, poverty and the danger of a world without food.

58. Mr. DOMOKOS (Hungary) said that the report of the World Food Council gave no cause for optimism; there was no assurance that the bumper crops of recent years could be sustained, and some 450 million people still suffered from hunger and malnutrition. In most of the low-income countries, the rate of increase in food production was not only behind that of population growth but was actually falling. In the second half of the 1970s, the chronic food problem had been further aggravated by unfavourable trends in the world economy, including protectionist practices by the capitalist developed countries. The eradication of hunger and malnutrition called for a wide range of actions at the national and international level, directed at ensuring a rapid rate of agricultural development.

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(Mr. Domokos, Hungary)

59. Hungary today produced 83.7 per cent more agricultural products than before the socialist reorganization of agriculture some 25 years earlier. Labour productivity had increased still faster, and the number of persons employed in agriculture decreased annually. As a result, the country's food needs were met and agriculture was also an important factor in foreign trade. Clearly, the development of agriculture was fastest in those countries that consistently carried out progressive socio-economic reforms. The implementation of democratic land reforms, the introduction of economic planning as well as State and co-operative farming, and the dissemination of high-yielding seeds and high-quality breeding stock were fundamental to creating a firm basis for adequate food supplies. His delegation therefore regretted that the conclusions and recommendations of the fifth session of the World Food Council had failed to emphasize those factors.

60. On the other hand, his delegation endorsed the view that the developing countries should give higher priority to food questions within the over-all aims and objectives of their national development plans. Appropriate development in agriculture could not be assured except in harmony with other sectors of the national economy. Similarly, the food strategy approach could be successful only if it sought a solution to food problems in the context of the long-term development of the national economy as a whole. Short-term measures were at best a palliative.

61. Although international co-operation could only be of secondary importance when compared to national efforts, it was still indispensable, and international trade was one of the most important fields of such co-operation. The elimination of protectionist and other measures that hampered international trade, and the stabilization of world market prices, would be a direct contribution to the solution of food problems as well. International trade at stable prices and free of restrictions would stimulate agricultural production and result in increased export earnings, which in turn could facilitate the import of the technology needed for agricultural development in the developing countries.

62. Hungary recognized the importance of international aid as well as trade and had contributed on a voluntary basis to the World Food Programme. Technical co-operation was also important, and the developing countries themselves were gaining experience that could be used to advantage in other countries. His delegation had been glad to note that India, a large developing country which had itself faced serious food problems at an earlier stage, had now accumulated valuable experience in agricultural development which it was willing to share with others. Hungary had long been active in technical co-operation in agriculture. Recently, following careful preparations with UNDP and FAO, agricultural co-operative management training courses had been started for agricultural specialists from African countries. Hungary was ready to share its experience in other areas also, such as inshore fisheries. Efforts to build stable forms of international co-operation in that field were already under way.

63. The maintenance of international peace and security was closely related to the international aspects of the effort to solve the food problem. Hungary shared

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(Mr. Domokos, Hungary)

the concern of the World Food Council at the rapid increase in military expenditure, and supported the idea that a part of the funds that would be released by cuts in military budgets should be allocated to accelerating the development of the developing countries and increasing their food production.

64. In conclusion, he emphasized his delegation's full agreement with the joint statement made by the socialist countries represented in the World Food Council at the time of the adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the fifth session of the Council.

65. Mr. LAZAREVIC (Yugoslavia) said that it appeared quite certain that the world in general and many developing countries were heading for an increasingly serious food situation. The deteriorating food prospects of developing countries, especially of the food-deficit countries, reflected the failure of the international community to take action to attain the objectives set by the World Food Conference. His delegation did, however, realize the need for developing countries themselves to undertake such action as might be required to stimulate food production, especially through such measures as agrarian reform and rural development projects.

66. The international community had identified the main obstacles to increased food production in the developing countries. However, progress on the implementation of various measures which would open up the prospects of a world without hunger and malnutrition had been uneven and in certain areas slow or negligent. While an appropriate reorientation of the international efforts to increase food production was needed, that did not mean that other areas of economic development of developing countries, such as industrialization, should be neglected. Efforts to accelerate the over-all development of developing countries should be intensified, and to that end donor countries should increase their contributions both to the international fertilizer scheme and to the special account of the FAO Action Programme for Prevention of Food Losses.

67. In order to minimize the consequences of recurrent shortfalls in production as a result of climatic and other factors, a world food security system was necessary. His delegation accordingly regretted that the recent conference to renegotiate the International Wheat Agreement had not succeeded. That should not, however, prevent the conclusion of a new food aid convention as the key element in world food security.

68. International trade was an important factor for increasing the production of food and other agricultural products in developing countries. Greater access to the markets of developed countries must be ensured for the exports of developing countries, since increased exports of food and other agricultural products to those markets would have beneficial effects on both developed and developing countries.

69. The best way to increase food production in developing countries was for each country to establish a deliberate policy to accord absolute priority to food production. At the same time, efforts should be made to institute the required social and other changes which would broaden the involvement of the population in the development process.

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70. Mr. VILLEGAS (Colombia) said that recent studies by FAO and the Inter-American Development Bank showed that in Latin America the rate of growth of per capita food production was slackening. One cause was the rapidity of the process of urbanization in Latin American countries. The fact that in 1979 63 per cent of all Latin Americans lived in urban areas had brought about higher demand for food; hunger and malnutrition, which went unnoticed in rural areas, were all too obvious in urban shanty-towns. The problem, even with a probable fall in the birth-rate, would assume even greater proportions towards the end of the century, when the ratio of rural/urban population would be 1:4.

71. In most of the developing world, rural areas lacked the technology required for efficient agriculture; in some countries with food problems, for example, cultivation practices that caused soil erosion still prevailed, gradually reducing the land's productivity. Such advances as there had been in agricultural production had been due to increasing the area under cultivation rather than to improved productivity. Low productivity, a result of inappropriate technology, highlighted the need to intensify the transfer of know-how and technology to developing regions so that, with the support of international agencies and the countries themselves, their progress towards self-sufficiency in food could be accelerated.

72. Another approach to be pursued in seeking solutions to the food problem was to encourage agro-industries in all developing countries. To that end, what was required was external co-operation in the form of capital goods, financial and technical assistance, and the prompt implementation of decisions adopted in the United Nations and other forums concerning grants and concessional lending.

73. The FAO's Seed Improvement and Development Scheme should be endorsed by the Committee; his delegation hoped that it would bring about a sustained increase in productivity in the developing regions and thereby provide a substantial part of the solution to the food problems of mankind. Another key element of the solution was adequate supplies of fertilizers.

74. With regard to international trade, a subject which had received special attention at the most recent session of the World Food Council, the paramount need was to eliminate as soon as possible the protectionist practices which affected not only the export prospects of developing countries and, as a result, their over-all development efforts, but also consumers in the developed countries themselves, who had to pay higher prices for protected products. The liberalization of trade policies in developed countries would also contribute to easing inflationary pressures in their economies. Many developing countries, including Colombia, were endeavouring to liberalize their own import policies in the certainty that a more open and just international trade system would be beneficial to the world community in general. The World Food Council and other bodies should keep under constant review the influence of trade on the world food situation so that, in a world constantly struggling to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, advantage could be taken of opportunities for co-operation among developing countries in food matters at the bilateral, regional or subregional levels.

(Mr. Villegas, Colombia)

75. His delegation believed that while a food surplus policy was essential in order to assist countries with food problems, it was only a short-term device. A sound long-term solution required world agricultural equilibrium in which there would be a fair exchange, with each area supplying those products that were most suitable for its agricultural conditions, produced by the best technology available to mankind, without regard to frontiers or levels of development.

76. Mr. FORNARI (Italy) said that his Government, as an indication of the importance it attached to the world food problem, had, when announcing the doubling of its official development assistance, earmarked a large share of that financial aid for the food sector. That assistance would be provided in a multilateral context, which Italy believed was the best way to achieve practical international co-operation.

77. His Government intended also to utilize its own experience in the expansion of food production and agriculture in the search for solutions to world agricultural problems. It had accordingly created a new department for technical co-operation with developing countries within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a five-year budget of about \$370 million, and most Italian bilateral assistance for development would be channelled through that body.

78. His Government attached great importance to the principle of more equitable distribution of food resources and to devising practical mechanisms to achieve that end. Specific guarantees should be provided for the supply of 10 million tons of cereals per year. There should also be a reform of much of the existing international trade machinery with a view to achieving as rational a distribution as possible; that problem was, of course, closely linked to the need for gradual restructuring of productive activities with a view to more rational and equitable international distribution of labour. Its very complexity, however, should prompt the international community to take specific measures that were already feasible, such as the establishment of infrastructures for the storage of agricultural products in developing countries. Moreover, action to increase productivity, with a view to facilitating self-reliance in the third world, should not be viewed as an alternative to action aimed at more equitable distribution of existing resources: both activities, one short-term and one for the future, should proceed simultaneously, as should the financial commitments required to implement them.

79. Mr. FOLI (Ghana) said that his delegation fully shared the view of the Executive Director of the World Food Council that, although the world food situation might appear to have improved, it was actually deteriorating at a deeper level. That assessment was an indictment of the professed goodwill of the international community, especially of the vast majority of its fortunate members, to help the poorer ones. The world food situation was illustrative of the retrogression that characterized relations among members of the human family. His delegation hoped that the eradication of hunger and malnutrition would be an important element of the third international development strategy, and he appealed to all concerned to ensure that that objective was attained without delay.

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(Mr. Foli, Ghana)

80. His delegation agreed that the long-term solution to the world food problem lay in the stimulation of food production in developing countries. It therefore emphasized the urgent need for the adoption of food sector strategies which would take full account of the conditions peculiar to the individual countries concerned. The adoption of such strategies should not, however, be a pre-condition for granting aid for food production.

81. The food problem could not be tackled successfully without a massive increase in external assistance, whether in the form of finance, machinery, seeds, fertilizers or other agricultural inputs. In that connexion, his delegation expressed its appreciation of the Canadian Government's action in setting up a special fund of \$2 million devoted to technical assistance for aiding the preparation of food strategies.

82. For the time being, it appeared difficult, if not impossible, for national self-sufficiency in food production to be achieved in certain areas of the world. Consequently, a determined regional or subregional approach should be adopted as the most practical means of dealing with the situation. His delegation urged the international community to do its best to assist Africa in its efforts to translate the regional food plan into reality so that all Member States could attain the desired self-sufficiency within 10 years.

83. His delegation believed that measures aimed at ensuring equity in the distribution of the world's food should be taken seriously at both the international and national levels; that implied launching a purposeful attack on the underlying problems of storage, transport and finance which accounted for many developing countries' failure to ensure fair distribution within their own borders. The problem of food reserves was closely linked with that of food distribution, and it was a matter of regret that, while the developing countries found it increasingly difficult to satisfy their growing needs, the world's food reserves were concentrated in a few countries belonging to a single geographical area.

84. The performance of the international community in the area of food security was not encouraging. In the light of his own country's experience, his delegation welcomed the World Food Council's decision to press for a new Food Aid Convention at substantially higher levels than the current 4.2 million tons stipulated in the 1971 Convention. It did not believe that the provision of food aid should in any way be contingent upon the conclusion of a new International Wheat Agreement. Pending the conclusion of a new Convention, his delegation fully supported the FAO Five-Point Plan of Action on world food security.

85. With regard to the question of food trade, his delegation welcomed the initiative taken at the fifth session of UNCTAD and hoped that the decisions taken at that session would be speedily implemented.

86. Mr. NIKOLAEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the serious world food problem could not be solved without more rapid growth in agricultural production in developing countries, an equitable world distribution system and just

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(Mr. Nikolaev, USSR)

reforms in the developing countries themselves. A further requirement was that Western imperialist States should abandon the neo-colonialist policy of solving their economic problems at the expense of the developing countries.

87. His delegation fully agreed that the solution required measures by the developing countries themselves to develop their economy and agriculture and to eliminate social inequalities. As had been stated at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, agrarian reform was a prerequisite for the development of agriculture. Other prerequisites were the elimination of the dominance of foreign capital, and the introduction of high-yield food crops and modern machinery. Success would depend on how consistently the developing countries followed the progressive recommendations made at that Conference and in other United Nations forums.

88. Equally essential in tackling the problem was to establish an organic linkage of agriculture to all other sectors of the national economy, and those countries which made progressive reforms in the structure of their systems would succeed in eliminating hunger and malnutrition. The process of reform required the transfer of leadership to the State sector, the nationalization of foreign enterprises and the assumption of sovereignty over the country's natural resources.

89. The ideas put forward by his delegation were based on the Soviet Union's experience. His country had certainly experienced difficulties with agriculture, but, by concentrating on developing its own resources, it had in a short time eliminated hunger and malnutrition. The substantial growth in food production in recent years would have been even better but for adverse weather conditions. He realized that such rapid progress implied heavy expenditure; in that respect the Soviet Union had been able to rely on its own resources.

90. Food and other world problems could be solved more rapidly if the objectives of world peace and security, the non-use of force, disarmament and a reduction in military budgets were achieved. At the tenth special session of the General Assembly, his delegation had reaffirmed that it was prepared to reduce its military budget. The World Food Council at its fifth session had drawn attention to the possibility of using funds thus saved to provide food aid to developing countries. The Soviet Union would do its utmost to make that possibility a reality.

91. As long as the capitalist countries, the source of economic crises, continued to transfer their difficulties to developing countries, the problems would not be solved. The economies of the developing countries were being jeopardized by trade barriers in the developed countries and the activities of transnational corporations. All those activities ran counter to the objectives of the new international economic order, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the proposals of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Special attention should be paid to measures to stabilize the prices of agricultural products on the world market. The Soviet Union had repeatedly stated that it was prepared to contribute constructively to international co-operation to regulate world food prices.

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(Mr. Nikolaev, USSR)

92. Measures were needed to provide the developing countries with adequate food supplies, and the position of the socialist States on that issue had been stated at the fifth session of the World Food Council. They would continue to assist the developing countries to develop their agriculture. With their help, land clearing and irrigation projects and the establishment of agricultural institutes were already under way in many of those countries, and the Soviet Union was providing agricultural training for their nationals. It would continue to co-operate with those countries in such ways.

93. Mrs. MORGENTHAU (United States of America) said that her country's economy was built on agriculture, which was crucial for balanced social and economic development. Despite high energy costs and inflation, the United States commitment to end world hunger remained firm. Special efforts were needed to achieve that goal. Even under normal circumstances, hunger regularly affected almost half a billion of the world's people. By the year 2000, population growth was likely to upset even further the precarious balance between population and food supply in the lowest-income countries. The international community was probably aware of its collective responsibility for what was wrong: it had within it the capacity to build the institutional arrangements on which both an end to hunger and steady equitable progress towards balanced development depended.

94. In that context, the outcome of the fifth session of the World Food Council was especially important. The Council's conclusions and recommendations concentrated on feasible solutions to the problems of world food security. It had emphasized the development of national food sector strategies to ensure that all food-related programmes contributed to a common national goal. A similarly comprehensive approach had been recommended with a view to reducing malnutrition.

95. The Council had made important decisions in the area of world food security. It had recognized that there was no longer any reason to hold up negotiations for a new food aid convention. Her Government supported the new convention's goal of 10 million tons in guaranteed annual food aid and had increased its pledge to 4.47 million tons. It hoped that new donors would subscribe to the new convention so that the goal could be achieved, and was encouraged by the Canadian Government's decision to join the renewed negotiations on the convention.

96. The World Food Council had also called upon the World Bank and FAO to assess food security infrastructure needs in the food-priority countries, as a prelude to possible investment efforts. One subject requiring immediate attention was that of international agricultural research. The research centres supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) had made significant contributions to increased food production in many developing countries. The United States supported the goal of doubling the resources of CGIAR within the forthcoming five years. It hoped that new donors would join the traditional donors in meeting that objective.

97. As matters stood, one third of the world's population ate two thirds of the food produced. Clearly there were structural problems in agriculture to be solved: equity in distributing the fruits of development depended on access to land,

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(Mrs. Morgenthau, United States)

energy and technology and on the division of labour. Within national systems and subsystems, decisions were made as to who ate and who went hungry, what was eaten and how much surplus remained for development. That was why her Government strongly supported the emphasis which the World Food Council had placed on the adoption of national food sector strategies by food-deficit countries. So far, global concern had focused mainly on food involved in international transactions, rather than with the 90 per cent of the existing food supply that was locally and nationally produced and consumed. Far too little was being done to encourage agricultural production by the vulnerable groups of the world, though it was technically possible to make hunger obsolete and relief unnecessary. Village participation had not been effectively organized, and without it even structural changes did little to end rural poverty, since the benefits went to those who were already privileged.

98. It was generally admitted that existing international and national institutions had difficulty in being of direct service to low-income villages, where hunger was prevalent. Non-bureaucratic methods were more likely to produce the necessary communication and trust through which more villagers became more willing to risk making changes. The existing multilateral and bilateral development institutions and programmes should be adjusted to encourage self-help, self-reliance and ways of increasing production to benefit the hungry, not those who already had enough. Of course each sovereign Government had the right to choose from among varying development strategies, but food would not get to those in need unless at every level there was a sharpened awareness of the inequity in distribution, together with an improvement of the tools for correcting the worst inequalities. Only if the hungry fully participated in making decisions on which production, pricing and marketing depended, would they get a share of any increase in production.

99. Although advances in research had created the technical capacity to produce enough food, there was a need for applied research of a kind that would allow for the accumulated experience of the low-income farmers themselves, who were admitted to be very efficient with the scant available resources. Their knowledge should be incorporated into research, project design and local planning for better production and equitable distribution. Low-cost plans for self-help projects based on local participation might not materialize without much more specific encouragement. In 1977 the potential role of Food Corps in providing the institutional support to local self-help projects among rural low-income groups had come to the attention of FAO and thereafter of the international community. Since then, the Food Corps concept had been widely discussed and various national formulae were emerging. Food Corps projects were on the drawing-boards in at least nine low-income countries, where planners were receiving useful counsel from experts from other developing countries, in an admirable example of technical co-operation among developing countries. Encouragement should be given to such efforts to help low-income countries in the preparation of their national food strategies.

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(Mrs. Morgenthau, United States)

100. Too often, development projects were drafted and managed by people whose interests were primarily bureaucratic or technocratic, who thought in terms of expensive personnel or costly equipment beyond the reach of small farmers. The latter were left out of project design and out of the subsequent share of the benefits. It was time for the international community to place low-income farmers at the centre of the planning process and to insist that all programmes passed a test posed in human terms.

101. Mr. FREYBERG (Poland) said that despite some signs of improvement, the world food situation continued to deteriorate, affecting most seriously the majority of the developing countries, particularly those which were net importers of food. They were confronted with sharp increases in the prices of imports such as wheat, and with growing protectionist practices introduced by a number of developed countries in the field of agricultural trade. Those practices had a direct negative effect on the ability of the developing countries to earn foreign exchange to pay for food and other imports. At its fifth session the World Food Council had expressed deep concern at the increase in such practices and at the lack of progress in international negotiations to solve the problem of agricultural exports. Those problems needed to be solved urgently in order to combat effectively the hunger and malnutrition prevailing in so many parts of the world.

102. The question of agricultural development and the importance of the food sector within the context of over-all economic and social development had been discussed at various United Nations forums in 1979. The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development had stressed the need for structural changes in that field. International measures aimed at improving the world food situation should be accompanied by greater mobilization of domestic development resources for the restructuring of the agrarian sector and for the introduction of social reforms leading to more equitable distribution. It had been his country's experience that agrarian reform constituted one of the essential components of progressive social change and was a prerequisite for stable economic growth. In view of the need of many developing countries to increase their own food production and to eliminate or at least substantially reduce dependence on food imports, agrarian reform was of decisive importance. It was difficult to imagine full implementation of the new international economic order without the introduction of agrarian reforms where needed.

103. A closely related problem was that of world food security. His Government recognized the importance of establishing international grain reserves, which would help to stabilize prices and make it easier to satisfy grain needs in periods of bad harvests. There was, however, the crucial issue of financing the imports of food-deficit developing countries. Efforts should be concentrated primarily on strengthening the food production capacity of those countries, which would be the most effective contribution to their over-all economic and social development and world food security.

104. Mr. TUMBA (Zaire) said that his Government attached particular importance to agriculture, food, nutrition and rural development. Food production had not kept

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(Mr. Tumba, Zaire)

pace with population growth in the developing countries. If they were to meet their food needs, programming and co-ordination by the international community and the international institutions concerned were required. His delegation had always supported efforts to eradicate world hunger and malnutrition and felt that the new round of global negotiations proposed by the Group of 77 could provide a useful framework for the effective consideration of such questions. Since the problems of food and rural development had always adversely affected the economic growth of the developing countries, they should be dealt with in the context of the establishment of the new international economic order. Piecemeal rescue efforts were inadequate; large-scale effective action and appropriate policies and strategies were called for.

105. In Zaire the development of the agricultural sector was one of the key priorities of the Mobutu Plan. It was because of the importance attached to that sector that his delegation had not hesitated to become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.6 on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Appropriate measures should be taken as a matter of urgency to enable the developing countries to reach the WFC target of a 4 per cent annual growth rate in agricultural production. His delegation was mindful of the assistance which could be provided by the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other international institutions, such as the World Food Programme. It supported the FAO Five-Point Plan of Action on world food security, which should help the international community to deal with emergency situations. In February 1979, efforts to conclude a new international wheat agreement had failed. Accordingly, his delegation unreservedly supported the WFC proposal to raise the target of the International Emergency Reserve to 750,000 tons by 1981 and thanked those countries which had pledged contributions to the Reserve for 1980.

106. The protectionist barriers imposed by the industrialized countries against the food exports of the developing countries reduced the capacity of the latter for economic development. His delegation supported all efforts for a total liberalization of international trade in accordance with the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

107. Mr. YE Caiwen (China) said that since the World Food Conference in 1974, through the arduous efforts of the developing countries, some progress had been achieved in food production and certain developed countries had provided the developing countries with assistance for food and agricultural development. However, such basic objectives as the elimination of hunger and malnutrition had remained unfulfilled; in fact, the situation had actually grown worse in certain cases.

108. In order to solve their problems of poverty and hunger, the developing countries needed first of all to develop their national economies and increase food production on the basis of individual and collective self-reliance. At the same time it was true that many developing countries, long oppressed and exploited, would have to overcome serious financial, economic and technical problems before they could reach the target of a 4 per cent annual growth rate in

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(Mr. Ye Caiwen, China)

agricultural production. In such circumstances, international assistance was necessary. The developed countries should give serious consideration to the recommendations and demands of the developing countries and assume their ineluctable responsibilities in that regard. The relevant international organs should continue to help the developing countries to develop their agriculture and overcome food shortages.

109. Some developed countries were imposing all kinds of tariff and non-tariff barriers against the exports of the developing countries, especially their manufactured industrial goods. Consequently, the share of the developing countries in world trade was continuing to decline and their revenues were decreasing. The developing countries demanded the elimination of protectionist measures, the improvement of the terms of trade for their agricultural products and the increase of their export earnings. The key to the solution of the food and agricultural problems of the developing countries lay in the necessary establishment of the new international economic order and the restructuring of the existing unfair and irrational international economic system.

110. Despite the many successes of the socialist reform of agriculture in China, the accomplishments still fell far short of the needs of the Chinese people and the requirements for the socialist modernization of the country. China fully realized that only by accelerating the development of agricultural production and the gradual modernization of agriculture would it be possible to bring prosperity to the farmers, who accounted for 80 per cent of the population, and to promote the vigorous development of the over-all national economy. The Central Committee had recently prescribed a series of agricultural policies geared to actual conditions in China, thereby providing a powerful impetus for mobilizing the socialist enthusiasm of the farmers and strengthening agricultural development, and it was anticipated that the growth rate of food production would be even higher than before.

111. While China would continue to uphold the principle of self-reliance in the development of its agricultural production, it was also willing to exchange experience with other countries and to learn from them. It was prepared to strengthen its co-operation with the competent organs of the United Nations system, raise its agricultural production, solve its food problem and make its contribution to the establishment of a new international economic order.

112. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee was in danger of falling behind schedule. He did not intend for the moment to propose a limit on the time to be allowed to speakers, as provided for in rule 106 of the rules of procedure. However, he was relying on the understanding and collaboration of all members of the Committee in focusing their remarks on the major aspects of the items under consideration.

AGENDA ITEM 58: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (A/34/L4; A/C.2/34/L.7)

113. Ms. MENON (Singapore), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.7 on behalf of the sponsors, said that Argentina, Canada, Chile, India, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Sweden and Zambia had now joined in sponsoring the draft.

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(Ms. Menon, Singapore)

114. The draft resolution acknowledged the value of UNITAR's research and its role in assisting members of permanent missions to the United Nations and other national officials concerned with the work of the United Nations. Member States and organizations were called upon to provide greater and wider financial support to UNITAR, so as to enable it to continue its commendable work. She hoped that, as at the thirty-third session, the draft resolution on UNITAR would be adopted by consensus.

115. Mr. BANGURA (Sierra Leone) said that, in appreciation of the role played by UNITAR over the years and in the light of the principles and objectives of the new international economic order, his delegation wished to join in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.7.

116. Mr. SCHWEISGUT (Austria) said that the introductory statement by the Executive Director of UNITAR, together with his annual report (A/34/14), had clearly brought out the scope and dimension of the Institute's expanding activities. His delegation was pleased to note that UNITAR had further concentrated its attention on issues related to the establishment of a new international economic order. It also found the various training courses of great value. UNITAR had undertaken important work in connexion with the Project on the Future, a field in which it could make a most useful contribution to the work of the United Nations, particularly in respect of international co-operation for development.

117. Austria's co-operation with UNITAR had been a very satisfactory experience. The annual conferences at Schloss Hernstein were remarkable for the timeliness of the topics chosen, the high qualifications and expertise of the participants, the atmosphere of frank and productive dialogue and the excellent reports emerging from the discussions. That had again been demonstrated by the 1979 seminar on financial arrangements for the promotion of science and technology for development. The seminar and the studies published by UNITAR on those and related matters had undoubtedly made a significant contribution to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

118. His Government was also pleased to note that, in recent years, the Institute's training programmes had been developed in a manner which took into account the special needs of Member States. He wished to refer specifically to the seminar for young diplomats from developing countries on multilateral diplomacy and the new international economic order held at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna in May 1979. His Government would be pleased to continue to offer Schloss Hernstein and the Diplomatic Academy for similar UNITAR conferences and seminars. It would gladly co-operate with UNITAR in any other form or area deemed useful and would continue to contribute to UNITAR's General Fund. It was in that spirit that Austria was co-sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.7.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.