



**REPORT
OF THE
WORLD FOOD COUNCIL**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTIETH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 19 (A/10019)

UNITED NATIONS



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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CGFPI	Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in Developing Countries
EEC	European Economic Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WFP	World Food Programme (joint United Nations/FAO programme)
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

INTRODUCTION

1. The World Food Council was established, on the recommendation of the World Food Conference in paragraph 1 of its resolution XXII of 16 November 1974, by the General Assembly in its resolution 3348 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974. The Assembly established the Council at the ministerial or plenipotentiary level to function as an organ of the United Nations, reporting to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, and having the purposes, functions and mode of operation set forth in resolution XXII of the World Food Conference.

2. The Assembly decided that the Council should consist of 36 members to be nominated by the Economic and Social Council and elected by the General Assembly for a term of three years, taking into consideration balanced geographical representation, 1/ with one third of the members retiring every year and the retiring members being eligible for re-election.

3. At its 2323rd plenary meeting, on 17 December 1974, the General Assembly elected the following 36 members of the Council:

Argentina	Guinea	Romania
Australia	Hungary	Sri Lanka
Bangladesh	India	Sweden
Canada	Indonesia	Togo
Chad	Iran	Trinidad and Tobago
Colombia	Iraq	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Cuba	Italy	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Egypt	Japan	United States of America
France	Kenya	Venezuela
Gabon	Libyan Arab Republic	Yugoslavia
Germany (Federal Republic of)	Mali	Zambia
Guatemala	Mexico	
	Pakistan	

4. The Assembly, in resolution 3348 (XXIX), decided that the Council should hold its first session no later than 1 July 1975, and that, for that purpose, the members of the Council should undertake necessary consultations. Pursuant to that decision, the members of the Council held an informal consultative meeting at United Nations Headquarters on 24 February 1975 and decided that the first session

1/ The members of the World Food Council are elected according to the following pattern:

- (a) Nine members from African States;
- (b) Eight members from Asian States;
- (c) Seven members from Latin American States;
- (d) Four members from Socialist States of Eastern Europe;
- (e) Eight members from Western European and other States.

of the Council should be held from 23 to 27 June 1975. The meeting decided that the first two days of the session should be devoted to preparatory meetings to be attended by deputies, while representatives at the ministerial and plenipotentiary level would be expected at the meetings from 25 to 27 June 1975.

CHAPTER I

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Opening and duration of the session

5. The World Food Council held its first session at Rome from 23 to 27 June 1975. In accordance with the recommendation of the consultative meeting of the members of the Council, held at United Nations Headquarters on 24 February 1975, the Council met at the level of deputies on 23 and 24 June 1975, and at the level of ministers and plenipotentiaries from 25 to 27 June 1975. The first part of the session was opened by the Executive Director of the Council, while the ministerial and plenipotentiary session was opened on 25 June 1975, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, who made a statement. The Council held 10 plenary meetings.

Membership and attendance 2/

6. All 36 States members of the Council (see para. 3 above) were represented at the session.

7. The following States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency were represented by observers:

Afghanistan	Greece	Philippines
Algeria	Holy See	Poland
Austria	Ireland	Portugal
Belgium	Israel	Republic of Korea
Bolivia	Jordan	Saudi Arabia
Brazil	Lebanon	Senegal
Burma	Liberia	Sierra Leone
Central African Republic	Luxembourg	Spain
Chile	Madagascar	Sudan
Congo	Malta	Switzerland
Costa Rica	Netherlands	Syrian Arab Republic
Czechoslovakia	New Zealand	Thailand
Democratic Yemen	Nigeria	Tunisia
Denmark	Norway	Turkey
Ecuador	Oman	United Arab Emirates
Ethiopia	Panama	United Republic of Tanzania
Finland	Paraguay	Uruguay
German Democratic Republic	Peru	Zaire
Ghana		

2/ In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2836 (XXVI), para. 3 (f), the full list of names of participants is not given in this report. For the names of representatives of States members of the World Food Council, see WFC/13, annex I.

8. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended the session as observers:

Economic Commission for Africa
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Office of the United Nations Disaster Co-ordinator
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Council for Namibia
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Industrial Development Organization

The Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in Developing Countries and the World Food Programme (joint United Nations/FAO programme) were also represented.

9. The following specialized agencies were represented by observers:

International Labour Organisation
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Health Organization
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
World Meteorological Organization

The Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade were also represented.

10. Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations attended the session:

European Economic Community
International Wheat Council
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

11. Observers from the following non-governmental organizations attended the session:

Bahá'i International Community
Caritas internationalis (International Conference of Catholic Charities)
Church World Service
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
International Council of Catholic Men
International Federation of Agricultural Producers
International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers
International Union of Food and Allied Workers Associations
League of Red Cross Societies
World Confederation of Labour
World Council of Churches
World Federation of Trade Unions
World Peace Through Law Centre

Rules of procedure

12. The Council acknowledged that, until it adopted its own rules of procedure and in accordance with rule 161 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, its proceedings would be governed, mutatis mutandis, by the relevant rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The Council set up an Ad Hoc Working Group on the Rules of Procedure and received its report at the 10th meeting (see para. 19 below).

Officers

13. At the 1st meeting, on 23 June 1975, the Council elected Mr. Sayed A. Marei (Egypt) President and Mr. K. G. Ashton (United Kingdom) Rapporteur ad interim for the two days of meetings at the level of deputies. At the 5th meeting, on 25 June 1975, the beginning of the ministerial and plenipotentiary session of the Council, the following officers were elected by acclamation:

President:	Mr. Sayed A. Marei	(Egypt)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Vladimir Mordvinov	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
	Mr. Rubén González Sosa	(Mexico)
	Mr. Abdul Momin	(Bangladesh)
Rapporteur:	Mr. K. G. Ashton	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Agenda

14. At its 5th meeting, on 25 June 1975, the Council adopted its agenda as submitted (WFC/1), as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
5. Progress report on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the World Food Conference, in particular on World Food Conference resolutions XIX and XXII.
6. Review of the world food situation and the critical issues with which the Council should be concerned:
 - (a) Food availability for the most seriously affected developing countries and ways and means of meeting the minimum food requirements;
 - (b) Implementation of the food-aid-target of 10 million tons approved by the Conference in resolution XVIII;

- (c) Steps necessary to implement the International Undertaking on Food Security;
 - (d) The short-term fertilizer and pesticide situation, particularly in the context of the minimum import requirements of developing countries;
 - (e) International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- 7. Programme of work of the Council.
 - 8. Other business.
 - 9. Adoption of the report of the Council.

Documentation

15. The documents before the Council at its first session are listed in the annex to this report.

Administrative and financial implications

16. The Council was informed that certain of the proposals submitted to it had administrative and financial implications and that its budget would be drawn up in the light of its recommendations and programme of action adopted at the first session.

CHAPTER II

RULES OF PROCEDURE

17. The informal consultative meeting of members of the World Food Council (see para. 4 above) requested the secretariat of the Economic and Social Council to prepare and submit draft rules of procedure of the World Food Council for consideration by the Council at its first session.
18. At its 2nd, 3rd and 10th meetings, on 23, 24 and 27 June 1975, the Council considered the draft rules of procedure (WFC/2). After a general discussion, during which several suggestions were made regarding the draft rules, the Council set up the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Rules of Procedure which was requested to consider the rules further in the light of the suggestions made by various speakers at the 2nd meeting, as well as other proposals to be submitted to the Ad Hoc Working Group and to report thereon to the Council. The Ad Hoc Working Group was composed of the following 16 members, elected on the basis of the composition of the Council: Australia, Bangladesh, Cuba, Egypt, Gabon, Germany (Federal Republic of), Guinea, Iran, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, and Yugoslavia.
19. At the 10th meeting, on 27 June, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group, Mr. Manuel Armendáriz (Mexico), reported to the Council that the Working Group thanked the Economic and Social Council secretariat for preparing the draft rules of procedure and decided to take them as the basis for its deliberations. The Working Group agreed that some substantive questions merited most careful study and that it was unable to complete its task in the limited time provided.
20. The Working Group recommended to the Council that it adopt the following decisions:
- "(a) The Council invites the secretariat to transmit, to the States members of the Council, the draft rules of procedure (WFC/2) accompanied by the documents of the preparatory meetings and of the first session of the Council, with the request that they communicate the comments of their experts in writing.
- "(b) These comments should reach the secretariat of the World Food Council by a deadline that allows the Governments of the States members of the Council enough time to study the documents and state their views.
- "(c) To facilitate the task of the Working Group, when it has received the replies and suggestions of the Governments on the rules of procedure, the secretariat will prepare a document clearly setting forth those suggestions and submit the whole to the Working Group for examination.
- "(d) The Council confirms the Working Group in its present membership and renews its mandate until the completion of its mission (see also para. 74 (3)).

"(e) The President of the Council will convene the Working Group for about a week around October or November 1975 to enable it to complete its task. 3/ The date will be set to fit into the calendar of international meetings to be held at Rome and to take account of the need to give the Working Group enough time to complete the task entrusted to it."

21. There were some points on which unfortunately an agreement was not reached. The majority view on this was the following:

(a) The Council should retain its officers, elected during its first session, in their functions until the election of their successors;

(b) The Council should invite the President to take, with its secretariat, appropriate steps to give effect to the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Council at its first session.

A minority was not able to agree on this. 4/

22. At the 10th meeting, the Council adopted the report and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group (see also paras. 74 and 75 below).

Adoption of Arabic as a language of the Council

23. At the 5th and 6th meetings, on 25 June 1975, several representatives proposed that Arabic be made an official language of the Council.

24. At the 6th meeting, the Secretary of the Council read out a statement on the administrative and financial implications of the proposal (WFC/L.3), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

25. After hearing the statement, the Council decided, without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly that the World Food Council be authorized to adopt Arabic as an official and working language of the Council, beginning at its second session.

3/ See para. 11 above.

4/ However a final decision on this was reached by consensus in the plenary. See para. 15 above.

CHAPTER III

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, IN PARTICULAR ON WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS XIX AND XXII

26. The basis of discussion on this subject was a progress report (WFC/3 and Add.1) on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the World Food Conference. The documents were introduced by the secretariat as its first report on actions taken by United Nations bodies to implement the resolutions of the World Food Conference. The Council was asked for guidance on the future form and scope of such a report.

27. In order that the documents could be distributed in time for Governments to study them before the session, the report necessarily described activities of United Nations bodies as at mid-April 1975. Therefore, statements bringing up to date activities of several of those bodies were made by the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General of FAO, the Chairman of CGFPI, the Secretary-General of WMO, the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Executive Director of WFP, the Administrator of UNDP and representatives of WHO, GATT, UNIDO, UNICEF and UNCTAD. The Council was also addressed by the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council.

28. The main points of the statements bringing up to date the activities of the bodies were as follows: CGFPI was prepared for its first meeting, to be held in July, at which emphasis was to be placed on considering the current and prospective flow of external resources to developing countries and the potential for investment in fertilizer plants in those areas. The Congress of WMO had authorized a considerable expansion in agro-meteorological activities related to increasing food production. UNDRO referred to the need for strengthening links among the bodies and donor countries, drawing attention also to the serious food situation which had arisen in Haiti. FAO drew attention particularly to the importance of countries joining the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture. WHO noted that the current state of technical knowledge on nutrition and dietary deficiencies was adequate to mount programmes to eradicate them. GATT informed the Council that the Multilateral Trade Negotiations had entered the substantive phase in February 1975. Through the Lima Declaration, UNIDO was concerned with providing technical assistance for an integrated agro-industrial approach to some developing countries. UNICEF reported that the situation for children had deteriorated recently in a number of the most seriously affected countries and that it was seeking increased resources for operations in 1975-1976. The UNCTAD Committee on Commodities was to meet in July and December 1975 to examine the proposals of the Conference's Secretary-General 5/ for an integrated commodity programme, with the aim of reaching an early decision on international measures for commodity trade including food commodities and the results would be reported to the Council at its second session. UNDP was adopting methods for improving its ability to implement technical co-operation programmes

5/ See Report of the World Food Conference - Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.75.II.A.3), paras. 37 and 38.

in agriculture. WFP reported progress toward instituting the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes which should be completed in 1975, and further noted its capacity to handle much larger resources for food aid.

29. The form of the first progress report was generally commended by delegates, but some short-comings were pointed out and delegates suggested various ways to improve subsequent reports, as follows.

30. Although the report recorded the scope of initiatives undertaken by many bodies in implementing resolutions, it would be helpful to have a secretariat assessment of the over-all effort by the bodies. Future reports should include the identification of problem areas, of gaps in activities and of time lags in performance. They should include the measurement of results by quantities whenever possible. They should indicate the progress made towards an integrated and co-ordinated approach to the world food problem. Descriptions of action taken or planned should be accompanied by estimates of the time for completion, especially in view of the target set by the World Food Conference to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in the next 10 years. Future reports should also reflect the extent to which organization priorities have changed as a result of major responsibilities proposed for them in resolutions of the World Food Conference.

31. On the other hand, it was pointed out that high costs, especially in personnel, would be incurred both by the World Food Council and by other contributors in the preparation of very detailed progress reports and that such money could be better spent on direct action for development.

32. Firm belief was expressed that international détente was an important factor for improving conditions in order to solve international food problems. The importance of the intensification of efforts on implementation of progressive socio-economic changes was underlined, including agrarian reform, in order to create possibilities for increased agricultural production in pursuance of resolutions I and II of the World Food Conference. Attention was drawn by some delegates to the need for political will in following up the Conference and to the relevance of resolutions of the General Assembly at its sixth special session and at its twenty-ninth session and to the importance of its forthcoming seventh special session. Economic and Social Council resolution 1707 (LIII) of 28 July 1972 on agrarian reform was mentioned.

33. It was also suggested that there could be liaison between the World Food Council and the Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture.

34. Delegates mentioned many areas of activity in which too little was being done and which could be the subject of suggestions for new action when items 6 and 7 of the Council agenda (see para. 14 above) were discussed. The activities mentioned included rural development, credit systems, socio-economic reforms (especially agrarian reform), the removal of obstacles to trade in the products of developing countries, seed development, forestry and ecology, fisheries, fertilizers, root crops, irrigation, nutrition, food aid, and the creation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

35. It was pointed out that those progress reports were bound to be seriously deficient unless information could also be obtained concerning the actions taken by Governments to implement recommendations of the World Food Conference. Several

delegates urged all Governments to co-operate in providing information and asked the Executive Director to try to obtain such information from Governments as well as from the multilateral bodies in future.

36. The Council recalled resolution XIX of the World Food Conference, especially with reference to objectives contained in its paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10, and the concrete results achieved by Governments in these fields.

CHAPTER IV

REVIEW OF THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND THE CRITICAL ISSUES WITH WHICH THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE CONCERNED

37. The Council considered this item on the basis of the FAO report on the current food situation and outlook (WFC/12), and secretariat documents on the following issues: (a) food availability in the most seriously affected developing countries and ways and means of meeting minimum food requirements (WFC/5); (b) implementation of the food-aid target of 10 million tons approved by the World Food Conference in resolution XVIII (WFC/6); (c) steps necessary to implement the International Undertaking on World Food Security (WFC/7); (d) the short-term fertilizer and pesticides situation, particularly in the context of the minimum import requirements of developing countries (WFC/8 and 9); (e) the International Fund for Agricultural Development (WFC/10).

38. The Council noted that some of those subjects had also been considered by the relevant FAO bodies after the documents had been prepared by the secretariat in April and May 1975 on the various subitems of item 6. Some of the conclusions reached in the FAO meetings had a considerable bearing on the recommendations made in the secretariat documents on the subitems relating to the food availability for the most seriously affected countries, steps necessary to implement the International Undertaking on World Food Security, and short-term fertilizer and pesticide situations. The conclusions and recommendations reached at those FAO meetings had been made available to the Council through the following documents: (a) report of the FAO Commission on Fertilizers on its second session (CL 66/8); (b) report of the Ad Hoc Government Consultation on Pesticides in Agriculture and Public Health (CL 66/21 and supplement 1); report of the Ad Hoc Consultation on World Food Security (CL 66/24). The comments and views of the FAO Council at its sixty-sixth session on those reports (CL 66/REP (Extracts)) were also made available to the Council.

39. In the light of the FAO report on the current world food situation and outlook, the Council noted that a number of positive developments had taken place in the world food situation since the World Food Conference was held in November 1974. Despite those improvements there was no room for complacency. The world stocks of cereals were extremely low and the increase in grains output in 1975 was concentrated largely in developed countries. Further, the balance-of-payments situation of the most seriously affected countries continued to be serious. In parts of several of those countries, there were acute food shortages causing misery and starvation for many people. The longer-term prospects of increasing food production in developing countries were jeopardized by the diversion of scarce development funds to meet immediate food needs and to buy expensive fertilizers.

40. In association with the FAO review of the world food situation (WFC/12), the Council examined the recommendations contained in the documents on the following critical issues (see paras. 42 to 61 below).

41. The Council could not examine all issues comprehensively owing to the limited time available, but agreed that its review of the food situation should in future be broad, objective and penetrating. The review should convey the pulse of what was happening to the world food problems and show whether the longer-term prospects were improving.

A. Food availability for the most seriously affected developing countries and ways and means of meeting the minimum food requirements

42. The Council agreed that all countries in a position to do so and aid-giving countries should pay special attention to the food needs of the most seriously affected countries and take all necessary steps to help secure their supplies. It noted that, owing to the improved production prospects in the current year, it should not be difficult to ensure physical availability of 6 to 7 million tons of cereals required by the most seriously affected countries during July/December 1975. That quantity was considered inadequate by some delegates. The Council recognized, however, that financing food import requirements of that order would impose serious strain on the already difficult balance of payments of the most seriously affected countries and it urged all donor countries to give high priority in their aid programmes to meeting the needs of those countries. Several donor countries informed the Council of the high priority which they attached to meeting those needs.

43. Several delegations remarked that since cereals are not the only basic food products for all the populations of the world, the Council felt that no reference had been made to other basic food-stuffs, such as bananas, cassava and other tubers, as well as stock-breeding products. It hoped that, in the future, the report on the world food situation, as much as it reflected supply as well as the objective of food aid and the implementation of the International Undertaking on World Food Security, would devote significant attention to those products.

44. Recognizing that the import requirements of the most seriously affected countries during the latter part of the 1975/76 season would depend on the outcome of the autumn rice crops, the Council recommended that FAO should continue to monitor the over-all supply/demand position, as well as the requirements of the most seriously affected countries in 1975/76, and should consult as necessary with Governments and other aid-giving agencies to devise ways and means of meeting the urgent requirements of the most seriously affected countries.

B. Implementation of the food-aid target of 10 million tons approved by the Conference in resolution XVIII

45. The Council noted that, since the adoption of resolution XVIII by the World Food Conference in November 1974, there had been fresh increases in food aid for 1974/75, which at present totalled 8.6 million tons. Although information on food-aid availability for 1975/76 was still incomplete, it appeared that the food-aid target of 10 million tons of grains, which the World Food Conference had accepted as a minimum target, could be reached only if additional commitments were made by aid-giving countries to expand their food-aid programmes. The Council noted that the United States planned to expand its food-aid programme

from 5.4 million tons in 1974/75 to about 6 million tons in 1975/76. Canadian food aid in 1975/76 would be 1 million tons, almost double the previous year's level. Australia's food aid was expected to be increased to 350,000 tons of cereals, compared to its existing Food Aid Convention (FAC) commitment of 225,000 tons. Sweden also intended to increase its multilateral food aid to 75,000 tons annually for the following three years, that is more than double its previous FAC commitments. Swedish total food aid in the current fiscal year had trebled and amounted to 300,000 tons. The Council noted that the EEC Council of Ministers was considering a proposal to increase the Community's food aid from 1.3 million tons to about 1.64 million tons. That proposal, however, was still under consideration; and several delegates urged that the EEC countries should take an early decision on the size of their bilateral and multilateral food-aid programmes so as to help achieve the minimum food-aid target of 10 million tons. The Council expressed concern that as yet firm commitments made by the aid-giving countries did not add up to that total and it requested the President and Executive Director of the Council to undertake consultations with potential donors so as to achieve the target and to report to the Council at its second session.

46. The Council noted that with the exception of one country, the concept of forward planning of food aid had not been accepted by donor countries, as recommended in resolution XVIII of the World Food Conference. There was general agreement that all donor countries should accept and implement the concept of forward planning of food aid as soon as possible and announce in advance their food-aid programme levels in physical terms for more than a single season. A few delegates, however, felt that pre-programming of food-aid targets was undesirable and that aid should be oriented to the specific situations that arose in individual developing countries from time to time.

47. The Council expressed its support for the work of the World Food Programme and also recommended that the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes should, at its first session, consider establishing minimum food-aid targets for dairy and fish products, as well as oils and fats. It also recommended that the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes should keep under review the progress made in implementing the recommendations contained in resolution XVIII of the World Food Conference, including the terms of food aid, and report on the progress made.

48. The representative of Sweden proposed the creation of an international emergency reserve of 500,000 tons, to be administered by the World Food Programme, in order to deal with international emergencies and offered 40,000 tons as Sweden's contribution. He suggested that in order to form such an international emergency reserve, aid-giving countries, where possible, should earmark stocks or funds for meeting international emergency requirements as recommended in resolution XVIII of the World Food Conference and as envisaged in the International Undertaking on World Food Security. He announced that Norway supported the proposal. Several representatives spoke in favour of the proposal.

C. Steps necessary to implement the International Undertaking on World Food Security

49. The Council agreed that a viable and generally agreed system of world food security would be one of the main pillars of a world food policy. It recognized that, in its broadest sense, world food security had many dimensions and the

increase of food production in the developing countries was at its heart. The Council noted that many Governments had given their full support to the objectives, policies and guidelines of the International Undertaking on World Food Security and urged all other Governments to do the same as soon as possible. Also, discussions were under way between major producers and consumers of grains in the International Wheat Council as well as within the Multilateral Trade Negotiations under the aegis of GATT.

50. Many delegates recognized that the issues involved in an effective system of world food security were complex and implied active intervention in the production and distribution system and not simply a passive reaction to events. Also, the concept of world food security was closely linked to the objective of moderating price fluctuations so that price levels neither constituted an excessive disincentive to production nor imposed hardship on consumers.

51. In view of the importance of ensuring food security, many delegates urged Governments to conclude as soon as possible an international agreement on grains, which should contain, inter alia, provisions for stocks with a view to building up adequate levels of world reserves in line with the principles and objectives contained in the International Undertaking on World Food Security.

52. The Council emphasized that in order to enable the developing countries to participate effectively in a system of world food security, they would need to be assisted in building up food reserves as well as in constructing storage capacity and other required infrastructure. To that effect, many delegates called attention to the recent decision of the FAO Council to recommend to the FAO Conference that the Committee on World Food Security should be established in the shortest time possible. The Council emphasized the importance of getting all major food producing and consuming countries to participate in the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture. Many delegates endorsed the recommendations made on this subject by the FAO Ad Hoc Consultation on World Food Security (see CL 66/24). The Council affirmed its responsibility to ensure that the implementation of the International Undertaking on World Food Security would begin as soon as possible. Most delegates believed that the scope of the current trade negotiations amongst major producers and consumers should be broadened to cover the needs of world food security as distinct from trade objectives only.

D. Fertilizer situation

53. The Council agreed that the most important way to resolve the world food problem and to achieve the objectives of world food security was to increase food production in developing countries. It noted that the prevailing high prices of fertilizers had led to a curtailment in fertilizer consumption mainly in developing countries and had thereby hindered their efforts to increase their food production. It further noted that on the assumption that the most seriously affected countries would manage to import commercially the same volume in 1975/76 as in the previous year, their anticipated gap between requirements and imports could amount to about 1 million tons of plant nutrients. It therefore urged that aid-giving countries increase their bilateral and multilateral aid, both in cash and in kind, to enable the most seriously affected countries to obtain the required plant nutrients. It also recommended that an increased proportion of total fertilizer assistance should be channelled through the International

Fertilizer Supply Scheme. The suggestion was made that the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme should be put on a longer-term footing.

54. While endorsing the recommendations on world fertilizer policy made by the FAO Commission on Fertilizers at its second session (see CL 66/8), the Council recommended that the FAO/UNIDO/IBRD Working Group on Fertilizers should accelerate efforts to improve utilization of fertilizer plant capacity in developing countries and that CGFPI should investigate the feasibility of expanding fertilizer production in developing countries, particularly including that based on non-petroleum fuels such as coal.

55. The Council also welcomed the proposal to set up a Fertilizer Data Centre in FAO and stressed the importance of making more realistic forecasts of demand and supply, which should take into account the acceleration of food production in developing countries as called for by the World Food Conference.

E. Pesticides situation

56. While recognizing the great variety of pesticides involved, the Council endorsed the recommendations (see WFC/9) on pesticides in the context of meeting the requirements of developing countries. The Council urged that developed countries and others in a position to do so should earmark funds to help meet emergency situations arising from sudden pest attacks. It also recommended that the United Nations bodies, bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as the pesticide industry, should increase their technical and financial assistance to enable developing countries to establish, on the basis of required feasibility studies, manufacturing units for pesticide-active ingredients and the formulation of pesticides.

F. International Fund for Agricultural Development

57. The Council reaffirmed the urgent need to increase the flow of financial and technical assistance for agricultural development and food production in developing countries. In that context it welcomed the encouraging progress made at a meeting of interested countries at Geneva in May 1975 to discuss the establishment of an International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in pursuance of World Food Conference resolution XIII. The Council noted that an Ad Hoc Working Group, which was set up by the meeting in May to work out details of the establishment and operation of the Fund, was expected to complete its work before the end of September 1975 and that its recommendations would be considered at another meeting of interested countries in October/November 1975.

58. While welcoming the positive and constructive statements made by a number of potential contributors from developing and developed countries, many delegates urged that the Fund should be created as soon as adequate financial resources were assured, preferably at the beginning of 1976. The Council also expressed the hope that other potential donor countries, both developed and developing, which had not yet found it possible to pledge support to the Fund, would be able to do so.

59. Several delegates suggested that the Fund should use its resources for implementing special programmes, such as irrigation facilities, fertilizers,

pesticides, seed development, livestock production, land reclamation, nutrition, transportation systems, rural development and technical training. Others emphasized that contributions to the Fund should be put at its direct disposal and should not be subject to any conditions which would restrict the capacity of the Fund to determine its policies and priorities for the use of its resources. At least one delegation expressed the hope that the name of the Fund would not prevent it from helping fisheries development.

60. Referring to resolution XIV of the World Food Conference, several delegates stressed the urgent need to curtail expenditure on armaments and to use part of the funds so released for agricultural development in developing countries. In their view, reduction in military expenditure would foster world peace and international co-operation to help developing countries in their food-development programme.

61. Approving the recommendations presented in sections A, B, C, D, E and F above, the Council proceeded on the basis of the understanding that the proposed measures would fully take into account the content and spirit of the relevant resolutions of the World Food Conference.

CHAPTER V

PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE COUNCIL

62. The basis of discussion on this subject was the programme of work of the World Food Council (WFC/4). The Council's discussion of item 6 was closely related to this item, and the two items were considered concurrently.

63. The Council agreed that, as the world's highest 6/ political body dealing exclusively with food, its main functions would be: (a) to monitor the world food situation in all its aspects, including what international organizations and Governments were doing to develop short-term and long-term solutions to food problems; (b) to look at the total food picture and determine in its co-ordinating role whether the world food strategy as a whole made sense; (c) to identify malfunctions, gaps and problem areas; and (d) to exert its influence, through moral persuasion, to get any necessary improvements made.

64. It was agreed that the Council's secretariat should be small and of high professional competence and that it should draw fully on the expertise of other agencies, especially FAO. The secretariat should maintain a close watch over the efforts of international organizations and Governments to increase food production and to improve world food security. The secretariat should scrutinize, review and comment, frankly and impartially, on situations as it found them and should suggest improvements to the Council as and when necessary.

65. It was agreed that, while reports of the secretariat should be of a high evaluative and analytical nature, the secretariat should not undertake major research efforts on its own. For such studies it should rely upon the bodies responsible for the subjects, while exercising its own objectivity with respect to the conclusions it drew from them. To accomplish this, the secretariat should be free to call on all international organizations for the information it required in a spirit of co-operation and shared concern.

66. It was suggested that reports issued by the Council should be different from the usual official style; they should convey the pulse of happenings on the world food scene and should command international attention. The Executive Director should bring the reports of the Council to the attention of all relevant international and national authorities.

67. It was agreed that only a few problems should be put on the agenda of any Council session; that ample time for preparation, both by the secretariat and by Governments, should be allowed; that the dates of meetings should be fixed with due regard to other relevant meetings; and that the secretariat should not duplicate documents which were readily available from other expert sources.

68. At each session the Council would need a report that concisely identified the major problems and evaluated the progress or impediments to their solutions at a

6/ One delegate objected to this description.

world-wide level, as well as the progress or needed improvement in programmes of agencies or nations.

69. As increasing food production in developing countries was accepted as the first priority, the secretariat would have to follow closely the various efforts currently under way to quantify the food problem in specific developing nations or regions and the amount and types of resources required to accelerate food production in those areas as suggested in paragraph 5 of the programme of work of the Council (WFC/4). It should particularly report on the progress of the establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and begin work on a realistic and practical assessment to determine the feasibility and implications of abolishing hunger and malnutrition in a decade, as envisaged in paragraph 10 of the Council's programme of work (WFC/4). The secretariat should also follow closely developments in world food security, including efforts to develop grain stock agreements, progress in attaining the agreed food aid target and in meeting urgent food requirements of the most seriously affected countries.

70. The Council emphasized that the suggestions in paragraphs 63 to 69 above reflected its first views and that it intended to review that important subject at its second session.

71. The Council recognized that it would be difficult to achieve the main aims of the Council to concentrate on the major factors affecting the world food problem and to stimulate action to deal with them without duplicating the functions carried out elsewhere. It was therefore essential to follow a selective approach. It also agreed that longer-term guidelines for the secretariat's programme of work could be laid down only after the Council itself had defined its functions and mode of operation more clearly in the light of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Rules of Procedure.

72. The Council requested the Executive Director to prepare a provisional agenda for its second session, in consultation with the President, as far as practicable in accordance with the suggestions set out above, and to have the supporting documents prepared accordingly. The agenda should be manageable and should be drawn up in a manner that would actively involve the ministers attending the Council in a discussion of selected issues of substance with the aim of reaching concrete decisions.

73. Other subjects suggested for possible inclusion in the agenda of the second session of the Council were the following: the co-ordination of international work on agricultural investment and on agricultural research; international work for rural transport systems; information from UNIDO on agro-industry and nutrition; trade as it affects food and agricultural progress, and the adequacy and effectiveness of food aid; nutrition policies and programmes, including the question of improved consumption patterns in all countries; socio-economic changes, including agrarian reform in the light of resolutions I and II of the World Food Conference; agricultural extension services, including credit; irrigation; marketing and transport services; land and water management; drinking water supplies; soil improvement; agro-industries; seed improvement; and programmes to improve the productivity of non-cereal food crops.

CHAPTER VI

DECLARATION OF THE GROUP OF SEVENTY-SEVEN

74. At the 10th meeting, on 27 June 1975, the Group of Seventy-seven in the Council submitted the following Declaration for inclusion in the report on the first session:

"The Group of Seventy-seven,

"Desirous of reaffirming the political will which inspired the creation of the World Food Council, responding to the genuine aspirations and the urgent needs of the developing countries,

"Aware of the seriousness of the problems confronting humanity,

"Considering, in the light of the results of the first session of the Council, the paramount necessity of enabling the Council to command means which would allow the realization of the objectives set out by the World Food Conference and the General Assembly of the United Nations as soon as possible,

"Declares it essential to adopt the following measures:

"1. To maintain the Bureau as elected in the course of the first session (23-27 June, 1975);

"2. To nominate an adequate secretariat, with a balanced regional distribution, answerable to the World Food Council;

"3. To maintain the composition and terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Rules of Procedure of the Council, providing it with all the necessary facilities for completing its work;

"4. To charge the President, in whom the Group reaffirms its confidence, with the task of convening, within a reasonable period, a new session of the Council and to ensure that this session results in the achievement of the aforementioned objectives."

75. At the same meeting, the Council decided to reproduce the Declaration in its report. It took note of the Declaration, endorsed paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 thereof and recommended that the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Rules of Procedure (see chap. II) study paragraph 2 of the Declaration as far as relevant in considering the rules of procedure.

CHAPTER VII

OTHER BUSINESS

Participation of the President of the Council or his representative in sessions of the governing bodies of organizations in the United Nations system

76. At the 9th meeting, on 27 June 1975, the President said that the Council had been informed that the FAO Council, at its sixty-fifth session, had adopted a recommendation that the Chairman of the FAO Council be invited to participate as an observer at sessions of the World Food Council and that the President of the World Food Council be invited to participate as an observer at sessions of the FAO Council.

77. The President said that, inasmuch as the World Food Council had been established by the General Assembly as a co-ordinating mechanism for all bodies of the United Nations system, it would seem proper that the President of the Council should be enabled to participate in sessions of the relevant bodies or agencies in the United Nations system, including FAO. Accordingly, the Council agreed that the Chairman of the FAO Council should participate as an observer in its sessions and it adopted the following decision without objection:

"Subject to appropriate administrative and financial arrangements being made, the President of the Council may participate or be represented in sessions of the governing bodies of relevant organizations in the United Nations system, as the President deems appropriate."

CHAPTER VIII

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

78. The Council, in endorsing paragraph 4 of the Declaration of the Group of Seventy-seven (see chap. VI), charged the President with the task of convening the next session of the Council within a reasonable period.

CHAPTER IX

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

79. At its 9th and 10th meetings, on 27 June 1975, the Council considered and adopted the report on its first session (WFC/L.4 and Add.1-4, as amended) which, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX), would be submitted through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session.

ANNEX

List of documents before the Council at its first session

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
WFC/1	3	Provisional agenda and annotations
WFC/2	4	Draft rules of procedure
WFC/3 and Add.1	5	Progress report on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the World Food Conference
WFC/4	7	Programme of work of the Council
WFC/5	6 (a)	Food availability in the most seriously affected developing countries and ways and means of meeting the minimum food requirements
WFC/6	6 (b)	Implementation of the food-aid target of 10 million tons approved by the Conference in resolution XVIII
WFC/7	6 (c)	Steps necessary to implement the international undertaking on World Food Security
WFC/8 and WFC/9	6 (d)	The short-term fertilizer and pesticides situation, particularly in the context of the minimum import requirements of developing countries
WFC/10	6 (e)	The International Fund for Agricultural Development
WFC/11	6	The world food situation -- February 1975
WFC/12	6	Report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the current food situation and outlook
WFC/L.1		Report by the Executive Director of the World Food Council
WFC/L.2		Statement by the President of the Council
WFC/L.3	4	Administrative and financial implications of making Arabic an official language of the Council

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
WFC/L.4 and Add.1-4	9	Draft report of the Council
WFC/NGO/1	4	Joint statement by a group of non-governmental organizations
WFC/INF/1		Membership of the World Food Council
WFC/INF/2		Information for participants
WFC/INF/3		List of documents before the Council at its first session
WFC/INF/4/Rev.1		List of participants

Documents made available by FAO

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Title</u>
CL 66/8	Report of the FAO Commission on Fertilizers on its second session
CL 66/21 and supplement 1	Report of the <u>Ad Hoc</u> Government Consultation on Pesticides in Agriculture and Public Health
CL 66/24	Report of the <u>Ad Hoc</u> Consultation on World Food Security
CL 66/REP (Extracts)	Extracts from the report of the FAO Council on its sixty-sixth session

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