

**REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**WORLD FOOD COUNCIL**  
**on the work of its fifth session**

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**3-7 September 1979**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION  
SUPPLEMENT No. 19 (A/34/19)



**UNITED NATIONS**

New York, 1979

#### **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.

/28 September 1979/

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CFA	Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (of OECD)
EEC	European Economic Community
FAC	Food Aid Convention
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IDA	International Development Assistance
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFSS	International Fertilizer Supply Scheme (of FAO)
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WFC	World Food Council
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

PART ONE

MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. At the 8th meeting of its fifth ministerial session, on 7 September 1979, the World Food Council adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL  
AT ITS FIFTH MINISTERIAL SESSION

1. The World Food Council of the United Nations met at ministerial level from 3 to 7 September in Ottawa under the Presidency of Mr. Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., Minister of Agriculture of the Philippines.
2. The Council reviewed the structural imbalance in the world food economy, and the growing dependence of most developing countries on food aid and commercial imports to meet essential food needs. The Council notes with a sense of concern that the imports of grains of developing countries have risen to almost 30 million tons this year and that wheat prices have risen significantly, imposing an additional burden on their economies and development. In low income countries, the growing food gap is reflected in deprivation and increased hunger. Especially alarming is that current and projected levels of investment in food production and distribution fall far short of assuring the food needs of the world's growing population.
3. To meet present and future needs and achieve adequate food security in the next decade, the Council calls for concerted action by the international community on a strategy for structural changes in the world food economy within the context of the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974. To this end, the Council renews the call which it had already made in its Manila Communiqué 1/ and Mexico Declaration 2/ to all Governments, international agencies and indeed to all people to reaffirm the commitment to overcome hunger and malnutrition everywhere. That commitment should become a major guide to policy and action at every level, from the highest bodies of the United Nations and the Governments of all countries to individual farmers and their institutions on which in the last resort so much depends.

I. A FRAMEWORK FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION

4. Last year in Mexico City, the Council concluded that the low rate of increase in food production in the food-deficit developing countries reflects the failure of the international community to achieve the high priority needed to realize the objectives set by the World Food Conference. To this end, the Council initiated a series of consultations among developing countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia, among the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the

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1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/32/19).

2/ Ibid., Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/33/19).

countries members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation for Development (OECD) and with the full co-operation of regional development banks, the World Bank, the OPEC Special Fund, the OECD Development Assistance Committee, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and other agencies concerned with food. The Council is grateful to the Governments and agencies for sharing and evaluating their experiences concerning food problems, thus contributing to a renewed endeavour to translate priority for food in principle into practice.

5. Developing countries recognize that the solution of their food problem is their own primary responsibility but they also feel that determined support from the international community is necessary and hope to receive such support. If hunger and malnutrition are to be overcome, the task must be reaffirmed as the common and joint responsibility of the international community. This responsibility requires a framework of mutually supporting actions, both national and international within which:

(a) Developing countries, in appropriate cases, will accord a higher priority to food questions within the over-all aims and objectives of national plans;

(b) Developed countries, other countries able to provide development assistance, and international agencies will complement the efforts of developing countries by seeking to increase and improve development assistance;

(c) Countries will work together, each according to its capabilities, to ensure better food security for all.

6. The Council's consultations placed stress on the use of a national food sector strategy, in the context of national development programmes, to raise food issues to the highest policy levels, and assure a more co-ordinated approach to all aspects of food production, distribution, nutrition and national food security. The Council regards this approach as 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. It is for each country to determine whether a food strategy is appropriate to its particular circumstances. Development assistance agencies, whether national or international, should not make the preparation of a national food strategy a condition for development assistance.

7. The Council's consultations also pointed out the desirability for developing countries to consider the establishment of a high-level food management authority at national level, such as an interministerial co-ordinating committee or similar body, to monitor policies and oversee the preparation and implementation of a food strategy.

8. Ministers also stress the need for more direct action by Governments to overcome malnutrition and achieve greater equity in food distribution, and to ensure that increased production of food reaches the hungry and malnourished poor. In particular, they emphasize the need:



(a) To link food consumption and nutrition measures with food production efforts, within the framework of over-all development plans;

(b) To increase efforts in implementing consumer food subsidy and distribution programmes such as food rationing and food-for-work programmes, as well as nutrition and health programmes for vulnerable groups, and nutrition education and training;

(c) To improve food distribution and marketing systems and local food security;

(d) To develop practice approaches to the assessment of the nutritional impact of development programmes, particularly in the agricultural and rural sector;

(e) To improve nutrition data generation and analysis.

9. In order to stimulate practical progress in these areas, Ministers instructed the secretariat to assess experiences and results of the various types of nutrition measures and to report back to the Council on specific types of action which would be most effective under varying country-specific conditions.

10. The Council is encouraged by the positive response to its call in the Mexico Declaration for action to eradicate goitre within a decade. It recommends that the World Health Organization and the countries concerned should receive the fullest international support.

11. The Council endorses the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action as adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, and particularly stresses that increased production and availability of food for those most in need should be a key indicator of successful rural development.

12. There was general agreement on the desirability of strengthening or establishing a food project identification, preparation and monitoring unit in developing countries, directly linked with the interministerial co-ordinating committee suggested earlier. To facilitate the staffing of these units and the training of the necessary personnel, the Council recommends that at least one training centre should be established in each of the developing world regions; a study on this proposal should be presented to the next session. Existing institutions, e.g., development banks or universities, could undertake this with the support of bilateral and multilateral organizations. The regional centre should also be able to assist in the processing of loans for bankable projects or for technical assistance.

13. Bangladesh, Honduras, the Philippines and Senegal have communicated their decision to adopt a food sector strategy. Several other countries, including Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, have also expressed an active interest. The Council encourages these and other interested countries to develop food strategies and urges development assistance agencies and donor countries to respond to their requests for assistance. The Council notes with appreciation that the Canadian Government has set aside a special

fund of \$2 million to be used for technical assistance in preparation of food strategies in consultation with the Council. Other Governments are urged to follow the Canadian example in supporting this endeavour, and it is hoped that the experience and expertise of the specialized agencies such as FAO and the World Bank would be fully used for this purpose.

14. The Council will consider at its next session a report on the experience in the countries concerned, the effectiveness of the food strategy approach and the support given it, as well as guidelines for its further application.

## II. SCOPE OF INTERNATIONAL ACTION

15. The Council notes that the Committee of the Whole, established under General Assembly resolution 32/174, has agreed that urgent measures should be taken to reach the target of 4 per cent annual growth rate in agricultural production in developing countries for which an estimated necessary element of external assistance of \$US 8.3 billion, 3/ with \$US 6.5 billion on concessional terms, at 1975 prices, as mentioned in the Manila Communiqué of the World Food Council, should be reached if possible by the end of 1980. In this connexion, the Council takes note that the FAO study entitled "Agriculture: Towards the Year 2000", which is to be considered by the FAO Conference in November 1979, had estimated total investment requirements in the agricultural sector would increase to about \$57.1 billion (at 1975 prices) by 1990, of which the external assistance component is estimated to be \$12.7 billion.

16. There is general agreement on the urgent need for a common endeavour to reverse the trend of food dependency and growing hunger and acknowledgement that this will require substantially additional development assistance. As stated in the Mexico Declaration of the World Food Council, all developed countries should take urgent steps to reach the official development assistance target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product so as to increase substantially the flow of resources to food and agriculture and to other sectors.

17. The ongoing efforts of the World Bank and other key agencies, the willingness of the DAC/OECD countries and the OPEC countries to review their policies and procedures and to respond to requests for assistance for food, demonstrate the potential for raising the present level of commitments to that sector. In line with this objective:

(a) Developed countries and other countries in a position to do so, which have not already substantially increased their assistance to food and food-related programmes, should take urgent steps to do so;

(b) International agencies should maintain, and where appropriate increase, their assistance to food and agriculture;

(c) The resources of those agencies, notably IDA, which are playing a key role in assistance to food and agriculture should be, where appropriate, replenished promptly and at a rate sufficient to enable substantial expansion of their activities.

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3/ Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/32/19), part one, para. 3.

18. The Council notes with appreciation that the Italian Government will ask its Parliament to double that country's development assistance in next year's budget and that it intends to give priority to the food sector, channelling its assistance multilaterally.

19. As an integral part of the effort to increase development assistance, the Council takes note of the conclusions as adopted by the United Nations Committee of the Whole in its recent session on food and agricultural requirements. The Council urges the prompt implementation of these conclusions and particularly the following:

(a) The resources of IFAD should be replenished on a continuing basis, with the first replenishment to be decided upon by the Governing Council before the end of 1980. The Governing Council should in this regard consider the need for an increase in real terms of the resources of the Fund;

(b) Donor countries should provide through bilateral and multilateral channels the fertilizer assistance to the most seriously affected countries, to enable them to meet their plant nutrient requirements, of 1 million tons on an annual basis;

(c) International organizations and donor countries should further increase substantially their contributions to the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. Furthermore, developing countries should have access to imports of fertilizers and pesticides at competitive prices and preferably not higher than domestic prices in the developed exporting countries;

(d) International organizations and donor countries should increase when appropriate their financial and technical assistance to developing countries in order to enable them to expand substantially fertilizer and pesticide production facilities as well as storage, with the aims of doubling fertilizer and increasing pesticide utilization as well as of reducing import dependency of developing countries in these areas;

(e) Donor countries should increase their contributions to the Special Account for the FAO's Action Programme for Prevention of Food Losses to reach the agreed funding level of \$US 20 million. Donor countries and international organizations should increase their contribution to the FAO's Seed Improvement and Development Scheme in order to achieve at least the agreed level of \$US 20 million in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Nineteenth Conference of FAO. These two programmes should be ensured their successful and continued operation and financing;

(f) Urgent efforts should be made nationally and internationally to strengthen agricultural research capacity in developing countries so that their specific problems can be met.

20. In connexion with this last point, the Council agrees to include agricultural research, including measures to improve national research capabilities, and support of the present international research network, on the agenda of its sixth session and to request the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to submit a report to the Council for this purpose.

21. The efforts of developing countries to strengthen project capacity should be complemented by increased technical assistance for reinforcing the necessary administrative structures, training of local personnel and for the identification and preparation of food projects. The development assistance agencies should endeavour, as appropriate, to simplify their lending procedures and to expand financing on a sector and subsector basis, especially by assisting the building up of appropriate institutions in developing countries as vehicles for such financing.

22. Effective action to assist developing countries to overcome their food problems will require increasing allocations of development assistance to meet local and recurrent costs. Most multilateral and bilateral development agencies agree on the desirability of moving in this direction, and the Council hopes that they will progressively increase their efforts.

23. A substantial time lag between commitments of development assistance and their disbursement is to some extent unavoidable. More concerted action between developing countries and providers of assistance would assist in reducing such delays. The Council urges that all concerned should urgently review these procedures and find ways to speed up the fulfilment of commitments.

24. The Council notes with appreciation the offer by the Minister of Rural Reconstruction of India to share his country's experience in agriculture by extending co-operation, consultancy and assistance, and even aid, on a bilateral or regional basis to other developing countries. It recommends that developing countries should take all possible measures to foster such co-operation and that assistance agencies should bear in mind this potential in their approach to assistance.

#### World food security

25. A world food security system is necessary to minimize the consequences of the shortfalls in production which will inevitably arise from time to time, owing to crop failures in one or more countries.

26. The Council expresses deep regret that the United Nations Conference to negotiate an International Arrangement to replace the International Wheat Agreement, 1971, as extended, adjourned in February 1979 without success. Ministers reaffirm the importance of concluding a new International Wheat Agreement and a new Food Aid Convention as key elements of world food security: the consultations and contacts under way should continue with great sense of urgency for resuming the negotiations.

27. Ministers note that while conclusion of an agreement with legally binding economic provisions, which they regard as an essential element of world food security, is awaited, actions to improve food security, particularly for the millions of vulnerable people in low-income countries who are most exposed to risk both from natural disasters and from market fluctuations, could not be postponed any longer. The Council, therefore, strongly recommends that:

(a) Governments which have not yet accepted a new Food Aid Convention of at least 10 million tons without waiting for the conclusion of the new Wheat Trade Convention should reconsider their position, as proposed by

developing countries and by various developed countries including the United States of America, Canada and the Nordic countries. Ministers strongly urged that every effort should be made both to enlist new contributors and to increase the commitments of existing ones so that a new convention can be concluded by mid-1980 with a firm assurance that 10 million tons will be the absolute minimum flow of assistance, even in times of high prices and food shortage.

(b) Arrangements should be made to ensure that additional food aid is provided to assist developing countries build national food reserves.

(c) In order to strengthen food security at the national level, stepped-up efforts should be made to identify the infrastructure needs for food security, that is, storage, transport and distribution facilities in individual developing countries, with an indication of the cost. The Council supports the valuable work being undertaken by FAO through its Food Security Assistance Scheme and urges donor countries to provide more resources to this scheme. The World Bank is also doing important work in this field. The Council recommends that FAO, the World Bank and the regional development banks consider undertaking systematic assessment of the needs and possibilities for improving food security infrastructure as a basis for a major investment effort in the countries which request such assistance.

(d) The Council endorses the FAO Five-Point Plan of Action on world food security as adopted. <sup>4/</sup> The Council welcomes the initiative of the Director-General of FAO in putting forward the Plan of Action, mainly as an interim measure after the failure of efforts to achieve a more adequate system of world food security.

(e) The Council endorses the request of the FAO which invites the International Monetary Fund to consider within the context of its financing facilities the feasibility of providing additional balance-of-payments support for meeting the rise in food import bills of low income, food-deficit countries.

(f) The Council urged all countries, particularly those developed countries which are not yet contributing to it, to immediately achieve the 500,000 ton target for the International Emergency Reserve and consider its enlargement in response to growing emergency needs.

28. The Council endorses the guidelines and criteria for food aid developed by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, at the Council's request, and urges their implementation.

#### International trade

29. The Council reaffirms its previous recognition that changes in international trade ensuring greater access in favour of the exports of developing countries, in particular to markets in developed countries, have a major contribution to make in enabling them to meet their food needs as well as to strengthen their economic development generally. Ministers noted with deep concern the protectionist trade practices which affect adversely the export possibilities particularly of developing countries, and militate against their over-all development efforts, and emphasized the need for their early elimination.

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<sup>4/</sup> The Government of Canada reserved its position regarding this Plan.

30. The Council strongly endorses the initiatives taken by UNCTAD at its fifth session in the field of food production and trade, and recommends to all parties involved to implement them as a matter of great importance to not only the solution of the world food problem but also the essential development objectives of developing countries.

31. The Council supports the relevant section on International Trade of the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development as adopted.

32. The Council further recommends that:

(a) Developing countries, through their regional organizations and utilizing interregional mechanisms, intensify the process of consultation and negotiation with a view to expanding their mutual trade in agricultural commodities and manufactures; it asks that they report the type of support they need and the obstacles identified to expand their mutual trade to the Council in a subsequent session, so that it can propose appropriate measures;

(b) Intensive efforts should be made to increase public awareness in all countries, particularly in developed countries, of the cost of protectionism to consumers and taxpayers, as well as of its negative effects on economic development.

### III. CONCLUSION

33. The Council is concerned at the rapid growth of military expenditure in the world and suggests that concrete measures be taken to remedy this situation. The Council notes with appreciation the agreed conclusions reached by the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174 concerning the possibility of allocating part of the resources which will be released as a result of the reduction of armament expenditures, for financing arrangements aimed at accelerating development of developing countries and upgrading their food situation.

34. Much greater effort to eradicate hunger, and its human degradation and despair, is a political imperative for building co-operation and solidarity among all people and all nations.

35. No right is more fundamental than the right to food, and no goal more urgent than the goal of overcoming the hunger of a billion people. On behalf of these billion people, the Council urges that a reversal of the structural imbalance in the world food economy and the overcoming of hunger and malnutrition should be one of the focal points of the International Development Strategy for the 1980s.

36. The Council, therefore, calls upon the United Nations to give food and agriculture the highest possible priority in the next Development Decade and to that end suggests to the General Assembly that it consider the idea of declaring the 1980s as the Food and Development Decade.

PART TWO

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL

## CHAPTER I

### ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

#### A. Opening of the session

2. The fifth ministerial session of the World Food Council was held at Ottawa, Canada, from 3 to 7 September 1979. It was preceded by a preparatory meeting in Rome, from 4 to 6 July 1979.
3. At the inaugural meeting of the session, which was held in the Canadian House of Commons, Parliament Hill, on 4 September 1979, statements were made by the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, the President of the World Food Council, the Honourable Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., the Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency General Kriangsak Chomanan, and the Minister of Agriculture of Canada, the Honourable John Wise. A personal message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations was read by the Executive Director of the Council.
4. In his statement, the Prime Minister of Canada said that a truly major effort to eradicate hunger, with its human degradation and despair, is a political imperative for building world co-operation and solidarity among all peoples and nations. In the five years since the 1974 World Food Conference, the World Food Council had done much to mobilize support for coherent policies among Governments and concerned agencies. He stressed Canada's confirmed support for the role and activities of the World Food Council and said his nation would continue to devote \$400 million annually to its food and agriculture development aid programmes.
5. The President of the World Food Council recounted the achievements of the Council since its inception, and particularly in the past two years. He said the essential task of the World Food Council was to mobilize the political support of rich as well as poor countries and to prod Governments and international agencies in order to translate objectives into action. Recognition that food was the fundamental issue of the times was not enough. There was urgent need for national food strategies that could serve to stimulate increased development assistance. The current level of external aid should be doubled by donor countries and financial institutions within the next five years.
6. The Prime Minister of Thailand said that the question of increasing food production in developing countries was of paramount importance, but it must be accompanied by measures to raise the income of farmers and lower their cost of production, so they could better help themselves. Developing countries should take a fresh look at their food policies, while developed countries and financial institutions should provide more food aid. Unless the small farmers could help themselves, no external assistance would suffice to raise their level of development.
7. The Minister of Agriculture of Canada announced major new initiatives by Canada. He said it was in the basic interest of Canada and other advanced industrial countries to support stepped-up investment and a dramatic increase in



food production in the developing countries, both to help those countries meet the nutritional needs of their growing populations as a major factor affecting world political stability and to promote their role as equal-partners on the world stage.

8. He announced that Canada would set aside a special fund of \$2 million to assist developing countries to prepare long-term national food sector strategies for the 1980s, and that Canadian expertise would be made available to help develop these strategies in consultation with the World Food Council. He said Canada was now willing to negotiate a new Food Aid Convention (FAC) separately from a new Wheat Trade Convention, and that Canada would contribute 600,000 tonnes of grain to the new FAC. He also announced that Canada would make a contribution of \$5.5 million to the International Emergency Food Reserve. He called for a greater emphasis on the role of fisheries in meeting the protein requirements of all countries.

9. In his message to the Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations said that never before had it been so important to move from general agreements in principle to specific implementation of commonly-accepted objectives. It was here that the World Food Council's role in encouraging and guiding actions by Governments and international agencies in coherent food policy measures should give promise of greatly alleviating and eventually eradicating hunger and malnutrition in the world. The task was central not only to the realization of common humanity, on behalf of the poor and the hungry of the world, but to the political solidarity so imperative for building world co-operation among all nations and people.

#### B. Members of the Council

10. At present, the Council consists of the following 36 States:

Australia*	Iran**	Nigeria*
Botswana***	Iraq***	Pakistan*
Canada***	Italy**	Philippines*
Colombia***	Ivory Coast*	Poland*
Cuba*	Jamaica*	Sri Lanka**
Denmark**	Japan**	Thailand***
Ethiopia***	Liberia***	Trinidad and Tobago**
France*	Madagascar*	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*
Gabon**	Malawi**	United Kingdom of Great Britain and
German Democratic Republic**	Mexico***	Northern Ireland***
Guatemala*	Morocco**	United States of America***
India***	Netherlands**	Venezuela***
		Yugoslavia.***

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\* Term of office expires on 31 December 1979.

\*\* Term of office expires on 31 December 1980.

\*\*\* Term of office expires on 31 December 1981.

#### C. Attendance

11. All members of the Council were present at the session. In addition, the following States and organizations were represented:

## States non-members of the Council

Argentina	Haiti	Republic of Korea
Austria	Honduras	Romania
Bangladesh	Holy See	Rwanda
Belgium	Hungary	Senegal
Benin	Indonesia	Spain
Bolivia	Ireland	Sweden
Brazil	Israel	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Jordan	Togo
Chile	Kenya	Tunisia
Czechoslovakia	Lebanon	Turkey
Ecuador	Lesotho	United Arab Emirates
Egypt	New Zealand	United Republic of Cameroon
Finland	Niger	United Republic of Tanzania
Germany, Federal Republic of	Norway	Uruguay
Ghana	Peru	Viet Nam
Greece	Portugal	Yemen
		Zaire

## United Nations

United Nations Secretariat  
United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development  
United Nations Children's Fund  
United Nations Development Programme  
World Food Programme  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
United Nations Research Institute for Social Development  
United Nations Council for Namibia

## Specialized agencies

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

## Other organizations

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

## Intergovernmental organizations

African Development Bank  
Asian Development Bank  
European Economic Community  
Inter-American Development Bank  
Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences  
International Wheat Council  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development  
Sistema Economico Latinoamericano

Canadian Association of South Asian Studies  
Canadian Council for International Co-operation  
Canadian Fertilizer Institute  
Canadian Hunger Foundation  
Center for Concern  
Centre Local de Services Communautaires  
Grocery Products Manufacturers of Canada  
Group of Members of the Italian and European Parliament  
Interimco International Inc.  
International Coalition for Development Action  
International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage  
International Development Research Centre  
International Federation of Agricultural Producers  
International Food Policy Research Institute  
Inter-Pares  
Match International Centre  
Mennonite Central Committee (Canada)  
National Farmers Union  
North-South Institute  
Science Council of Canada  
United States Presidential Commission on World Hunger  
World Council of Churches  
World Youth Congress on Food and Development

#### D. Officers

12. At the 1st meeting of the session, on 3 September 1979, following a procedural discussion and informal consultations, the representative of Mexico withdrew the candidacy of the Honourable Francisco Merino Rabago, Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico for the Presidency of the Council.

13. The delegation of Mexico, when withdrawing its candidate for the Presidency, stated that the setting aside of the proposal of the countries of Latin America, submitted by the delegation of Venezuela and based on a legitimate aspiration of the region, prompted it to express in the strongest terms its absolute disagreement because that action constituted a flagrant violation of the principle of rotation and equitable geographical representation in the composition of the Bureau, universally accepted and confirmed by resolution XXII of the World Food Conference, by rule 13 of the existing rules of procedure of the Conference, and by the Preparatory Meeting for the current session. Mexico charged that one of the basic principles of the Council, invoked and applied at the time of the election of the current President, had been violated. He said that if the custom of not respecting the fundamental instruments of the organization, the spirit of which was the pillar upholding the United Nations system, was allowed to become established, a situation of anarchy would be created which would hamper the attainment of the objectives of the Council and of the developing countries.

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5/ Several intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were granted ad hoc observer status under the terms of rule 63 of the Council's rules of procedure.

14. At the 1st and 3rd meetings, the following officers were elected by acclamation:

<u>President:</u>	Mr. Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. (Philippines)
<u>Vice-Presidents:</u>	Mr. Abdellatif Ghissassi (Morocco) Mr. Luis Fernando Londono (Colombia) Mr. Erwin Neu (German Democratic Republic)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. Hans Linnemann (Netherlands)

15. Following the election of the President, the representative of Australia submitted the following text, which was approved by the Council:

The Council,

1. Noted the intention of the re-elected President, the Honourable Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., not to seek re-election for the Presidency of the World Food Council at the conclusion of his second term;
2. Recalled, in reaffirming its support of rule 13 of the rules of procedure, that the first President came from the African region and its second President from the Asian region;
3. Recognized the strong interest of the Latin American region in putting forward a candidate for election as President in 1981, in conformity with the principle of geographical rotation.

The representatives of Iraq and the Ivory Coast stated that they would prefer the third paragraph of this text to be deleted, since they did not see the need to reaffirm rule 13 of the Council's rules of procedure, or the competence of the Council to bind the hands of those who would decide on the presidency in 1981. The representatives of Australia and France stated their belief that the Council was in no way binding itself for 1981.

E. Agenda

16. The Council adopted the following agenda (WFC/1979/10) for the session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Overcoming the constraints on increasing food production in developing countries.
5. World Food security and aid.
6. Food trade.

7. Hunger and malnutrition, and greater equity in distribution of food.
8. Future programme of the Council.
9. Report of the Council to the General Assembly.

F. Documentation

17. The documents before the session are listed in annex III to the present report.

## CHAPTER II

### OVERCOMING THE CONSTRAINTS ON INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION, AND GREATER EQUITY IN DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD

18. The Council considered these two items together, in view of the interrelations between the production, distribution and consumption aspects.

19. The Executive Director introduced the discussion on these items and summarized the ideas put forward in documents WFC/1979/7 and Add.1, WFC/1979/4 and Add.1. He reported on the series of regional and global consultations which took place following the fourth session of the Council in Mexico, where it was agreed that food and nutrition issues, as well as the many interrelated technical, resource and policy questions must receive a high priority by Governments in their over-all national objectives. These consultations recognized the need for a more systematic approach to planning and management of the food sector at the country level. The principal conclusions of the Council's consultations indicate that:

(a) Substantially more efforts must be directed to food production and consumption needs, both in terms of stepped-up resources and the strengthening of the administrative and technical capacity for investment. Most developing countries are prepared to place greater policy attention at the highest political level to meet food needs.

(b) The disaggregated approach of focusing separately on individual technical and policy aspects of the food problem, and piecemeal projects, has failed to solve the problem. What is required is a combination of mutually reinforcing policies and administrative action to achieve food objectives. This can appropriately be called a national "food sector strategy".

(c) Most developing countries need and want more technical help in food project identification, preparation and implementation, in order to remove constraints to increased investment.

(d) Development agencies can and must do much more to co-operate with developing countries in expanding technical and administrative capabilities for stepped-up investments in the food sector. In particular, development agencies should simplify project preparation requirements and move progressively to financing food production on a sector basis, with greater support for local and recurring costs.

(e) Development agencies also should increase substantially their assistance to developing countries for the improvement of suitable technologies for realizing the productive potential of their agriculture.

(f) There is need to do more about malnutrition and greater equity in food distribution, as discussed in document WFC/1979/6 on this subject. Much greater efforts are required to ensure that increased production of food reaches the hungry and malnourished poor.

(g) In many cases, achievement of more adequate food consumption for the poor and hungry means more attention 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 to rural institutions for more direct participation by the people concerned.

(h) If current and future food needs are to be met, much greater investment is required in a framework of national programmes which relate increased resources for food to appropriate policy incentives for farmers and coherent management of services, inputs and marketing. The available evidence indicates that a doubling of the flow of external resources to the food sector of developing countries over the next five years will be necessary if their trend of increasing food deficits is to be reversed.

20. The Executive Director emphasized the concept of a "food sector strategy" that emerged from these consultations, as a planning and implementation approach, to weld together a country's objectives, policies and programmes relating to food issues. He indicated that the conclusions taken individually are not new, for they draw on the experience of many countries. What is new is the emphasis on certain combined actions to break through the constraints which hold back meeting food needs in developing countries, viz., raising food issues to the highest policy level on a sustained basis, assuring a fully co-ordinated approach to the many variables affecting food production, directing food increases more equitably to meet nutritional goals, and focusing on related mobilization of substantially increased investment resources in an internationally concerted effort to reverse the widening food gap and reduce the dependency of the developing world. While experience with the concept of food strategies is limited, he reported encouraging interest from developing countries and bilateral donors and development assistance agencies alike.

21. In conclusion, the Executive Director noted that the consultations found that the central constraint is in the widespread belief, held by many in both developed and developing countries, that food problems can be resolved with the present absorption of relatively low levels of investment. What is recommended is a strategy for breaking this constraint and achieving a higher absorptive capacity and substantially stepped-up investment in the food sector of most developing countries. Nothing less will be adequate to resolve the food problem.

22. During the debate on this agenda item, the Council generally agreed with the assessment of the food situation contained in document WFC/1979/3. It also agreed on the need for Governments and agencies to overcome the key constraints to increasing food production and consumption, particularly in the poorest food deficit countries. The Council expressed a great concern with the deterioration in food production growth in some developing regions and the growing incidence of malnutrition in the developing countries as a whole.

23. A majority of delegations supported the eight conclusions of the WFC-sponsored consultations as summarized by the Executive Director in his introductory statement. It was recognized that the consultations had played a useful role in bringing the crucial issues to the fore.

24. There was wide agreement by delegations from both developing and developed regions that the adoption of a food strategy approach could serve as a useful

mechanism to elevate the priority for food and ensure effective support for policy and resource action both nationally and internationally. Many delegates urged the Council to adopt food sector strategies as a promising approach for integrating all aspects of food production, distribution, consumption and nutrition. The strategy, they stressed, should include preparation of programmes and projects and arrangements for their adequate financing. Many delegations stressed that food sector strategies can, and must, generate greater internal and external resources for the food sector.

25. Several delegations from developed countries indicated their willingness to join other bilateral and multilateral development financing agencies in an international consortium or an appropriate food investment forum, organized by the World Bank or others, to mobilize necessary support for a country's food sector strategy. It was thus noted that a food strategy could effectively assist in attracting additional external assistance, both multilateral and bilateral, for the food sector of countries concerned.

26. A number of delegations from developing countries expressed their concern that, whilst they support the food strategy approach, it should not be regarded by developed countries as a precondition for increasing their technical and capital assistance to the food sector. It should rather be seen as a tool to help the development assistance community to effectively step up their assistance for food production and nutrition projects.

27. The decision of the Canadian Government to earmark \$2 million in technical assistance to support the identification and preparation of food sector strategies in developing countries was welcomed, and it was hoped that other donor countries would follow this example. It was appreciated that the World Bank and FAO indicated strong support to assist developing countries in formulating and implementing their food strategies. Increased interest and involvement of the regional banks in this field was considered highly encouraging. Several delegations recommended that the Council should play a role of monitoring progress on food strategies.

28. The delegate of the Philippines stated that his country would provide the interested States with copies of its plan when it is finally ready for implementation, not because it was a model, but because it was one way a developing nation can seek help and, more importantly, help itself.

29. Many delegations stressed the point that food sector strategies should seek to relate increase in food production to more equitable distribution, since the pattern of income and food distribution and consumption has a direct bearing on malnutrition. Delegates felt that equal attention must be given to the food distribution and consumption side of the poverty and malnutrition problem, and the need to mobilize workers into agricultural production, and that this priority should be reflected in food sector strategies.

30. The importance of employment promotion and income generation for the urban and rural poor to the solution of the world food problem was emphasized in a message from the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation addressed to the President of the Council, which the President read at the session.

31. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General of WMO, reported on the action taken by WMO in



response to an earlier request of the World Food Council for taking necessary steps to ensure that weather information was made available to agriculturalists. The use of meteorological information in planning agricultural development and in monitoring the effects of weather and climate on food production will become more important in the future. WMO and national meteorological services offer their collaboration with agricultural authorities to eradicate hunger and malnutrition through a concerted effort of international co-operation outlined in the Executive Director's progress report to the session.

32. Several delegations, both from developing and developed countries, considered it important to restate the need of meeting the basic official development assistance target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product by 1980. They particularly called upon those developed countries which account for a high proportion of the total gross national product (GNP) of the OECD countries to accelerate their efforts to reach this target in order to facilitate increases in external investment for food production. Some delegations asked that all countries having resources at their disposal, including the socialist countries, be associated with the effort of the countries which are already providing assistance. In this connexion, the performance of a number of developed countries was commended. Several delegates also felt that the Council should make further efforts to find ways to reach soon the benchmark of \$US 8.3 billion for increasing food production in developing countries, of which \$US 6.5 billion should be concessional. Increased concessional aid for food production in food priority countries was also seen as desirable and necessary.

33. The Chairman of the United States Presidential Commission on World Hunger, Mr. Sol Linowitz, informed the Council of the activities of his Commission in the struggle against global hunger and malnutrition.

34. One delegation called upon the Council to convene a meeting of donors and agencies in a manner that will lead to a pledging of resource commitments to the extent of \$8.3 billion. However, some delegations from developed countries maintained their reservations concerning the \$8.3 billion target. Several donor countries could not agree to the proposed doubling of their development assistance to the food sector, within the next five years, without a clear idea as to how additional funds would be allocated. Also, the view was expressed that quantification of such assistance targets was not desirable nor technically accurate. If any such exercise was attempted it should not be confined to external resource flows but should cover the whole range of investment, including internal investment. At best only a qualitative analysis should be attempted indicating the need for substantial increases in investment, both external and internal.

35. One delegation was of the view that increased external investment need not be confined to official development assistance; foreign private investment was as important as an agent of development, provided a proper framework could be evolved. However, another delegation stated that it could not subscribe to this view as such investment had many negative effects on developing countries.

36. The Council was pleased to be informed by the representative of Italy that his Government would ask its Parliament to double its public assistance in next year's budget. Italy wished to give priority to the food sector and would channel its assistance multilaterally.

37. It was recognized by a number of delegations that a major problem faced by developing countries, particularly the low-income countries, is in the identification and formulation of food projects at the level of efficiency required by multilateral and bilateral financing agencies. These problems are becoming progressively more difficult in the case of food projects which appear to encounter more administrative, management and cost problems than projects in other sectors.

38. Many delegates felt that international agencies, and especially the regional banks that do not already have a facility to assist developing countries in the preparation of projects, should set up such facilities. Those with existing arrangements could also usefully review their adequacy or need for strengthening. One delegation felt that international organizations lay too much stress on economic aspects of projects, at the expense of social aspects.

39. In this connexion, several delegates supported the proposal that developing countries should set up food project preparation, implementation and monitoring units, giving priority to manpower allocations for this purpose. They should take steps to utilize better the required additional training from international agencies to strengthen their project formulation and implementation capabilities.

40. A number of delegates of developing countries supported the secretariat's proposal to review and simplify lending procedures and criteria, while the terms of assistance could be liberalized. The Council should encourage work relevant to lending procedures which is under way in the World Bank and in OECD/DAC, including the implementation of the recently adopted "DAC Guidelines on Local and Recurrent Cost Financing".

41. It was recognized that increased production of food by small farmers requires further improvement of readily extendable crop and machine technology. Several delegates pointed out that increased financial assistance for adaptive research activities, particularly at the national level, is essential to ensure the effective application of new varieties and technology packages.

42. The meeting generally agreed that developing countries should strengthen their food sector management capabilities in order to guide and stimulate policy and programme efforts. There was acceptance of the secretariat's proposal that this could be best achieved by a high-level co-ordinating body at ministerial level, as already successfully established in a number of developing countries under the leadership of the Head of State or Government or his/her designate. Such high-level food policy guidance would, in turn, stimulate developing countries to achieve increased levels of food self-sufficiency during the 1980s, which was considered of the greatest importance by several delegations from developing countries.

43. The representatives of FAO and the World Bank presented the Council with comprehensive statements on the investment and policy requirements for increasing food production in developing countries. The meeting noted that the World Bank is now the largest single source of external funding to agriculture. In the period 1970/74 Bank commitments to agriculture totalled \$3.2 billion; for 1975/79, this figure has risen to \$11.6 billion. As a percentage of total lending, agriculture's share has increased from 21 per cent of Bank lending in 1970/74 to 33 per cent in 1975/79. World Bank projects now account for about 15 to 20 per cent of total public investment in agriculture in developing countries. The representative also indicated the Bank's willingness to provide for consultative fora where donors can meet to consider resource support to the projects and programmes that form part of national food strategies.

44. FAO, too, indicated its readiness, within existing resource constraints, to assist in plans for increasing food production and to help developing countries formulate long-term food sector strategies for the 1980s. The representative of FAO also informed the Council that the study Agriculture: Towards 2000, has been completed. It contains, inter alia, quantified investment requirements, both internal and external, for 90 developing countries up to the year 2000. For the year 1990 the estimated requirement is about \$33 billion, net of depreciation, and \$57.1 billion including depreciation; much of this is to be met from local resources. The estimated external assistance requirement for that year is nearly \$13 billion, of which \$10 billion is for capital investment.

45. Several delegations from the Group of Seventy-seven felt that, in addition to the secretariat's proposed recommendations in document WFC/1979/7, the Council should consider additional recommendations as contained in a document which the Group presented to the Council (see annex II).

46. One delegate proposed that the Executive Director should contact the Chairman of the Centre for Transnational Corporations to request the Centre to study the activities of transnational corporations in food and agriculture and their negative impact on development. This delegate also proposed that the Executive Director request a study to be made on the negative effects of "brain drain" on the cadre situation in the developing countries in the fields of agriculture and food production and agricultural research.

47. Some delegations expressed their concern and disagreement with the opinion of those delegations which attempted to impose a one-sided character on the activities of the Council in relation to the measures to be taken at national and international levels for increasing food production. In this connexion, objections were raised against over-estimation of the related role of the private sector and farmers' estates, development of which, in their view, leads, inter alia, to aggravation of social problems and increased unemployment. The important role of the State in a comprehensive solution of the problems of social and economic development of rural areas, the role of centralized national planning and public sector in industry and agriculture, as well as of effective activities of public and co-operative enterprises, was stressed.

48. These delegations also pointed to the importance for the Council's activities to provide a political approach to the solution of food problems and, in particular, stated that progress in the development of agricultural production in developing countries and the speeding up of eradication of hunger and malnutrition are very closely related to the need of introducing progressive transformations and reforms in a wide range of sectors of national economies and areas of social and economic development, the realization of which is a sovereign authority of national States. In this connexion, objections were raised against attempts to place under control of international financial institutions, funds, and international sources of investments the preparation and implementation of national agricultural development programmes. Finally, these delegations stressed the importance of realizing the principle of integral sovereignty of any State over its human and natural resources within the framework of international co-operation.

49. Many delegates stressed the importance of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development held recently in Rome, and urged the Council to give full support to its recommendations.

50. Many developing countries emphasized the importance of self-reliance and the need to develop local resources through national initiatives. Delegates of these countries informed the Council in some detail about the progress made in recent years in their agricultural sector, and about the problems they face in this field.

51. Several delegations, from developing and developed countries alike, pointed to the disproportionate expenditure on armaments relative to socio-economic development funds.

52. It was generally agreed that increased investment in fisheries is important as fish is a vital source of protein. Comprehensive investment proposals in fisheries development needed to be formulated. It was felt that at the next meeting of the Council the subject of fisheries should be included for discussion.

53. The Council considered the item of hunger and malnutrition and greater equity in distribution of food on the basis of documents WFC/1979/6 and Add.1, prepared by the secretariat, and WFC/1979/3/Add.1, a report by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, prepared by its Sub-Committee on Nutrition.

54. The Preparatory Meeting for the session had emphasized the need for immediate measures to raise food consumption and nutrition levels of the poor. It had recalled the Council's concern expressed in the Manila Communiqué that "the waste of human potential involved in continued hunger and malnutrition makes it imperative that attacking those problems not await the slow process of over-all development". But it had also cautioned that these measures must in no way be seen as a substitute for, but as a step towards, fundamental development efforts aimed at greater equity in the distribution of income and wealth and greater social justice.

55. The Council at its fifth session shared these concerns as much as the Preparatory Meeting's sense of urgency to move from words to deeds, from discussions to actions. It was noted that such measures as consumer food subsidies, food-for-work programmes and improved food distribution and marketing arrangements can immediately increase the real income of low-income groups. Yet, there was also a broadly-shared concern that these measures do not attack the underlying, historical causes of hunger and malnutrition and that the international community must not be satisfied with a few passing efforts. It was pointed out that attacking these causes, while the primary responsibility of national and local governments, was also an increasingly important obligation of the international community as an evolving global society. National and international security, it was pointed out, had generally been equated with military security, but increasingly non-military factors threatened security locally and globally; hunger was one of the major threats amongst them.

56. The recognition of the global importance of hunger and malnutrition had led the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly resolution 32/174 to recommend the inclusion of improved nutrition as a major objective in the next International Development Strategy, as reported to the Council by the Committee's Chairman. The Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development was another important step towards addressing the root causes of hunger and malnutrition. Beyond ensuring that progress will be made in the implementation of this Programme, many delegations suggested that the Council focus more sharply on the fundamental development issues related to hunger and poverty at its future sessions.

57. Concerning the specific immediate measures to raise food consumption and nutrition levels there was a broadly-based agreement regarding the major recommendations contained in the documentation before the Council. Particular attention was drawn to a number of areas for immediate action.

#### Integration of food production and food consumption/nutrition measures in the food sector strategies

58. The need to link food production with food consumption and nutrition measures in the framework of the generally supported food strategy approach was strongly emphasized. In recognition of the difficulties involved in this integration and in the design of food strategies in general, it was suggested that the secretariat further examine these problems and their solutions and make its findings available for consideration by the Council at its sixth session.

#### Consumer food-subsidy and food distribution programmes

59. There was broad support for the Executive Director's suggestion to further assess the experience made with various forms of food distribution and subsidy programmes as an instrument to meet the food needs of those who do not get enough to eat, while at the same time ensuring the necessary incentives to farmers to stimulate and maintain high levels of production. A number of representatives from developed and developing countries expressed their preparedness to share with interested countries their considerable experience in such areas as food rationing, food stamp programmes, food-for-work programmes and various other forms of food assistance. The World Bank referred to the ongoing analysis of the effectiveness of a number of large-scale, comprehensive food and nutrition programmes supported by it, and FAO reported on its joint efforts with WFP to assist Governments in improved supplementary feeding programmes. It was suggested that this experience should be systematically assessed for consideration at the Council's sixth and future sessions.

#### Improving food distribution and marketing systems and local food security

60. Within increased efforts to improve food distribution and marketing systems, special attention was drawn to the improvement of food security measures at the local community level, in terms of both storage and transport infrastructure and food and nutrition surveillance mechanisms that would trigger the timely release of central stocks to supplement local food supplies in critical times of seasonal and periodic food shortages.

#### Assessing the nutritional impact of agricultural and rural development projects

61. Several delegations emphasized the importance of assessing, and where appropriate modifying, the nutritional impact of development projects, particularly in the agricultural and rural sector, as called for by the Council at its third and fourth sessions. The meeting noted the progress made by FAO in developing preliminary guidelines in this field, which are to be complemented by case studies to be published by the end of 1980. A recommendation by the Group of Seventy-seven called for a joint effort by FAO, the World Bank and IFAD to further develop and complete practical guidelines for nutrition impact assessment. The meeting's attention was also drawn to efforts by bilateral agencies and their developing country partners in this area.

## Special nutrition and health interventions for vulnerable groups

62. The need for special programmes to address malnutrition, particularly of infants and pregnant and nursing women, was generally emphasized, and the importance of integrating these measures with primary health care efforts pointed out. The International Year of the Child 1979 was recognized as a particular opportunity for increased efforts by Governments and development agencies to save the lives and ensure the healthy development of children.

## Food aid in support of food and nutrition measures

63. The meeting noted that several of the programmes discussed would benefit from, and in part depend on, greater amounts of food aid to be channelled through them, at least on an interim basis. Reference was made to the importance of linking food aid to specific food production, distribution, consumption and nutrition targets, and of complementing it with financial and other material aid.

64. The Council's attention was also drawn to the need for expanded food and nutrition data generation and problem analysis as a basis for improved programme design, implementation and evaluation, and to the importance of greater efforts in the field of nutrition education and training. In the data field, FAO referred to its efforts to develop nutrition indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of progress in agricultural and rural development. The meeting further noted the progress in the international campaign to eradicate endemic goitre threatening millions of people with cretinism and other forms of physical and mental disorders. The progress report before the Council dealing with the joint initiative by WHO, UNICEF and WFC, the encouraging response by Governments and the additional resource requirements by WHO to fully respond to these requests, was supplemented by a statement by UNICEF on that organization's specific support to national and international efforts for the control of goitre.

### CHAPTER III

#### WORLD FOOD SECURITY AND AID

65. The Executive Director opened the discussion of this item by referring to the five recommendations contained in document WFC/1979/5, entitled "World food security for the 1980s":

(a) Assessments, on a country and regional basis, of the food security infrastructure needs of developing countries - what is lacking in essential storage, transport and distribution facilities, and an indication of the costs of building the most urgent requirements. These assessments should lead to an indication of priorities and the phasing of a major international investment effort. The World Bank and FAO should be asked to expand the scope of their ongoing activities in this area.

(b) Agreement on a world foodgrain stabilization reserve of 20 to 30 million tons under internationally-agreed and binding rules. The preferred means of achieving this would be through renewed negotiations and successful conclusion of an international wheat trade agreement which would provide both market stabilization and legally-binding reserves. In the meantime, the Executive Director pointed out the FAO Plan for a voluntary earmarking of reserves as a valuable interim step which should be fully endorsed, together with its other features. It should lead, of course, to more formally binding arrangements, which for food reserves must be seen as essential.

(c) Agreement should be reached this year on a 10 million-ton Food Aid Convention, backed by firm assurances that enough grain or cash will be available to make 10 million tons the absolute minimum annual level of food aid, even in times of high prices and major food shortages.

(d) Immediate achievement of the 500,000 ton target for the International Emergency Reserve, and endorsement of a relatively modest enlargement to 750,000 tons by 1981.

(e) Support for the establishment of a Financial Food Facility within IMF. This issue is already under review by the staffs of IMF, FAO and World Food Council working closely together. The objective is that countries facing serious balance-of-payment difficulties, because of an unexpectedly high cost of food imports, should be able to draw from a facility to finance essential food imports and not have to reduce already low levels of food consumption, nor have to suspend essential development plans.

66. On the issue of the world food security, many delegations made reference to the failure of the United Nations Wheat Conference, that adjourned in February this year without concluding a new agreement or setting a date for resumption. All delegations expressed regret for this and hoped that ways could be found to resolve the remaining difficulties.

67. Developed wheat exporting countries, while joining in such hopes, indicated

that they would not consider an early resumption of negotiations useful before there were clear indications that positions had changed and that a reasonable chance of success was apparent. They were prepared, in this respect, to maintain bilateral or multilateral consultations to promote such new understandings as may be necessary.

68. Developing countries were unanimous in their call for the earliest possible resumption of negotiations in order to conclude them before July 1980, for which a greater sense of urgency should be shown by all concerned. Developing countries also generally agreed that international co-ordination of reserve stocks may not be enough to ensure adequate world food security and that internal policies of developed countries, including protectionist measures, have an important impact on it. They expressed concern about the recent surge in international grain prices and freight costs. The estimate of \$US 2 billion of resultant increased costs for commercial wheat imports by developing countries, compared with the prices prevailing during the last crop year, was noted with alarm.

69. Several delegates emphasized that steps should be taken to strengthen local food security in developing countries. This required an assessment of their infrastructural needs for the purpose and also larger assistance for the building up of necessary infrastructure such as roads and storage facilities. Some delegates suggested that the World Bank and other institutions should expand their activities in this area.

70. Elucidating the steps taken by the United States Government within the country, its representative pointed out that the farmer-owned grain reserve had now become a regular feature of United States policy. This reserve had risen to 33 million tons of wheat and coarse grains in less than two years and had been beneficial for the United States as well as the world at large. As the prices have since risen, about 7.5 million tons from the reserve have been sold. In 1980, there would be no area control in case of wheat. The United States could try to maintain its grain production at a high level in order to meet its own needs as well as commercial and concessional exports.

71. The FAO Five-Point Plan of Action on World Food Security received support from a majority of delegations. It was recognized that it was not a substitute for a reserve with legally-binding provisions. The suggestion by the Executive Director that the next FAO Conference consider including minimum binding provisions in the Plan so as to increase the possibility of coping with critical situations was supported by many delegations.

72. The Council also discussed the appropriateness of recommending the establishment of a food financing facility within IMF, as an additional mechanism to help cope with food emergencies. Many delegations supported the proposal of the Executive Director in this regard.

73. There was general recognition of the role of a new Food Aid Convention in ensuring the provision of 10 million tons of food aid on a regular and continuous basis. Developing countries and two major food aid donors, the United State of America and Canada, suggested that in the case of delay in negotiating a new Wheat Trade Convention, a new FAC should be concluded independently of it, or linked to the 1971 International Wheat Agreement. One of the traditional food aid donors, which is a net grain importer (Japan), stated that FAC was an integral part of the Wheat Trade Convention and so it could not agree to the conclusion of



a separate FAC. Most major donors to FAC stated that the achievement of the 10 million-ton target should be a joint responsibility of the international community and not of traditional donors alone. Most delegations agreed that 10 million tons of food aid must be ensured; one developing country agreed that this was necessary particularly as food aid requirements were increasing and FAO had estimated the requirements as 15 to 16 million tons in 1985. Several delegations, including a major donor, suggested that meanwhile donors should implement the higher pledges announced during the Geneva negotiations. Several delegations supported the suggestion that other countries in a position to contribute must also contribute.

74. Some delegations stressed that food aid should be kept free from political strings, and one suggested that the Council should play a consultative role in regard to the disposal of food aid by major donors. It was emphasized that recipients should be careful about the possibility of any disincentive effects of food aid on food production.

75. The need for channelling a larger portion of food aid through the World Food Programme was emphasized by a number of developing countries. Denmark stated that it has decided to increase its contribution to WFP.

76. As regards the International Emergency Food Reserve, several delegations stressed that the target of 500,000 tons should be achieved this year. Countries not at present contributing to the International Emergency Food Reserve should do so as soon as possible. Canada announced an allocation of \$Cdn 5.5 million to the Reserve for 1980. Japan stated that it has decided to allocate \$US 800,000 to the Reserve this year, but added that it was not in favour of raising the target to 750,000 tons. On the other hand, several developing countries supported the proposal to raise the target. Denmark reported that steps were being taken to make contributions to the Reserve on a permanent basis.

## CHAPTER IV

### INTERNATIONAL TRADE

77. The Executive Director introduced this item by pointing out that if exports from developing countries are restricted, they are less able to import the food they need and to develop their economies, with a consequent adverse effect on the prospects of reducing poverty and hunger. Consumers and taxpayers in developed countries pay a heavy cost for trade protection - their export potential is reduced, inflation is more difficult to bring under control and their economies are retarded from adjustment and restructuring towards new and more productive patterns. Inflation and recession in the developed countries not only adversely affect the well-being of their own people; this has spill-over effects on other countries as well. Public opinion must be better informed of the costs of protectionist measures to their own and the broader international interest.

78. These concepts were a summary of the approach taken by the report of the Executive Director (WFC/1979/5/Add.2) which had not been discussed at the Preparatory Meeting.

79. Developing countries strongly supported the Executive Director's argument and the conclusions in this field. They considered that public opinion in developed countries, if properly informed about negative effects of protectionist trade policies on their own standard of living and on the developing countries' development and import potential, could be an effective force in modifying protectionist trade policies. This pressure would then be instrumental in achieving a restructuring of the economies in developed countries, in partnership with developing countries and to mutual advantage.

80. Developed countries in general expressed sympathy for the arguments contained in the secretariat's document and agreed that more could be done in such lines as suggested. Some delegations, however, had reservations on the appropriateness of WFC as a forum to consider international trade issues in any detail.

81. The delegation of Colombia made a proposal aiming at the progressive liberalization of international trade and consisting of two points:

(a) That the benefits of the Agreement of the Convention of Lomé should be extended to all the developing countries;

(b) That the same prerogatives as those granted under the Lomé Convention by the nine member States of the European Economic Community should be granted by the other developed countries to all developing countries.

## CHAPTER V

### FUTURE PROGRAMME OF THE COUNCIL

82. The Council considered its future programme of work in the light of suggestions made during the discussions on various agenda items. The President stated that the sixth session should pay attention to the issue of "fisheries", proposed by Canada, and to agricultural research, proposed by some developing countries. He hoped that a report from the FAO Committee on Fisheries would be available in connexion with the item on fisheries.

83. One delegation proposed that a report based on further study of the food sector strategy should be a major agenda item at the next session. Another delegate suggested the items of international trade and progress in implementing the resolutions of the Council's sessions held at Manila, Mexico and Ottawa.

84. The Executive Director observed that, at the next session, there would be a report on the experiences in carrying forward the food sector approach, including progress in providing technical assistance, other contributors joining the Canadian initiative, and regional training in project preparation and agricultural research. Fisheries could be included as an important protein supplement. The Canadian decision to proceed with a new Food Aid Convention, separately from the Wheat Trade Convention, provided an important opening for the development of food security from the point of a contingency scheme. Another item proposed for consideration was food in the development strategy for the 1980s. This issue was being considered by the Preparatory Committee for the new International Development Strategy established by the General Assembly. The question was, what were the views of the Council in regard to food strategy during the next decade. The role of multinational corporations in the food sector was another item proposed. Some suggested that the Council should devote attention to trade at each session.

85. With regard to the suggested item on multinational corporations, one delegate observed that it was not necessary for the Council to spend time on it, as there was a specialized body in the United Nations system dealing with it. However, another delegate strongly differed from this view. Another delegate raised the question whether an interim report on this item could be made available to the Council at its session in 1980, and a final report in 1981. A suggestion was also made that it would be desirable to discuss the role of all foreign private investment, including multinational corporations. The President observed that the role of multinational corporations might be taken up at the Council's session in 1981.

86. The agenda for the next session would be formulated keeping in view these suggestions.

87. At the 7th meeting of the fifth session, the President reported that Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Plenipotentiaries and other heads of delegations of member States of the Council, as well as Ministers and Deputy Ministers representing States non-members, had met that morning at his invitation. They

had strongly recommended that more Ministers of Government should attend future sessions of the Council. In addition, they had agreed on the following 10 points for future organization of the Council's work:

- (1) Preparatory meetings are necessary and important in assisting the ministerial session, but the work of the meetings must be structured properly.
- (2) A final report by the Council is needed, but the nature of the report would depend on subjects to be taken up. Time should not be taken at plenary meetings on drafting.
- (3) Representatives should not spend time describing their countries' progress in food and agriculture. Long statements of this nature may be filed by members to be read by those interested. A voluntary restraint on the length of speeches should be exercised by all.
- (4) Representatives should address themselves to the agenda items and discuss issues thoroughly, rather than make speeches or engage in a general debate.
- (5) The Council, to function properly as a monitoring and co-ordinating organization, must receive reports from Governments and international agencies on what they were doing.
- (6) A change of format is needed to allow for more informal meetings and to allow for small groups to get together to work informally.
- (7) Informal meetings of Ministers and other heads of delegations should be held at the beginning of future sessions.
- (8) If new commitments are to be made or sought at forthcoming sessions, the Bureau and the Executive Director should warn members in advance so that they can be prepared to respond to such new commitments.
- (9) The agenda for each session should consist of only a few carefully selected items, and should possibly include case studies of countries with successful food and agricultural programmes.
- (10) The President of the Council and the Bureau will continue to be very active.

88. The Council unanimously adopted these points and agreed to follow them in conducting its work in the future.

## CHAPTER VI

### DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSIONS

89. At the 8th meeting of the fifth session, on 7 September 1979, the President noted that the Governments of Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania had informed him of their wish to host the sixth ministerial session of the Council in accordance with rule 3 of the Council's rules of procedure.

90. The Federal Commissioner of Agriculture of Nigeria, who had been designated by the President to co-ordinate informal consultations on this matter, reported that the African Group had decided to recommend that the Council should accept the offer of Liberia to host the session, and that the other Governments had withdrawn their offers.

91. The Council decided that it would convene the sixth session in Monrovia, Liberia, in June 1980.

92. At the same meeting, upon the invitation of the representative of Yugoslavia, the Council agreed to hold its seventh session in Yugoslavia in 1981.

## CHAPTER VII

### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### A. Organization of work

93. The preparatory meeting for the fifth ministerial session had authorized the Executive Director to prepare and submit, on his own authority, a document containing draft conclusions on the various substantive agenda items for consideration at the ministerial session in Ottawa (WFC/1979/8, para.7).

94. At the 3rd meeting of the fifth session, the Council established an informal group to assist the Executive Director in finalizing this draft. The group was composed of: Ethiopia and Nigeria (Africa); Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela (Latin America); Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia (Socialist States of Eastern Europe); India and Pakistan (Asia); Italy and United States of America (Western European and other States).

95. The representative of the European Economic Community (EEC), as well as other representatives interested, also participated in the work of the informal group. Following the completion of the group's work, the Executive Director submitted the draft conclusions to the Council at the 8th meeting of the session, on 7 September 1979.

96. At the same meeting, the draft was considered by the Council, amended and adopted as a whole, without a vote.

B. Positions and observations on the conclusions and recommendations

97. Upon the adoption of the conclusions and recommendations, various delegations made comments, observations or reservations as follows:

(a) The delegations of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the German Democratic Republic and Poland did not object to adopting by consensus the "Conclusions and Recommendations of the World Food Council Fifth Session", but reserved their positions on paragraph 15, subparagraph (b) of paragraph 17, paragraphs 20, 26, 27 (b) and (d) bearing in mind that positions of the USSR, the German Democratic Republic and Poland on the substance of these issues are presented in their joint statement at the fourth session of the World Food Council, as well as in the relevant part of the joint statement by the delegations of these and a number of other socialist countries at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (Rome, July 1979).

(b) The delegations of the USSR, the German Democratic Republic and Poland have reserved their position on paragraph 36 since they believe that the term "United Nations Development Decade" is adopted and defined by the relevant decisions of the General Assembly as a set of arrangements to foster development which is worked out by the United Nations bodies authorized to do so.

(c) The representative of the United Kingdom stated that it wished to place on record that it must consider recommendations in this text for increased development assistance, whether in total or for specific purposes, against the background of its own public expenditure constraints and in the light of a review of the aid programme of the United Kingdom which was being carried out.

(d) The representative of the United States of America reserved his position on paragraph 3.

(e) The representatives of Japan and Australia reserved their positions on paragraph 27 (a).

(f) The representative of Japan stated in connexion with paragraph 27 (b) that he interpreted food aid to mean also financial aid for storage, technical assistance and other food assistance matters. Concerning paragraph 3, the representative of Japan stated that the position of his Government on General Assembly resolution 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) had not changed.

## ANNEX I

### Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Canada a/

#### The World Food Council,

Having convened its fifth ministerial session of the World Food Council in Ottawa, at the kind invitation of the Government of Canada,

Appreciative of the thoroughness of the administrative arrangements made and the excellent facilities of the Canadian Government Conference Centre, which enabled the work of the Council to be organized with efficiency and smoothness,

Deeply grateful for the outstanding generosity and warmth of welcome accorded to all Ministers, Plenipotentiaries and other representatives,

1. Applauds the Government and people of Canada for the enormous efforts which they have devoted to the preparation and organization of the fifth ministerial session of the World Food Council and for the outstanding success of those efforts;

2. Records its profound appreciation of the enormous hospitality and universal friendship accorded to participants in the session by the people of Canada from all sectors;

3. Requests the President of the Council to express the Council's deep gratitude to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and, through Prime Minister Clark, to the Government and people of Canada.

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a/ Adopted by acclamation at the 8th meeting of the fifth ministerial session, having been proposed by Mr. Bernard O. W. Mafeni, Federal Commissioner for Agriculture and Water Resources of Nigeria.

## ANNEX II

### Proposals submitted by the Group of Seventy-seven to the fifth ministerial session of the World Food Council

#### Hunger and malnutrition, and greater equity in distribution of food

One of the insights that emerged from the World Food Conference of 1974 was that the problem of hunger and malnutrition cannot be solved unless developing countries themselves increased their food production. However, efforts to increase food production alone cannot solve the problem of hunger and malnutrition unless they are accompanied by measures to ensure equitable distribution in favour of the poor segments of the population especially the vulnerable group. Too many times, devastating food calamities have resulted not so much from the absolute scarcity of food but from maldistribution. An example regarding the famous Bengal famine of 1943 cited by the Indian delegation during the last World Food Security meeting can best illustrate this point. It was shown that in the year the famine occurred the actual food production, the index of production, was higher by 8 per cent. Nevertheless, people died and over a million people perished of hunger. The problem of equitable distribution is too important to be left to the forces of laissez-faire economic laws. These laws afford a kind of order but sometimes this order is inexorably cruel to the weak, the destitute and to the vulnerable groups.

Fundamental development efforts to increase the income of the poor is an essential requirement to improve distribution in the long term. Long-term development efforts however, do not feed today's hungry and starving people. There must therefore be an urgent commitment to immediate measures to raise food consumption and nutritional levels. The World Food Council in the Manila Communiqué made this point clear when it stated that "... the waste of human potential involved in continued hunger and malnutrition makes it imperative that attacking those problems cannot await the slow process of overall development". The call of the hour then is for Governments to address themselves to improve food production and develop mechanisms to ensure equitable distribution of food among all segments of their populations.

1. Policies designed to increase food production. This will include such matters as financing, research, extension inputs, credit, agrarian reform and pricing policy. This matter, however, is taken up in a separate item which deals with overcoming the constraints to increasing food production in developing countries.

2. Policies designed to improve the distribution. This will include:

(a) Nutrition considerations in food and agriculture development programmes and projects. This would consist in assessing and improving rural development and consequent projects particularly in the area of food production and rural development.

(b) Food subsidies and rationing programmes. These programmes should not be regarded as consumption but as investments in human resources. Reasonable evidence suggests that under specific circumstances these programmes can be particularly



effective in increasing food consumption levels among the poor. Evidence shows that food purchases among poorer people have been more responsive to reduction in prices than to increase in income (price elasticity of demand rather than income elasticity of demand).

(c) Public works programmes. The potential advantage of public works programmes lies in their dual role of providing employment, increased income, and improved food consumption to the rural poor, while at the same time contributing to infrastructure investment within a meaningful long-run framework of a rural development-oriented strategy.

(d) Feeding programmes. Evidence available up to now strongly suggests the desirability of feeding programmes at least for pre-school children and pregnant and nursing women, integrated with the delivery of a package of nutrition and health-related services in a framework of primary health care.

(e) Improvement of the efficiency of the distribution system. Strengthening food security measures at the local and community level and special food marketing arrangements that would aim to benefit low-income producers and low-income consumers.

3. Resources policies. This would imply estimates of the local currency and foreign exchange requirements and of the amounts which can realistically be sought in the form of development assistance and of the amounts which must be found from the country's own financial resources.

### Conclusions

1. Developing countries which have not done so should prepare plans bringing together the objectives to increase food production and improve distribution, the policies to be adopted, the investment projects and the other measures necessary to achieve them.
2. Developing countries implement food security at the local community level linked with national food security schemes. This would include storage, transport and distribution arrangements at the community level, as well as a food surveillance mechanism that would trigger the release of central stocks in times of scarcity.
3. Developing countries increase their efforts to eradicate malnutrition of infants and pre-school children within the framework of improved primary health care in co-operation with regional commissions and other regional intergovernmental organizations and as a particular contribution to the International Year of the Child, initiate new major programmes in this field.
4. Food aid donors increase substantially their food assistance to food subsidy programmes in favour of the hungry and malnourished in developing countries, and to public works programmes, and to link food aid increasingly with other material, technical and financial assistance.
5. Donor countries and international financing institutions increase substantially their financial aid to developing countries in their efforts to implement special measures to improve food distribution in favour of the poor segments of their population, national and local food security, primary health care of infants and pre-school children and programmes to eliminate endemic goitre and Vitamin A deficiency. Such aid should allow the financing of local costs as well as recurrent and capital expenditures.

6. International agencies and bilateral donors respond to requests for assistance to prepare investment projects as well as to strengthen the technical, institutional and capital means for their realization.
7. FAO, in co-operation with the World Bank and IFAD, further develop and complete the guidelines for the inclusion of nutrition considerations in agricultural development plans and projects.
8. Developed countries and other potential donor countries should support the international action programme to eradicate goitre launched in response to the Mexico Declaration of the World Food Council and pledge immediately their contribution to WHO's special goitre fund with initial requirements of half-a-million United States dollars.

#### International trade

We have carefully examined document WFC/1979/5, entitled "World food security for the 1980s". We feel that this document considerably undermines the recommendations made by this Council in the Manila Communiqué and the Mexico Declaration.

Likewise, it did not consider the recommendations of the General Assembly (resolution 33/90) and reiterated in the Agreed Conclusions of the Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly, which urged the World Food Council, at its fifth session, inter alia, to consider the impact of trade, including the protectionist measures, harming the exports of the developing countries, on the solution of the food problems of developing countries and put forward specific recommendations thereon.

The document considers international trade as one of the elements in world food security. However, we think that international trade, besides being a very important element for world food security, requires special attention, since the increase in export earnings of developing countries through greater access to international markets would not only facilitate the development of the developing countries, but will also contribute to the process of sound economic recovery of the entire international community.

We recognize the importance of the new document WFC/1979/5/Add.2, where the Council reaffirms the position adopted by the World Food Conference with regard to the need for world trade liberalization and expansion. These recommendations on trade have not on the whole been followed. We consider the importance of the international trade for both developing and developed countries and for this reason this item must be differentiated when discussing the agenda items.

We note with deep concern:

1. That the increase in protectionist trade practices, enforced unilaterally by countries and groups of countries affects adversely the export possibilities of developing countries and militates against the over-all development efforts;
2. The limited progress achieved in international negotiations in solving the problem of agricultural exports, faced by developing countries as a result of lack of political will of the industrialized countries to reach satisfactory agreements.

Therefore, we urge the international community, in accordance with the accepted and current agreements, to bring about structural changes with a view to ensuring access of developing countries to international markets for their manufactured and semi-manufactured products.

The Council in particular:

Reaffirms its recognition that the economic development of developing countries, which is the only genuine solution to the over-all problem of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, is intimately linked with their international trade;

Strongly endorses the initiatives taken by UNCTAD at its fifth session in the field of food production and trade, and recommends all parties involved to implement them as a matter of great importance to not only the solution of the world food problem but also the essential development objectives of developing countries.

The Council recommends that:

Developed countries should take note of the recent efforts made by many developing countries in liberalizing their import policies, and initiate similar moves in line with a more open and fair world trading system, to the advantage of themselves, developing countries and the world at large;

Developed countries, through OECD, should intensify their analyses of and consultations on the problems of adjustment, with a view to a gradual restructuring of world production and trade in line with a more open and fair trading system and in partnership with developing countries. The OECD should be requested to keep the Council informed on this matter, so that the Council may review progress at its seventh session;

Developed countries should initiate intensive national efforts to inform public opinion of the cost of protectionism to their own consumers and taxpayers, and of its blocking effects on the process of adjustment and economic transformation affecting their own countries and the developing world. This initiative should reflect a new commitment by developed countries to consider a major long-term shift in their production and trade, in partnership with developing countries, as well as reflecting developed countries' readiness to formulate and implement correspondingly major policies to smooth the structural adjustments that will necessarily follow. Developed countries should report to the Council on these initiatives, in time for it to review progress at its sixth session;

Developing countries, through their regional organizations, and utilizing interregional mechanisms such as those included in the first Short/Medium-Term Action Plan for Global Priorities on Economic Co-operation Among Developing Countries (adopted in Arusha by the fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77), intensify the process of consultation and negotiation, with a view to expanding their mutual trade in agricultural commodities and manufactures. The regional and interregional bodies concerned should report to the Council in time for it to review progress at its seventh session.

World food security for the 1980s and food aid

(Item 5 of the provisional agenda)

The world food situation in 1979 continues to remain uncertain. In 1978, world food production increased by about 3 per cent, which was still below the 4 per cent target set for the Second Development Decade. Production of cereals in developing countries has risen little faster than population growth. In Africa, per capita production has actually declined, resulting in deterioration in food security, particularly in southern Africa. Aggregate wheat and coarse grain production in 1979 is expected to be 54 million tonnes (5 per cent below 1978). Between May and July, the number of countries with food shortages has increased from 17 to 20. The number of countries having unfavourable crop conditions has increased from 24 to 31. Foodgrain import requirements of developing countries during 1978-79 are expected to go up to 77 million tonnes, 8.5 million tonnes more than the previous year. The current cereal stocks at the global level are equivalent to 20 per cent of the aggregate annual consumption at the end of the 1978-79 season. The prospects, however, suggest that during 1979-80 the carry-over stocks will have to be drawn down by about 20 million tonnes for the first time in five years to cushion the impact of a sizable over-all decline in world grain production.

Difficulties of food importing countries have been further compounded by a sudden spurt in the prices of wheat and coarse grains during recent months. The price of wheat has registered an increase of 30-40 per cent as compared to the previous year and has reached the levels similar to those prevailing at the end of 1974. Freight rates on most routes rose sharply at the beginning of June by about \$15-20 per ton and the levels achieved were maintained subsequently and even increased in some cases. Transportation and grain handling bottle-necks in the food exporting countries have further aggravated the situation.

The food security situation at the global level continues to remain unsatisfactory and precarious. Of the 39 developing countries which have set national food stock targets, only 11 have been able to achieve these objectives so far. Most developing countries are, therefore, left exposed to acute food shortages in the case of crop failures. Foreign assistance to developing countries is falling short of requirements as well as of internationally agreed aid targets. The scale of food security assistance is still far below the needs of the developing countries. The Council, therefore, views this situation with concern and accordingly makes the following recommendations:

1. Countries which have not done so, should immediately adopt food stock policies and establish food reserves at adequate levels, taking into account the need for an internationally co-ordinated over-all system of national food reserves. In this context, as recognized by the Undertaking, the special difficulties of developing countries in maintaining stocks at desirable levels place an added responsibility for ensuring world food security on the rest of the international community, particularly on developed countries.

2. The Council views with concern that the United Nations Conference to negotiate an International Arrangement to replace the International Wheat Agreement, 1971 as extended, adjourned in February 1979 without any indication as to when the

negotiations would be resumed. The Council urges that the consultations and contacts under way should show a greater sense of urgency with a view to resuming the negotiations as soon as possible so that the arrangement can be concluded before July 1980. The negotiating Conference should have, inter alia, the following objectives:

(a) The over-all size of the grain reserve should be sufficiently large to ensure necessary degree of world food security, reasonable markets and price stability and to offset production fluctuations in times of widespread crop failures or natural disasters, in particular in developing countries.

(b) Price range should be fixed in such a way that the developing countries are in a position to satisfy their import requirements without adversely affecting their economic development and the producers are assured of an adequate return.

(c) Adequate provision should be made for special additional assistance to developing countries which assume stock holding obligations in the acquisition of stocks, co-ordinating charges and building storage facilities for national reserves so as to assist them to carry out such obligations.

3. The proposals of the developing countries concerning a reserve stock financing be given due consideration.

4. The agreed target of 500,000 tonnes of cereals for the International Emergency Food Reserve which had not hitherto been achieved must be attained in 1979. This must be kept as a continuing reserve with yearly replenishment and placed at the disposal of the World Food Programme. As from 1981, the International Emergency Reserve should be placed at an annual level of 750,000 tonnes.

5. International organizations and donor countries should substantially increase their support to food security schemes in developing countries. Such assistance should provide support for stocks, storage and transport. The FAO Food Security Assistance Scheme should be further supported and strengthened.

6. The International Monetary Fund should consider the feasibility of establishing a financial food facility. Such a facility should be able to extend loans on concessionary terms to the developing countries with serious or chronic balance-of-payment difficulties. It should be directed to provide additional balance-of-payments support to help finance increases in food import bills of these countries and in order to prevent their per capita food consumption falling below a certain level in face of domestic crop failures or international price rises. Developed countries should make available the necessary additional funds to the international financing institutions responsible for operating the new facility.

7. FAO's Five-Point Plan of Action as welcomed by the Committee of the Whole, adopted by the fourth session of the Committee on World Food Security and approved by the seventy-fifth session of the FAO Council is a positive plan to fill the void created by the indefinite adjournment of IGA negotiations. The Council endorses this Plan of Action and commends it for implementation by countries concerned.

#### Food aid

Despite further recovery in cereal food aid in 1978/79, the current level of food aid has been much less than those achieved during the 1960s and early part of

the 1970s and is short of the 10 million tonnes target. In view of the increasing requirements of developing countries, it is imperative that food aid be substantially enlarged and made more flexible.

The Council, in particular, recommends that:

1. The guidelines and criteria for food aid as finalized and approved by CFA at its seventh session should govern both bilateral and multilateral food aid. There should be strict adherence to these guidelines and criteria.
2. Food aid be provided essentially on a grant basis to developing countries, in particular to the least developed and most seriously affected countries.
3. An increasing proportion of food aid be channelled through the World Food Programme.
4. The target of at least 10 million tonnes of cereals as food aid per annum be achieved by the donor countries by the end of 1979.
5. Food aid be provided by forward planning, in physical terms on a multi-year basis.
6. Food aid be used in assisting developing countries in establishing national reserve stocks. WFC recommends the decision of the seventh session of CFA to have an item on "Role of food aid in strengthening food security in developing countries" for consideration at its eighth session.
7. A new and enlarged Food Aid Convention be concluded by the end of 1979, whether the negotiations on a new Wheat Trade Convention are concluded or not. In the meantime, however, the donor countries which have made higher food aid pledges during the negotiations should honour their pledges.
8. In view of the increasing food import requirements of developing countries in the 1980s, the necessary level of food aid in coming years be examined urgently. The Council urges the CFA to conclude the consideration of this question at its eighth session.
9. The donor countries must achieve the WFP target of \$950 million for the biennium 1979-1980. The target of \$1,000 million for the next biennium 1981-1982, as recommended by the CFA at its seventh session and endorsed by the seventy-fifth session of the FAO Council, was considered as minimum. This should not only be achieved but should be surpassed. The Council endorses the stipulation of the CFA at its seventh session that if major increases in the costs of commodities, transportation or food aid requirements occurred before or during the biennium, donors would make every effort to provide additional contributions to ensure that the target is appropriately surpassed in order to maintain a reasonable and real growth rate in the deliveries of the World Food Programme.

In view of the present level of food grains and the freight charges, the Council requests the CFA to re-examine the target for the biennium 1981-1982 at its eighth session.

## PRODUCTION AND RESOURCES

1. Recognizing that the primary responsibility for the development of food and agriculture rests primarily with the developing countries themselves and noting that many of them have already undertaken measures, adopted policies, provided resources corresponding to their capacity, it now appears necessary that developing countries which have not done so undertake the following measures:

- (i) Give optimum priority to food production within the over-all aims and objectives of national plans and on this basis develop their food and nutrition strategies, plans and programmes.
- (ii) Consider the establishment of a high level food management authority such as a Inter-Ministerial Co-ordinating Committee or similar body with the objective of effectively implementing, harmonizing and monitoring policies related to food production.
- (iii) Strengthen or establish a food project identification, preparation and monitoring unit in the appropriate body of their Government.
- (iv) Enlarge to the maximum extent possible investments in agriculture and food production including agricultural inputs.
- (v) Strengthen national research and training institutions to meet the growing need for skilled workers for implementation of technical innovations and their adaptation to the needs of farmers.
- (vi) Evolve efficient and effective agricultural extension services.

2. Recalling World Food Conference Declaration that the solution of the world food problem is a common and joint responsibility of the international community it is urged that developed countries and international organizations complement the efforts of developing countries by:

- (i) Endeavouring to attain the target of 0.7 per cent of official development assistance established by the Second Development Decade by 1980, to enlarge substantially and effectively the flow of assistance to food and agriculture development in developing countries.
- (ii) In assisting developing countries, developed countries and international institutions should give priority to and food production without at the same time adversely affecting level of assistance to other sectors as in the past.
- (iii) To ensure the achievement of the growth rate target of 4 per cent in food production in developing countries by providing \$US 8.3 billion in 1975 prices out of which \$US 6.5 billion should be on concessional terms. This target should be achieved, if possible, by the end of 1980 but not later than 1981.

- (iv) Developed donor countries should provide their official development assistance to food and agricultural production of developing countries, especially the least developed and most seriously affected countries, on grant basis.
- (v) Multilateral agencies should arrest the declining share of concessional assistance in their over-all commitments to food and agricultural production in developing countries and to increase it so as to achieve by 1982 at least the level of 86 per cent grant element as agreed at the third session of the World Food Council.
- (vi) The resources of IFAD should be replenished on a continuing basis with the first replenishment to be decided upon by the Governing Council before the end of 1980 keeping in mind the need for ensuring uninterrupted lending operation. In doing so the Governing Council should ensure an increase in real terms in the resources of the Fund.

3. Understanding that increasing food production rests primarily on intensified agricultural practices, investment in extending irrigation introducing high yielding varieties, increased use of fertilizers and pesticides, improved equipment and use of modern technology the developed countries and international institutions should:

- (i) Increase substantially assistance to irrigation and water development.
- (ii) Increase fertilizer assistance through bilateral and multilateral channels to the most seriously affected countries to 1 million tons of nutrient on annual basis, by the end of 1980, to enable developing countries to meet their plant nutrient requirements. Donor countries should increase the proportion and channel not less than 20 per cent of their total assistance through IFSS of FAO. In addition, fertilizer supplies should be made available to developing countries on favourable terms at prices not higher than domestic prices in the developed exporting countries. IMF should consider the possibility of establishing a special facility for financing the imports of fertilizers and pesticides by developing countries.
- (iii) Provide financial assistance, equipment and technology for a rapid expansion of fertilizer production capacities in developing countries enabling them to achieve basic self-sufficiency within a decade.
- (iv) Increase financial, research and technical assistance to developing countries in providing and developing their own high yielding varieties. For this purpose donor countries should co-ordinate with FAO their bilateral assistance and provide an amount of US\$ 20 million on biannual basis to the FAO Seed Development and Improvement Programme.



- (v) Enlarge bilateral and multilateral assistance in combating post-harvest losses; co-ordinate with FAO and ensure the continuation and strengthening of this activity and contributing at least US 20 million on biannual basis to the FAO Special Account for Prevention of Food Losses.
- (vi) Developed countries and multilateral institutions should provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries to strengthen their capacity to identify, formulate and implement projects. Meanwhile multilateral institutions should extend all possible assistance, on the request of developing countries, in identifying, formulating and implementing projects.
- (vii) Multilateral institutions should shorten the project cycle and simplify the procedure in approving projects. In doing so the criteria for selection of projects should be broadened, made more flexible and adaptive to local conditions.
- (viii) Bilateral donors and multilateral agencies should increase their assistance to cover local and recurrent costs for food production, supply of inputs and improvement of extension and training facilities.
- (ix) Bilateral donors and multilateral agencies should assist financially and technically developing countries in promoting technical co-operation among developing countries and economic co-operation among developing countries in inter-country, subregional and regional projects.

# ANNEX III

## List of documents before the Council at the fifth ministerial session

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
WFC/1979/1	3	Provisional agenda with annotations
WFC/1979/2 and Add.1	4-8	Current world food situation
WFC/1979/3	4-8	Toward a world without hunger: progress and prospects for completing the unfinished agenda of the World Food Conference
WFC/1979/3/Add.1	4-8	Co-operation with Governments for the improvement of nutrition: report by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the World Food Council
WFC/1979/4	4	Overcoming the constraints on increasing food production in developing countries - Investment requirements for food production
WFC/1979/4/Add.1	4	Future needs in fisheries for investment and the exchange of information
WFC/1979/5	5	World food security for the 1980s
WFC/1979/5/Add.1	5	Plan of action on world food security
WFC/1979/5/Add.2	5	International trade
WFC/1979/6	6	Hunger and malnutrition, and greater equity in distribution of food
WFC/1979/6/Add.1	6	Progress report on the implementation of recommendation 13 of the Mexico Declaration of the World Food Council concerning the eradication of endemic goitre and vitamin A deficiency
WFC/1979/7	4	Overcoming the constraints on increasing food production in developing countries. Food production, nutrition and investment in developing countries

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
WFC/1979/7/Add.1	4	Conclusions of the consolidating meeting on improved food production, nutrition and investment in developing countries
WFC/1979/8		Report of the Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth Session (Rome, 4-6 July 1979)
WFC/1979/9.	5	Fourth annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes
WFC/1979/10	3	Agenda (as adopted by the Council on 4 September 1979)
WFC/1979/L.4 (Parts I and II)	9	Draft report of the Council to the General Assembly
WFC/1979/INF/5		List of documents before the fifth ministerial session of the Council
WFC/1979/INF/6		List of participants at the fifth ministerial session

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