

# **REPORT OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 5-16 November 1974**

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**UNITED NATIONS**

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**UNITED NATIONS**  
New York, 1975

## NOTE

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## Part One

### PROGRAMME OF ACTION

#### Chapter I

#### UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

##### *The World Food Conference,*

Convened by the General Assembly of the United Nations<sup>1</sup> and entrusted with developing ways and means whereby the international community, as a whole, could take specific action to resolve the world food problem within the broader context of development and international economic co-operation,

Adopts the following Declaration:

#### UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

##### *Recognizing that:*

(a) The grave food crisis that is afflicting the peoples of the developing countries where most of the world's hungry and ill-nourished live and where more than two thirds of the world's population produce about one third of the world's food — an imbalance which threatens to increase in the next 10 years — is not only fraught with grave economic and social implications, but also acutely jeopardizes the most fundamental principles and values associated with the right to life and human dignity as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;<sup>2</sup>

(b) The elimination of hunger and malnutrition, included as one of the objectives in the United Nations Declaration on Social Progress and Development,<sup>3</sup> and the elimination of the causes that determine this situation are the common objectives of all nations;

(c) The situation of the peoples afflicted by hunger and malnutrition arises from their historical circumstances, especially social inequalities, including in many cases alien and colonial domination, foreign occupation, racial discrimination, *apartheid* and neo-colonialism in all its forms, which continue to be among the greatest obstacles to the full emancipation and progress of the developing countries and all the peoples involved;

(d) This situation has been aggravated in recent years by a series of crises to which the world economy has been subjected, such as the deterioration in the international monetary system, the inflationary increase in import costs, the heavy burdens imposed by external debt on the balance of payments of many developing countries, a rising food demand partly due to

demographic pressure, speculation, and a shortage of, and increased costs for, essential agricultural inputs;

(e) These phenomena should be considered within the framework of the on-going negotiations on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and the General Assembly of the United Nations should be urged unanimously to agree upon, and to adopt, a Charter that will be an effective instrument for the establishment of new international economic relations based on principles of equity and justice;

(f) All countries, big or small, rich or poor, are equal. All countries have the full right to participate in the decisions on the food problem;

(g) The well-being of the peoples of the world largely depends on the adequate production and distribution of food as well as the establishment of a world food security system which would ensure adequate availability of, and reasonable prices for, food at all times, irrespective of periodic fluctuations and vagaries of weather and free of political and economic pressures, and should thus facilitate, amongst other things, the development process of developing countries;

(h) Peace and justice encompass an economic dimension helping the solution of the world economic problems, the liquidation of under-development, offering a lasting and definitive solution of the food problem for all peoples and guaranteeing to all countries the right to implement freely and effectively their development programmes. To this effect, it is necessary to eliminate threats and resort to force and to promote peaceful co-operation between States to the fullest extent possible, to apply the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, full equality of rights and respect of national independence and sovereignty, as well as to encourage the peaceful co-operation between all States, irrespective of their political, social and economic systems. The further improvement of international relations will create better conditions for international co-operation in all fields which should make possible large financial and material resources to be used, *inter alia*, for developing agricultural production and substantially improving world food security;

(i) For a lasting solution of the food problem all efforts should be made to eliminate the widening gaps which today separate developed and developing countries and to bring about a new international economic order. It should be possible for all countries to participate actively and effectively in the new international economic relations by the establishment of suitable international systems, where appropriate, capable of producing adequate action in order to establish just and equitable relations in international economic co-operation;

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 3180 (XXVIII).

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

(j) Developing countries reaffirm their belief that the primary responsibility for ensuring their own rapid development rests with themselves. They declare, therefore, their readiness to continue to intensify their individual and collective efforts with a view to expanding their mutual co-operation in the field of agricultural development and food production, including the eradication of hunger and malnutrition;

(k) Since, for various reasons, many developing countries are not yet always able to meet their own food needs, urgent and effective international action should be taken to assist them, free of political pressures.

Consistent with the aims and objectives of the Declaration<sup>4</sup> on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session,

*The Conference consequently solemnly proclaims:*

1. Every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop fully and maintain their physical and mental faculties. Society today already possesses sufficient resources, organizational ability and technology and hence the competence to achieve this objective. Accordingly, the eradication of hunger is a common objective of all the countries of the international community, especially of the developed countries and others in a position to help.

2. It is a fundamental responsibility of Governments to work together for higher food production and a more equitable and efficient distribution of food between countries and within countries. Governments should initiate immediately a greater concerted attack on chronic malnutrition and deficiency diseases among the vulnerable and lower income groups. In order to ensure adequate nutrition for all, Governments should formulate appropriate food and nutrition policies integrated in over-all socio-economic and agricultural development plans based on adequate knowledge of available as well as potential food resources. The importance of human milk in this connexion should be stressed on nutritional grounds.

3. Food problems must be tackled during the preparation and implementation of national plans and programmes for economic and social development, with emphasis on their humanitarian aspects.

4. It is a responsibility of each State concerned, in accordance with its sovereign judgement and internal legislation, to remove the obstacles to food production and to provide proper incentives to agricultural producers. Of prime importance for the attainment of these objectives are effective measures of socio-economic transformation by agrarian, tax, credit and investment policy reform and the reorganization of rural structures, such as the reform of the conditions of ownership, the encouragement of producer and consumer co-operatives, the mobilization of the full potential of human resources, both male and female, in the developing countries for an integrated rural development and the involvement of small farmers, fishermen and landless workers in attaining the required food production and employment targets. Moreover, it is necessary to recognize the key role of women in agricultural production and rural economy in many countries, and to ensure that appropriate education, extension programmes and financial facilities are made available to women on equal terms with men.

5. Marine and inland water resources are today becoming more important than ever as a source of food and economic prosperity. Accordingly, action should be taken to promote a rational exploitation of these resources, preferably for direct human consumption, in order to contribute to meeting the food requirements of all peoples.

6. The efforts to increase food production should be complemented by every endeavour to prevent wastage of food in all its forms.

7. To give impetus to food production in developing countries and in particular in the least developed and most seriously affected among them, urgent and effective international action should be taken, by the developed countries and other countries in a position to do so, to provide them with sustained additional technical and financial assistance on favourable terms and in a volume sufficient to their needs on the basis of bilateral and multilateral arrangements. This assistance must be free of conditions inconsistent with the sovereignty of the receiving States.

8. All countries, and primarily the highly industrialized countries, should promote the advancement of food production technology and should make all efforts to promote the transfer, adaptation and dissemination of appropriate food production technology for the benefit of the developing countries and, to that end, they should *inter alia* make all efforts to disseminate the results of their research work to Governments and scientific institutions of developing countries in order to enable them to promote a sustained agricultural development.

9. To assure the proper conservation of natural resources being utilized, or which might be utilized, for food production, all countries must collaborate in order to facilitate the preservation of the environment, including the marine environment.

10. All developed countries and others able to do so should collaborate technically and financially with the developing countries in their efforts to expand land and water resources for agricultural production and to assure a rapid increase in the availability, at fair costs, of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and other chemicals, high-quality seeds, credit and technology. Co-operation among developing countries, in this connexion, is also important.

11. All States should strive to the utmost to readjust, where appropriate, their agricultural policies to give priority to food production, recognizing, in this connexion, the interrelationship between the world food problem and international trade. In the determination of attitudes towards farm support programmes for domestic food production, developed countries should take into account, as far as possible, the interest of the food-exporting developing countries, in order to avoid detrimental effect on their exports. Moreover, all countries should co-operate to devise effective steps to deal with the problem of stabilizing world markets and promoting equitable and remunerative prices, where appropriate through international arrangements, to improve access to markets through reduction or elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers on the products of interest to the developing countries, to substantially increase the export earnings of these countries, to contribute to the diversification of their exports, and apply to them, in the multilateral trade negotiations, the principles as agreed upon in the Tokyo Declaration,<sup>5</sup> including the concept of non-reciprocity and more favourable treatment.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

<sup>5</sup> Approved by the Ministerial Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade held in Tokyo on 14 September 1973.

12. As it is the common responsibility of the entire international community to ensure the availability at all times of adequate world supplies of basic food-stuffs by way of appropriate reserves, including emergency reserves, all countries should co-operate in the establishment of an effective system of world food security by:

Participating in and supporting the operation of the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture;

Adhering to the objectives, policies and guidelines of the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security as endorsed by the World Food Conference;

Earmarking, where possible, stocks or funds for meeting international emergency food requirements as envisaged in the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security and developing international guidelines to provide for the co-ordination and the utilization of such stocks;

Co-operating in the provision of food aid for meeting emergency and nutritional needs as well as for stimulating rural employment through development projects.

All donor countries should accept and implement the concept of forward planning of food aid and make all efforts to provide commodities and/or financial assistance that will ensure adequate quantities of grains and other food commodities.

Time is short. Urgent and sustained action is vital. The Conference, therefore, calls upon all peoples expressing their will as individuals, and through their Governments and non-governmental organizations, to work together to bring about the end of the age-old scourge of hunger.

*The Conference affirms:*

The determination of the participating States to make full use of the United Nations system in the implementation of this Declaration and the other decisions adopted by the Conference.

*16th plenary meeting  
16 November 1974*

## Chapter II

### RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

#### RESOLUTION I

##### *Objectives and strategies of food production*

###### *The World Food Conference,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, concerning the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and Economic and Social Council resolution 1911 (LVII) of 2 August 1974 on their implementation, as adopted,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 3180 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973 on the World Food Conference,

*Recognizing* that past trends in food production and productivity in the majority of developing countries have been unsatisfactory, for reasons, among others, of inadequate socio-economic structures, insufficient investment funds, paucity of trained manpower and unfavourable trade relations,

*Noting* that if these trends continue the expected increase in the demand for food in these countries will raise their import requirements to unmanageable proportions, aggravate malnutrition and intensify human suffering,

*Expressing* concern at the inadequate performance of agriculture, including livestock and fisheries, in many developing countries in relation to the targets of the Second United Nations Development Decade and their own national objectives, at the new constraints created by the scarcity of inputs and at the inadequacy of the present level of resources, including development assistance, flowing to agriculture in these countries,

*Considering* that agricultural production in the developing countries requires the availability of inputs at reasonable prices,

*Stressing* that an increase in agricultural productivity and sustained expansion of food production in these countries at a rate much faster than in the past is essential in order to meet the rapidly growing demand for food, due to rising population and incomes, the requirements for security stocks and the need to raise the consumption by undernourished people to universally accepted standards,

*Recognizing* the importance of fish products for the improvement of the quality of human diet and the potential for increased fish production especially in developing countries,

*Recognizing* that in many developing countries there is considerable scope for increased production through bringing new land under cultivation or through more intensive use of land already under cultivation,

*Recognizing* that in many developing countries large quantities of food are lost between the farm field and the consumer and that the deterioration in the nutritional value of food before it reaches the consumer is a serious problem,

*Considering* that conditions in certain developed countries are favourable for the rapid increase of food production and recognizing that some countries can produce more food than they need and thus are able to export; that reliance on this production to supply the growing needs of the developing countries and some developed countries is increasing; that for years these exporting countries have been concerned that production at full capacity could create undesirable surpluses and thus depress markets, which would deprive farmers of incentives to invest and to produce and that in view of the present and prospective demand for food in the world, such a concern may no longer be relevant,

*Stressing* the urgent need for greater efforts by the developing countries themselves and for increased regional, sub-regional and international co-operation for agricultural development in these countries, as part of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

*Stressing* the importance, in selecting the measures to be taken to achieve the urgently needed increases in food output, of taking into account the need for the most efficient use of land and water resources, as well as the short- and long-term effects of alternative technologies on the quality of the environment,

*Affirming* that, in order to solve the food problem, highest priority should be given to policies and programmes for increasing food production and improving food utilization in developing countries, so as to achieve a minimum agricultural growth rate of 4 per cent per annum, placing appropriate emphasis on (a) providing adequate supplies of essential inputs, such as fertilizers, pesticides, quality seeds, farm and fishery equipment and machinery, fuel, breeding stock and water; (b) ensuring sufficient incentives to farmers; (c) developing rural infrastructures, including storage, processing, transportation, marketing, input supply systems, credit and educational and social amenities; (d) conservation and improvement of existing cultivated and cultivable land; (e) reclamation and development of new land; (f) promoting research, training and extension; (g) progressive social and structural transformation of agriculture; (h) active participation of the rural population, particularly small farmers and landless workers in the development process, and (i) providing the necessary financial resources,

1. *Resolves* that all Governments should accept the removal of the scourge of hunger and malnutrition, which at present afflicts many millions of human beings, as the objective of the international community as a whole, and should accept the goal that within a decade no child will go to bed hungry, that no family will fear for its next day's bread, and that no human being's future and capacities will be stunted by malnutrition;

2. *Calls on* the Government of each developing country to:

\* Including livestock and fisheries.

(a) Accord a high priority to agricultural and fisheries development;

(b) Formulate food production and food utilization objectives, targets and policies, for the short, medium and long term, with full participation of producers, their families, and farmers' and fishermen's organizations, taking into account its demographic and general development goals and the need for consistency with good environment practices;

(c) Take measures for agrarian reform and a progressive change in the socio-economic structures and relationships in rural areas;

(d) Develop adequate supporting services for agricultural and fisheries development, including those for education, research, extension and training, marketing, storage, processing and transport, as well as credit facilities and incentives to enable producers to buy the required inputs;

3. *Calls on* all Governments able to furnish external assistance to substantially increase their official development assistance to agriculture in developing countries, especially the least developed and the most seriously affected countries, including capital assistance on soft terms, technical assistance, transfer of appropriate technology and programme loans for imports of essential inputs;

4. *Requests* Governments to make arrangements whereby developing countries will have access to inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural machinery and equipment in sufficient quantity and at reasonable prices;

5. *Urges* Governments to respond to the appeal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for contributions to the Special Programme, the urgent implementation of which is essential for ensuring progress in resolving the food problem of the developing countries seriously affected by the economic crisis, and to contribute generously to the International Fund for Agricultural Development proposed<sup>1</sup> by the Conference;

6. *Urges* the developed countries concerned to adopt and to implement agricultural policies which encourage the early expansion of food production while taking into account a satisfactory level of income for producers and world food requirements and the need of maintaining reasonable prices for consumers, such policies should not impede or delay the increase in food production by developing countries, both for domestic consumption and for export;

7. *Requests* all countries to reduce to a minimum the waste of food and of agricultural resources, in particular land, water and all forms of energy; and to ensure the rational utilization of fisheries resources;

8. *Calls on* the regional economic commissions to continue their important contribution to the task of stimulating co-ordinated economic development in their respective regions, by co-operating in the efforts in this direction that the countries in those regions are making;

9. *Urges* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant international institutions, with due regard for national sovereignty:

(a) To formulate economic, social, physical and biological criteria for selecting suitable additional areas for food production;

(b) To make an inventory, on the basis of these criteria, of the areas most suitable for additional production;

(c) To make an inventory of resources available for financing additional production;

(d) To indicate ways and means for carrying out programmes and projects for additional food production;

10. *Requests* the World Bank, regional banks, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other international agencies, through modification of their existing policies and criteria, as appropriate, to substantially increase their assistance for agriculture and fisheries in developing countries, giving priority to programmes and projects aimed at benefiting the poorest groups of the population and placing equal emphasis on both economic and social benefits; to simplify and streamline the procedures for the granting of such assistance; and to mobilize the support of the entire international community, including non-governmental organizations, for the urgent task of overcoming hunger and malnutrition.

## RESOLUTION II

### *Priorities for agricultural and rural development*

#### *The World Conference,*

*Recognizing* that self-reliance, relying on the masses of the people, tapping fully the potential of each country and striving in accordance with each country's respective conditions for the maximum possible degree of self-sufficiency in basic foods is the fundamental approach to the solution of the food problem of developing countries,

*Recognizing* the urgent need for expanding and improving the productivity base of agriculture through fuller and more efficient utilization of land and water resources, through application and adaptation of improved technology consistent with the local ecological conditions, and through agrarian reforms and other appropriate socio-economic changes in the organization of rural communities,

*Recognizing* the vital importance of mobilizing the people through their organizations for rural development, and particularly of involving small farmers and landless labourers in the planning and operation of programmes aimed at improving their living standards and those of their families and at bringing about a more equitable distribution of income,

*Stressing* the severe problem of rural unemployment and under-employment,

*Emphasizing* the critical need for the strengthening of the administrative capacity of government organizations and of rural infrastructures down to the village level including housing and health services, agricultural extension and communication and other family well-being services, and for greatly expanded rural education and technical and vocational training programmes, particularly the need for universal literacy,

*Recognizing* the important role of women in rural life, in the production, processing, marketing and consumption of food, in family nutrition, in decisions on family size and spacing of children and in child care and education, the need to involve them fully in the process of rural development, and the implications of that for education and extension services,

*Affirming* that a determining element in rural development, and in reducing rural unemployment, is the capacity of the rural community to expand, intensify, and diversify its activities in crop production, animal husbandry, forestry, fisheries, agro-allied and other rural-based industries and public works programmes, and that, in support of these, the necessary production structure and infrastructure need to be established,

<sup>1</sup> Conference resolution XIII.

## RESOLUTION III

### *Fertilizers*

#### *The World Food Conference,*

*Recognizing* the vital role of fertilizers in increasing food production, the urgency of eliminating the current global shortage of fertilizers and the necessity of ensuring, on a continuing basis, the adequate and regular supply of fertilizers to all countries,

*Recognizing further* that the present international prices of fertilizers reflect to a considerable extent their scarcity value and are threatening food production efforts in developing countries,

*Noting* the recent increased activity of the international community in respect of fertilizers, including the establishment of the FAO Commission on Fertilizers, the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, the International Fertilizer Development Centre in the United States of America, the important activities of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the funding operations of the United Nations Emergency Operation,

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council resolution 1836 (XVI), of the proposal<sup>2</sup> by Sri Lanka, resolution 142 (XXX) of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and of the proposal<sup>3</sup> by Mexico which were designed to ensure the availability of scarce and essential agricultural inputs like fertilizers,

*Taking note* of the growing awareness of the importance of fertilizers as an appropriate instrument for external assistance in increasing food supplies in developing countries, both on a bilateral and multilateral basis,

*Stressing* the need for increased and co-ordinated international efforts to improve fertilizer availability, particularly to developing countries, and to define the elements of an effective international fertilizer policy,

*Recognizing* also that increasing availability and applications of fertilizer in developing countries need to be promoted in conjunction with the use of other inputs and rural services, and taking into account the Conference resolutions on related inputs such as pesticides and seeds,<sup>4</sup>

1. *Recommends* that, during the current period of supply shortages and high prices, the international organizations and bilateral aid agencies significantly intensify their effort to meet the needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most seriously affected by economic crisis, by giving increased material and financial support to the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme and by stepping up bilateral efforts, so as to bridge the gap in supply as estimated by the Scheme from time to time;

2. *Calls upon* developed countries, international agencies and others in a position to do so to extend assistance, in the form of grants and concessional loans, to enable developing countries to import urgently needed fertilizers and raw materials;

<sup>2</sup> E/CONF. 65/4, paragraphs 668-671.

<sup>3</sup> Report of the Preparatory Committee for the World Food Conference on its third session, annex I.

<sup>4</sup> Conference resolutions X and XII.

*Noting* that no single pattern of social, economic or institutional set-up can be applicable to all countries, that the concept of integrated rural development is sufficiently flexible for countries to design operational strategies appropriate to their own circumstances, and recalling the efforts made in promoting the concept of integrated rural development,

1. *Calls on* Governments to bring about appropriate progressive agrarian reforms in accordance with the political objectives and administrative capabilities of each country, to provide adequate means of information and motivation and other institutional improvements in rural areas aimed at employment and income generation, at organizing, activating and assisting the rural population, including nomads, for participation in integrated rural development and at eliminating exploitative patterns of land tenure, credit and marketing systems where they still prevail, calls on them to improve credit marketing and inputs distribution systems and recommends that existing and experienced institutions and organizations in the developed countries should be mobilized as much as possible to take part in agricultural development work, and also to make all efforts to carry out Economic and Social Council resolution 1707 (LIII) on agrarian reform;

2. *Invites* Governments to promote the development of co-operative organizations and other associations for the mass of farmers and rural workers as a means of furthering agricultural and rural development and generating greater self-reliance, self-sufficiency and motivation;

3. *Requests* all Governments to intensify their efforts in both the formal and nonformal education of rural people with emphasis on what is relevant to their needs, taking into account the special role of women in agriculture and rural life in many societies, and to aim at the elimination of illiteracy within a decade;

4. *Calls on* each country to identify and implement with greater financial and policy support such food production and rural development programmes as are best suited to its specific national and regional characteristics and circumstances and which are required to achieve its national and international food production objectives, bearing in mind the development of appropriate technology, and the establishment of price relationships which will lead to increased incomes;

5. *Calls on* the United Nations Development Programme, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other international and bilateral agencies to review their criteria for financial, technical and other assistance for integrated rural development, to give greater importance to social criteria so as to implement broader and longer-range programmes of rural development, and if necessary to improve their technical and administrative capacity for implementing these programmes;

6. *Urges* Governments, the United Nations Development Programme and the other international and bilateral agencies to co-operate in accelerating the planning and implementation of integrated rural development programmes and to devote greatly expanded resources to these activities;

7. *Calls on* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other United Nations organizations concerned to collect, evaluate and disseminate the results and experience from past and on-going rural development programmes and to determine the suitability of these programmes in bringing about both expanding agricultural production and social integration.



## RESOLUTION IV

### *Food and agricultural research, extension and training\**

#### *The World Food Conference,*

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, relating to the Programme of Action concerning the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, as adopted,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 3168 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973, by which the Assembly requested the strengthening of economic, technical and scientific co-operation among States,

Considering that co-ordinated basic and applied research conducted in, or for the benefit of, the developing countries, in all fields of food and agricultural development, both technical and socio-economic, is vital to increasing food, agricultural and fisheries production and the optimum utilization of resources, and must therefore enjoy high priority at the national, regional and international levels,

Expressing its concern at the inadequate amount of basic and particularly of applied research directed to developing new agricultural technology suited to the needs of developing countries, especially tropical and sub-tropical areas; as well as at weaknesses in adaptive research, training, and extension to achieve more effective transfer and utilization of both existing and new technology, especially in fields related to food production and utilization under the local environmental, agricultural, and socio-economic conditions in each country,

Noting that much of current research both lacks co-ordination and makes inadequate use of important information already available from research in ecologically comparable regions,

Recognizing that the paucity of trained technical personnel at various levels required both for the conduct of research and for the transmission of the results of research to agricultural producers is a major constraint in increasing agricultural production; and recalling the recommendations on this subject made by the First World Conference on Agricultural Education and Training held at Copenhagen in 1970,

Affirming its conviction that strengthening research, technical training, and the extension and dissemination of research results to all agricultural and marine producers, and especially to small farmers and fishermen in line with the national goals of developing countries, must be accorded a priority merited by its crucial role in providing new means of increasing food and agricultural production,

1. Urges all Governments to evaluate the scope and organization of their national agricultural research, training, and extension programmes, and their linkages with relevant universities, international and regional institutions, and agro-industry research efforts, with a view to taking all necessary measures, including additional financial provision, to strengthen national programmes to cover priority areas of food and agricultural production more adequately, including *inter alia* environmental and socio-economic considerations;

2. Invites countries which enjoy a high level of development of scientific agriculture to ensure that no onerous condi-

\* Agriculture is taken here as including production of plants, livestock and fish.

3. Recommends that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development jointly organize a programme to assist developing countries to improve the efficiency of their fertilizer plant operations, in co-ordination with agencies providing assistance for this purpose;

4. Urges international institutions, developed countries and others in a position to do so to provide financial assistance, technical assistance, technology and equipment on favourable terms, to build required additional fertilizer production capacities in appropriate developing countries that possess oil and natural gas, phosphate rock and/or other natural resources such as coal, and in other developing countries where specific local factors justify such investments, and also to assist all developing countries with storage facilities, distribution services and other related infrastructures;

5. Requests that interested countries and parties actively explore the possibilities for setting up co-operative ventures in the fertilizer field among countries producing fertilizer raw materials, countries with established fertilizer production industries and fertilizer-consuming countries, with a view to the promotion of more economic and stable fertilizer production and supply systems, and consider any other measures that may be needed to channel adequate investments into the fertilizer field;

6. Requests the FAO Commission on Fertilizers, in collaboration with the States Members of the United Nations and the other international organizations concerned such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to undertake as a matter of urgency an authoritative analysis of the long-term fertilizer supply and demand position in order to provide the elements of a world fertilizer policy which would include the over-all aim of avoiding cyclical imbalance between supply and demand, help ensure that fertilizer prices are stabilized at reasonable levels and would enable developing countries to obtain fertilizers they need for their food and agricultural production;

7. Requests that all countries introduce standards for ensuring fertilizer quality, and policies and measures for the promotion of the most efficient and effective use of available fertilizers, including the application of mineral fertilizers, as well as alternative and additional sources of plant nutrients such as organic fertilizers, legume crops and other means of biologically fixing nitrogen and recycling of wastes and combining fertilizer use with other improved agricultural practices; it also recommends that each fertilizer-consuming nation call upon its citizens voluntarily to reduce non-critical uses of fertilizer in order to make available more fertilizers for food production in developing countries.

8. Recommends the intensification of international efforts in the transfer of technical knowledge, particularly on the intermediate level, in order to increase production and to make more effective use of fertilizers, including the improvement of extension services and the training of farmers in all countries, research on methods to augment soil fertility and plant growth through the development of improved mineral fertilizers, greater utilization of locally available plant nutrients, and of different types of organic fertilizers, and biological fixation of nitrogen, as well as research on micro-elements and on food crop varieties that are efficient in the uptake of plant nutrients from the soil.

tions or limitations are placed on the transfer of agricultural technology, which might impede its ready acquisition and assimilation by the developing countries;

3. *Requests* the concerned national, regional, and international research institutions to intensify their efforts to examine the possibilities of new as well as traditional food crop, live-stock and fisheries production systems, and the potential for the development of water resources and the efficient use of land, water, fertilizer and other inputs for significantly increasing food production in the developing countries; to improve the nutritional quality of both conventional and non-conventional foods; to investigate the problems connected with opening up of new lands in the light of diverse land use requirements, ecological and tenure systems and the need to conserve soil fertility; and, in close co-operation with extension services, to develop studies aimed at a better understanding of the motivation of the rural populace and, thus, to assist them in improved participation in the benefits to be gained from the application of research results;

4. *Recommends* the strengthening and expansion of programmes relating to the survey, conservation and effective utilization of agricultural resources, particularly of soil, water and plant and animal genetic resources; and urges the rapid establishment of a global network of plant genetic resource centres and the extension of this to animal genetic resources;

5. *Recommends* the stepping-up of co-operative goal-oriented basic research programmes, involving research centres of developed countries, international and regional research institutes, and suitable institutions in developing countries, on problems relating to the development of appropriate technology for increasing productivity, improving marketing and reducing costs of production; examples of such research would be: biological nitrogen fixation, utilization of solar and geophysical energy, production physiology for raising yield ceilings, plant introduction and genetic breeding using wide germ plasma resources, and development of new human and animal food sources;

6. *Recommends* that the concerned national and international institutions intensify basic and applied research regarding:

(a) The impact of different ecological conditions, particularly climate, weather, and their variability, on agricultural production in various climatic zones and particularly in tropical and climatically marginal (e.g. semi-arid and arid) land areas;

(b) The application of meteorological information and knowledge in planning agricultural research and land-use and management systems, including the development of alternative cropping strategies to suit different weather conditions so as to minimize the adverse effects of aberrant weather and encourage production patterns in tune with the climatic potential;

7. *Recommends* the rapid expansion of applied research in national, regional and international research centres, so as to bring about a continuing rise in the economic yield and nutritional value of plants and farm animals, taking into account the need to improve biological efficiency so as to economize in inputs, without detriment to the long-term production potential of specific farming systems;

8. *Recommends* that research, possibly on a regional basis, be undertaken in order to develop coastal fisheries and marine and inland aquaculture to the fullest; and urges developed fishing nations to provide developing countries with the necessary technical assistance for the exploitation, management, processing and marketing of these resources;

9. *Recommends* the following early action with a view to

reinforcing and improving the co-ordination of research efforts directed to these goals and the rapid dissemination of results to agricultural producers:

(a) That the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations undertake the systematic collection, and dissemination of data on current research, and the results of research already carried out in the developing countries, and that additional resources be provided for this purpose and for permitting the exchange of experience and data between existing centres;

(b) That the resources of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, co-sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, and the World Bank, be substantially enlarged to enable it to augment the number and scope of international and regional research programmes in and for the developing countries, with the objective of complementing and helping to strengthen research in the developing countries through promoting co-operative research networks, assisting in adaptive research at the national level and in training programmes, and the dissemination of research information at all levels; and further recommends that the Technical Advisory Committee and the Consultative Group study the feasibility of an international programme on the use of remote sensing techniques in agriculture, including the use of data from earth resources satellites;

(c) That consideration be given by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank to establishing a co-ordinated programme for the improvement of extension systems;

(d) That extensive adaptive research programmes be developed involving testing in farmers' fields the economic and technical viability of new technology and thereby tailoring recommendations to suit specific locations, farming situations and socio-economic conditions; and subsequently the organization of widespread on-farm demonstrations ranging from small plot demonstrations to whole villages or water-shed demonstrations; and that whole village or other appropriate pilot projects be developed and implemented jointly by agricultural and social scientists so as to bring about an understanding of the institutional and socio-economic requirements of new technology;

(e) That priority be given to, and increased resources made available for, the development of agricultural education and training at all levels, in order that the required training programmes can be provided including training of research and extension workers in management techniques, special basic and in-service technical training for graduate and middle-level extension personnel, and farmers' training, including programmes for rural women and children, aiming at the achievement of an integrated educational system for the rural population within an appropriate political and social framework;

(f) That all countries co-operate in special measures aimed at reducing the loss of specialized technical personnel from the developing countries;

(g) That means be found to facilitate the acquisition by developing countries, under favourable terms, of the equipment required for agricultural research and experimental development activities, including better access to the world's germ plasma resources, and

(h) That to support these recommendations, national, regional and international resources devoted to agricultural research, extension and training in and for developing countries should be increased severalfold in real terms by 1985.

## RESOLUTION V

### *Policies and programmes to improve nutrition*

#### *The World Food Conference,*

Considering that large numbers of people, particularly the less advantaged in many countries, lack adequate and appropriate food, resulting in adverse effects on their health, their development and their ability to learn and work for basic livelihood whereas overconsumption among the affluent not only impairs their health but also contributes to reducing the food availability for less advantaged groups and, furthermore, large food resources are used to feed animals,

Recognizing that malnutrition is closely linked to widespread poverty and inadequate social and institutional structures, and that its effects are aggravated by infectious diseases and the lack of environmental sanitation, and that increased agricultural production and increased incomes may not by themselves lead to improved nutrition, and that, to this end, a more just and equitable distribution of food and incomes is essential, among nations as well as within countries among their various social categories,

Recognizing that information on food consumption patterns and on their consequences for the nutrition and health status of the majority of the population in developing countries, is insufficient and inadequate, and that improved knowledge about how to prevent malnutrition through better use of available food resources, including human milk, is essential,

Considering the relationship which often exists between child and mother, malnutrition and too-close pregnancies,

Recognizing that food and nutritional aspects are generally not sufficiently taken into account in the formulation of national development plans,

Considering the need for improving nutrition in all countries and that the present consumption patterns of the affluent need not be taken as a model,

#### *Recommends:*

1. That all Governments and the international community as a whole, in pursuance of their determination to eliminate within a decade hunger and malnutrition, formulate and integrate concerted food and nutritional plans and policies aiming at the improvement of consumption patterns in their socio-economic and agricultural planning, and for that purpose assess the character, extent and degree of malnutrition in all socio-economic groups as well as the pre-conditions for improving their nutritional status;

2. That the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in co-operation with the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, assisted by the Protein Advisory Group, prepare a project proposal for assisting Governments to develop intersectoral food and nutrition plans, this proposal to be communicated to the FAO Council at its mid-1975 session through its Food and Nutrition Policy Committee, and to the governing bodies of the other interested agencies;

3. That Governments, with their own resources, supplemented with food, financial and technical assistance from multilateral or bilateral external sources, and in close co-operation with agricultural production programmes, initiate new or strengthen existing food and nutrition intervention

programmes, on a scale large enough to cover on a continuing basis a substantial part of the vulnerable groups;

4. That Governments include nutrition education in the curricula for educational programmes at all levels and that all concerned in the fields of agriculture, health and general education be appropriately trained to enable them to further the nutrition education of the public within their respective domains;

5. That Governments strengthen basic health, family well-being and planning services and improve environmental conditions, including rural water supplies, eliminate water-borne diseases and provide treatment and rehabilitation of those suffering from protein-energy malnutrition;

6. That Governments consider the key role of women and take steps to improve their nutrition, their educational levels and their working conditions, and to encourage them and enable them to breast-feed their children;

7. That Governments review special feeding programmes within the context of their food and nutrition strategies to determine the desirability and the feasibility of undertaking new programmes of that kind, or improving existing ones, particularly amongst the vulnerable groups (children, pregnant and nursing mothers), but also for school children, workers and others; such programmes should promote increased local food production and processing thereby stimulating local initiative and employment and should also include an element of nutrition-education;

8. That the international agencies, non-governmental agencies and countries which are in a position to provide funds and foods for this purpose, should provide assistance to Governments who request such aid in order to introduce in the period 1975-76, emergency programmes for the supplementary feeding of a substantial number of malnourished children, giving due attention to basic health and other essential services for the welfare of all children at risk;

9. That Governments should explore the desirability and the feasibility of meeting nutrient deficiencies, through fortification of staples or other widely-consumed foods, with amino-acids, protein concentrates, vitamins and minerals, and that, with the assistance of the World Health Organization in co-operation with other organizations concerned, should establish a world-wide control programme aimed at substantially reducing deficiencies of vitamin A, iodine, iron/folate, vitamin D, riboflavin, and thiamine as quickly as possible;

10. That the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in association with other international and non-governmental organizations concerned, undertake an inventory of vegetable food resources other than cereals, such as roots, tubers, legumes, vegetables and fruits, including also those from unconventional sources, and that it study the possibility of increasing their production and consumption, particularly in countries where malnutrition prevails;

11. That Governments take action to strengthen and modernize consumer education services, food legislation and food control programmes and the relevant aspects of marketing practices, aiming at the protection of the consumer (avoiding false and misleading information from mass-media and commercial fraud), and that they increase their support of the Codex Alimentarius Commission;

12. That the joint FAO/WHO food contamination monitoring programme, in co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme, be further developed in order to provide early information to the national authorities for appropriate action;

13. That a global nutrition surveillance system be established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund to monitor the food and nutrition conditions of the disadvantaged groups of the population at risk, and to provide a method of rapid and permanent assessment of all factors which influence food consumption patterns and nutritional status;

14. That Governments consider establishing facilities and funds for applied nutrition research related to economic, cultural, social and medical aspects of production, processing, preservation, storage, distribution and utilization of food and that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund arrange for an internationally co-ordinated programme in applied nutritional research including establishing priorities, identifying appropriate research centres and generating the necessary fundings;

15. That, wherever practicable, Governments should associate non-governmental organizations whose programmes include nutrition-related activities, with their nutritional efforts, particularly in the areas of food and nutrition programmes, nutrition education and feeding programmes for the most vulnerable groups.

#### RESOLUTION VI

##### *World soil charter and land capability assessment*

###### *The World Food Conference,*

Noting that land resources are limited and that of the total land area of the world only a small percentage is currently used to feed the world population which is likely to double by the end of the century,

Considering that meeting the food requirements of mankind, including the eradication of malnutrition, entails:

The intensification of crop production including multiple cropping, wherever this can be safely accomplished,

The bringing into cultivation of new lands, wherever conditions for sustained cropping prevail, with a view to considerably increasing the land areas used for food production,

The establishment and better utilization of grasslands,

Conscious of the dangers of soil degradation resulting from inadequate measures for intensifying crop production and grazing, particularly in areas which are exposed to water and wind erosion, or salinity and alkalinity,

1. Recommends that Governments apply appropriate soil protection and conservation techniques in conjunction with the measures they take to intensify crop production and grazing and bring new lands into cultivation;

2. Recommends that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, in co-operation with the World Meteorological Organization, and other competent international organizations, and in consultation with Governments concerned, prepare without delay an assessment of the lands that can still be brought into cultivation, taking proper account of forestry for the protection of catchment areas of land required for alternative uses. Such an assessment should take into account primarily the hazards of irreversible soil degradation as well as the order of magnitude of costs and agricultural and other inputs required;

3. Urges that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations select the most appropriate ways and means to establish a World Soil Charter which would be the basis for an international co-operation towards the most rational use of the world's land resources.

#### RESOLUTION VII

##### *Scientific water management: irrigation, drainage and flood control*

###### *The World Food Conference,*

Recognizing the vital role of water in agricultural development and consequently the importance of completing projects under construction, improving existing irrigation systems and developing new irrigation facilities in developing countries,

Recognizing that extending the area under assured irrigation has become particularly urgent, since variability in weather and climate is becoming an increasingly important factor in influencing the world food situation,

Noting that considerable ground and surface water resources are yet to be exploited and that available evidence on benefit/cost is favourable to their development and utilisation,

Noting that a large number of irrigation schemes are operating at low levels of efficiency,

Noting also that extensive irrigated areas have gone out of cultivation or their production capabilities have been reduced due to waterlogging, salinity and alkalinity,

Noting that colossal damage to crops due to floods has become an increasingly recurring phenomenon in some regions, calling for urgent action with respect to control measures,

Noting that efficient water conservation and use will be essential for increasing agricultural production in semi-arid and arid areas, as well as for desert spread control,

Considering that the principal obstacles to fully exploiting the potential water resources and adopting effective drainage and flood control measures are shortage of financial resources, equipment and trained manpower, to ensure regional cooperation and to evolve ecologically sound policies,

1. Recommends urgent action to be taken by Governments and international agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Meteorological Organization to implement the following:

(a) Wherever needed, exhaustive surveys on climatic, hydrological and irrigation potential, hydropower potential and desert spread;

(b) Rapid expansion of irrigation capacities in areas where surface-water and/or ground-water reserves are available for rational exploitation, so as to facilitate both the improvement of productivity and intensity of cropping;

(c) Development of techniques for the safe utilization of brackish water for food production in areas where sweet surface/ground-water is not available;

(d) Reclamation of areas affected by waterlogging, salinity and alkalinity and prevention of salinization of irrigated areas;

(e) Identification of ground-water resources, exploration of the economic feasibility of using non-conventional sources of water and research and development efforts in the most economical use of water with such techniques as drip and sprinkler irrigation in arid areas where shortage of water, rather than land, is the limiting factor in crop production;

(f) Sound exploitation of ground-water resources, water harvesting and conservation in the soil profile and in run-off farm ponds together with techniques for the efficient use of the

water thus made available in semi-arid and in drought-prone areas;

(g) Flood protection and flood control measures, including watershed management and soil conservation, to mitigate the damage to crops in high rainfall and flood-prone areas, and to render, where feasible, the flood-free period into a major cropping season through development of lift irrigation and ground-water exploitation;

(h) Establishment of suitable drainage systems and appropriate steps to control salinity in swampy areas as well as in areas exposed to tidal inundation;

(i) Application of all necessary measures and development of techniques to combat desert spread;

2. *Calls on* international institutions and bilateral and multilateral aid agencies to provide substantially increased external assistance to enable the developing countries to undertake rapidly action set out under paragraph 1 above;

3. *Urges* Governments and international agencies to assess, and make appropriate arrangements for meeting, the energy requirements for irrigation and to encourage intensive research on using solar hydroelectric power, geo-thermal and wind energy in agricultural operations;

4. *Urges* Governments and international agencies to strengthen and where necessary to initiate national and regional research and training in all aspects of water technology related to specific farming systems and to improve the administration and management of water delivery systems.

## RESOLUTION VIII

### *Women and food*

#### *The World Food Conference,*

*Considering* that the major part of the required increase in food production must occur in the developing countries if the present tragedy of starvation and malnutrition for uncounted millions is not to continue,

*Recognizing* that rural women in the developing world account for at least fifty per cent of food production,

*Knowing* that women everywhere generally play the major role in procurement and preparation of food consumed by their families,

*Recognizing* the important role of the mother in the health development of future generations through proper lactation and furthermore that mothers in most cultures are the best source of food for their very young children,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the World Health Assembly resolution on lactation in May this year,

1. *Calls on* all Governments to involve women fully in the decision-making machinery for food production and nutrition policies as part of a total development strategy;

2. *Calls on* all Governments to provide to women in law and in fact the right to full access to all medical and social services, particularly special nutritious food for mothers and the means to space their children to allow maximum lactation, as well as education and information essential to the nurture and growth of mentally and physically healthy children;

3. *Calls on* all Governments to include in their plan provision for education and training for women on an equal basis with men in food production and agricultural technology, marketing and distribution techniques, as well as to put at their disposal consumer, credit and nutrition information;

4. *Calls on* all Governments to promote equal rights and responsibilities for men and women in order that the energy, talent and ability of women can be fully utilized in partnership with men in the battle against world hunger.

## RESOLUTION IX

### *Achievement of a desirable balance between population and food supply*

#### *The World Food Conference,*

*Recognizing* that the increasing demand for food is related in particular to the unprecedented population growth, which has doubled the world's population in a single generation,

*Realizing* that despite improved agricultural technology, an appreciable share of the human race continues to be seriously undernourished, and that many millions face actual starvation,

*Bearing in mind* that land and water resources are limited and further that, due to underdevelopment of such resources in developing countries, it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet the food needs of a rapidly growing world population,

*Recalling* that in recent months in Bucharest a consensus was reached on a World Population Plan of Action,<sup>5</sup>

*Stressing* that the increases in supply of food can be achieved only by economic development,

*Now calls on* all Governments and on people everywhere not only to make every possible effort to grow and equitably distribute sufficient food and income so that all human beings may have an adequate diet - short-range goal which priority and the best techniques might make possible - but also to support, for a longer-term solution, rational population policies ensuring to couples the right to determine the number and spacing of births, freely and responsibly, in accordance with national needs within the context of an over-all development strategy.

## RESOLUTION X

### *Pesticides\**

#### *The World Food Conference,*

*Recognizing* that pesticides are in short supply, particularly in developing countries, and are important inputs for improving agricultural and livestock production, storage and distribution, and conditions of health,

*Recognizing* the need for adequate measures to ensure the production and supply of appropriate pesticides and application equipment at reasonable prices and to increase the efficiency of pesticide use,

*Noting* the urgent need to examine alternative methods of pest control, including cultural practices and biological control,

1. *Recommends* that international co-ordination be established to facilitate, for developing countries or their common control organizations, and with a maximum assurance under favourable economic conditions, the supply of necessary pesticides and equipment and advice on their efficient and safe

<sup>5</sup> Report of the United Nations World Population Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 75. XIII. 3), part one, chapter I.

\* Includes insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, acaricides, rodenticides, avicides, growth regulators and other pest control measures.

use, including wherever possible the encouragement of local manufacture, and the establishment of adequate revolving reserve stocks to cater for any emergencies;

2. *Recommends* a co-ordinated programme, including the necessary elements of supply, information, training, research and quality control, to increase the efficiency of protection measures;

3. *Recommends* a strong continuing programme of research into the mechanism of resistance in both plants and pests, especially in tropical and sub-tropical areas, on the development of integrated pest management for major cropping systems, and on the residual effects of pesticides in soils, water, crops, livestock, environment and human habitat;

4. *Calls on* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to convene on an urgent basis an *ad hoc* consultation, including member Governments and industry, to recommend ways and means to give effect to the intentions of the present resolution, including the supply-demand information that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has been collecting, the investment required in pesticides and equipment supply, the standardization of regulatory procedures and environmental rules and the examination of alternative methods of pest control, and to take follow-up action.

## RESOLUTION XI

### *Programme for the control of African animal trypanosomiasis*

#### *The World Food Conference,*

*Recognizing* the importance of African animal trypanosomiasis as a major limiting factor to rural development in general and animal production in particular in a large number of African countries,

*Taking note* that progress in trypanosomiasis and tsetse control techniques now makes possible the implementation of large-scale operations,

*Recognizing* that the effective implementation of an internationally co-ordinated programme for control of African animal trypanosomiasis could open up vast areas of land for animal and crop production thus providing the potential for greatly increased animal protein and other food supplies both to overcome deficits in the African continent and to provide surpluses for export,

*Recognizing* the socio-economic benefits which would accrue to rural populations from such a programme, including a significant contribution to the control of human trypanosomiasis,

*Taking note* that trypanosomiasis and tsetse control should be considered as the first phase of an integrated plan of economic development to be followed by projects covering appropriate land, water and forestry conservation and utilization, including pasture improvement, livestock management, animal health, livestock marketing and processing, as well as training in their various fields,

1. *Recommends* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerned, interested international organizations and specialized research institutes, and with the support of bilateral and multilateral assistance agencies, launch as a matter of urgency a long-term programme for the control of African animal trypanosomiasis as a project of high priority;

2. *Calls for* immediate establishment of a small co-ordinating unit at FAO Headquarters to start the first phase of the

programme devoted to training, pilot field control projects and applied research, in preparation for future large-scale operations;

3. *Recommends* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations take immediately the necessary steps to mobilize the funds and services required for the programme.

## RESOLUTION XII

### *Seed industry development\**

*Recognizing* the urgent need to increase agricultural production in many countries to meet world-wide food demand,

*Recognizing* the importance which a secured supply of viable seeds of high genetical and physical purity of high-yielding and adapted varieties has to increasing crop production and productivity,

*Affirming* therefore that the development of seed industries should be given high priority in national agricultural development strategies,

*Stressing* that some countries experiencing frequent emergencies such as drought, flooding, typhoons, et cetera, which cause severe crop damage, will have to establish adequate regional and/or national seed reserve stocks to satisfy the need of adequate seed supplies for the subsequent season,

*Stressing* the increasing international linkages in crop research and in the trade of seeds and the need to guard against introduction of seed-borne pests and diseases,

1. *Urges* the Governments of developing countries to make short- and long-term commitments of manpower, institutional and financial resources for seed industry development in their national agricultural development plans;

2. *Requests* interested countries and parties to introduce policies and measures for the production, processing, quality control, distribution, marketing, legislation, promotion and education of farmers in the utilization of quality seed;

3. *Recommends* that the international assistance of the FAO Seed Industry Development Programme be strengthened, so that national seed production and utilization efforts, both for domestic use and export, including the training of competent technical and managerial manpower, can be furthered to meet demands.

## RESOLUTION XIII

### *International Fund for Agricultural Development*

#### *The World Food Conference,*

*Recognizing* the need for a substantial increase in investment in agriculture for increasing food and agricultural production in the developing countries,

*Recognizing* that provision of an adequate supply and proper utilization of food are the common responsibility of all members of the international community; and

*Recognizing* further that the prospects of the world food situation call for urgent and co-ordinated measures by all countries,

\* "Seed" in this resolution refers to both sexually and vegetatively propagated planting materials.

*Resolves that:*

1. An International Fund for Agricultural Development should be established immediately to finance agricultural development projects primarily for food production in the developing countries;

2. All developed countries and all those developing countries that are in a position to contribute to this Fund should do so on a voluntary basis;

3. The Fund should be administered by a Governing Board consisting of representatives of contributing developed countries, contributing developing countries, and potential recipient countries, taking into consideration the need for ensuring equitable distribution of representation amongst these three categories and regional balance amongst the potential recipient representations;

4. The disbursements from the Fund should be carried out through existing international and/or regional institutions in accordance with the regulations and criteria to be established by the Governing Board;

5. The Secretary-General of the United Nations should be requested to convene urgently a meeting of all interested countries, mentioned in paragraph 3 above, and institutions to work out the details, including the size of, and commitments to, the Fund;

6. The Fund should become operative as soon as the Secretary-General of the United Nations determines, in consultation with representatives of the countries having pledged contributions to the Fund, that it holds promise of generating substantial additional resources for assistance to developing countries and that its operations have a reasonable prospect of continuity.

#### RESOLUTION XIV

*Reduction of military expenditures for the purpose of increasing food production*

*The World Food Conference,*

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3180 (XXVIII), which stipulates that the principal purpose of the World Food Conference is to devise ways and means by which the international community as a whole may deal concretely with the world food problem,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 3121 (XXVIII), establishing that the contributions to the World Food Programme must be augmented by substantial additional contributions from other sources,

Stressing heading 2 "Food" of General Assembly resolution 3202 (VI), entitled "Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order",

Considering also General Assembly resolutions 2667 (XXV), 2831 (XXVI) and 3075 (XXVIII), entitled "Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security",

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 3093 (XXVIII), entitled "Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries",

Noting FAO resolution 3/73 which recognizes that the guaranteeing of world food security is the joint responsibility of the entire international community,

Considering with concern that there is a severe world food crisis which must be confronted energetically by all States,

Recalling with equal concern that the Report of the Group of Experts on Disarmament and Development (A/9770) estimates that more than 200 thousand million dollars are spent annually for military purposes, which shows the enormous disproportion between the military expenditures and the present goals of agriculture development aid,

Calls on the States participating in the Conference to take the necessary measures for the most rapid implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations pertaining to the reduction of military expenditures for the purpose of development, and to allocate a growing proportion of the sums so released to the financing of food production in developing countries and the establishment of reserves to deal with emergency cases.

#### RESOLUTION XV

*Food aid to victims of colonial wars in Africa*

*The World Food Conference,*

Recalling resolution 3118 (XXVIII) of the General Assembly of the United Nations regarding assistance to populations in colonial Territories and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling resolution 1892 (LVII) of the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Noting with satisfaction the decisions adopted by the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme for providing assistance in all its forms to these Territories,

Bearing in mind the progress achieved so far in the process of total independence of Territories under Portuguese administration,

Taking into account the repressive measures employed by the former fascist-colonialist Portuguese regime during the wars of national liberation in Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Angola,

Gravely concerned about the destruction and devastation of the agricultural potential of these countries and the serious food shortage prevailing in these countries,

Aware that the populations in these countries have been deprived in the past of any assistance from the United Nations or from the United Nations family of organizations due to the former Portuguese policy,

1. Requests the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme to take immediate action to intensify food aid to the populations of Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Angola, São Tomé and Príncipe;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations and all the executive heads of organizations within the United Nations system to take all necessary measures to assist the national liberation movements or the governments of these countries to formulate a comprehensive plan of national reconstruction;

3. Invites all Governments and non-governmental organizations to give their assistance to compensate for the manifold damage arising out of the struggles for national liberation.



## RESOLUTION XVI

### *Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture*

#### *The World Food Conference,*

Recognizing that the capacity of Governments to take prompt and appropriate measures to deal with food shortages would be enhanced by the furnishing by all countries of timely and adequate information concerning the current and prospective crop and food situation, and further recognizing the growing interdependence of countries in this respect,

Stressing the urgent need for establishing on a world-wide basis a food information and early warning system which would aim at (a) identifying countries and regions where acute food shortages and malnutrition problems are thought to be imminent; (b) monitoring world food supply-demand conditions so as to enable Governments to take timely and appropriate measures; and (c) contributing to the effective functioning of the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security,

Recognizing the important role of a comprehensive and timely flow of information and forecasts on the situation and prospects for agricultural production, import requirements, export availabilities, livestock health, inputs and trade in meeting the requirements of world food security and market stability, at equitable and remunerative prices in a constantly changing food and agriculture situation,

Noting that a world information system requires a regular supply of reliable reports and observations,

Recognizing that the areas most severely affected by food shortages, for which it is particularly important to have timely and adequate information, are often those which do not possess the necessary resources and techniques to supply the information needed for the proper functioning of the system and recognizing also that the problem of inadequate food information and data collection in developing countries is largely a result of inadequate institutions,

Noting that the Governments of all major food producing and consuming countries have expressed their willingness in principle to participate in expanding the existing information arrangements into a more comprehensive and global system, and also noting the importance of strengthening the information functions of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Wheat Council and other international organizations concerned with food and agriculture,

Welcoming the action being taken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to strengthen its food information and early warning systems following a decision by the FAO Conference in 1973.

1. Resolves that a Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as the "System") should be established and agrees that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is the most appropriate organization to operate and supervise the system;

2. Requests the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in co-operation with other concerned international organizations, particularly the International Wheat Council, to formulate arrangements necessary for the establishment of the System, and to submit them for final approval by Governments participating in the System;

3. Requests all Governments to participate in the System and extend full co-operation, on a voluntary and regular basis,

by furnishing as much current information and as many forecasts as possible, including current information and forecasts obtained from the statistics and regular studies which are published, initially on basic food products, including in particular wheat, rice, coarse grains, soybeans, and livestock products and, to the extent practicable, other important food products and other relevant aspects of their food supply and demand situation affecting world food security, such as prices and production of inputs and equipment required for agricultural production, the food industry and livestock health, taking account of and respecting in full the sovereign rights of Governments in this regard;

4. Requests Governments to take steps, where necessary, to amplify and otherwise improve their data collection and dissemination services in these fields; and further requests the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization and the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics and other multilateral and bilateral sources to urgently assist interested Governments with technical and financial assistance on particular aspects in strengthening existing arrangements for data collection and dissemination in the fields of food production, nutritional levels at various income levels, input supplies, meteorology and crop/weather relationships, on a national or regional level as appropriate, and to co-ordinate this action with that of the World Food Council provided for in Conference resolution XXII on arrangements for follow-up action;

5. Requests that the information thus collected be fully analysed and disseminated periodically to all participating Governments, for their exclusive use; it being understood that, where requested, certain information provided by Governments would be disseminated in aggregate form particularly in order to avoid unfavourable market repercussions;

6. Requests the World Meteorological Organization, in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (a) to provide, as a part of the System, regular assessments of current and recent weather on the basis of the information presently assembled through the World Weather Watch, so as to identify agriculturally significant changes in weather patterns; (b) to expand and establish joint research projects particularly in arid and semi-arid areas, and to investigate weather/crop relationships taking account of the effect of soil moisture conditions; (c) to strengthen the present global weather monitoring systems in regard to the adequacy of meteorological observations, and the data processing systems, at the national and regional levels, in order to make them directly relevant to agricultural needs; and (d) to encourage investigations on the assessment of the probability of adverse weather conditions occurring in various agricultural areas, and on a better understanding of the causes of climatic variations.

## RESOLUTION XVII

### *International Undertaking on World Food Security*

#### *The World Food Conference,*

Stressing the urgent need to ensure availability at all times of adequate world supplies of basic food-stuffs, particularly so as to avoid acute food shortages in the event of widespread crop failure, natural or other disasters, to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption in countries with low levels of *per capita* intake and to offset fluctuations in production and prices,



*Recognizing* that very low levels of world food stocks, primarily cereals, pose a serious threat to consumption levels and make the world too dependent on the vagaries of weather,

*Welcoming* the progress already made through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations towards developing a common approach for attaining the objectives of world food security, and noting that all major food producing and consuming countries support these objectives,

*Reaffirming* the common responsibility of the entire international community in evolving policies and arrangements designed to ensure world food security, and in particular in maintaining adequate national or regional stocks as envisaged in the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security,

*Recognizing* that universal participation of all producing and consuming countries is essential for the achievement of the global objectives of world food security, and stressing the importance of adherence to the objectives, policies and guidelines of the proposed International Undertaking by all Governments, taking account of its voluntary nature and the sovereign rights of nations,

*Recognizing* the difficulties currently faced especially by the developing countries in building up stocks through lack of adequate domestic supplies in excess of current consumption needs, the present high prices of foodgrains in world markets and the constraints imposed by serious balance of payments difficulties, which require an immediate increase in the food production of the developed countries while the developing countries are simultaneously assisted to increase their food production and build up their own stocks,

1. *Endorses* the objectives, policies and guidelines as set out in the text of the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security,<sup>6</sup> invites all Governments to express their readiness to adopt them and urges all Governments to co-operate in bringing into operation the proposed International Undertaking as soon as possible;

2. *Calls for* the early completion by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the operational and other practical arrangements required for the implementation of the proposed International Undertaking, including the examination of practical economic and administrative problems involved;

3. *Invites* Governments of all major food, primarily cereals, producing, consuming and trading countries to enter as soon as possible into discussions in appropriate international fora, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the principles contained in the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security, and also with a view to studying the feasibility of establishing grain reserves to be located at strategic points;

4. *Urges* Governments and the concerned international and regional organizations to provide the necessary technical, financial and food assistance, in the form of grants or on specially favourable terms, to develop and implement appropriate national food stocks policies in developing countries, including the extension of storage and transport facilities, within the priorities of their national development programme, so that these countries are in a position to participate effectively in a world food security policy.

## RESOLUTION XVIII

### *An improved policy for food aid*

#### *The World Food Conference,*

*Recognizing* that, while the ultimate solution to the problem of food shortages in developing countries lies in increased production in these countries, during the interim period food aid on a grant basis and any additional food transfers on concessional or agreed-upon terms to developing countries will continue to be needed, primarily for meeting emergency and nutritional needs, as well as for stimulating rural employment through development projects,

*Stressing* the importance of evolving a longer-term food aid policy to ensure a reasonable degree of continuity in physical supplies,

*Noting* that, contrary to earlier expectations, the year 1974 has failed to bring the good harvest needed for the replenishment of stocks and the re-establishment of reasonable degree of security in world food supplies, and expressing concern that most developing countries will not be able to finance their increased food import bills in the immediate period ahead,

*Stressing* that food aid should be provided in forms consonant with the sovereign rights of nations, neither interfering with the development objectives of recipient countries nor imposing the political objectives of donor countries upon them,

*Emphasizing further* the paramount importance of ensuring that food aid is provided in forms which are voluntary in nature and are consistent with the agricultural development plans of recipient countries, with the ultimate aim of promoting their long-term development efforts and ensuring that it does not act as a disincentive to local production and cause adverse repercussions on the domestic market or international trade, in particular of developing countries,

*Taking note* with interest of the work of the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session on the subject of strengthening the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, in particular in relation to disaster preparedness and pre-disaster planning,

*Recognizing* the need to increase the resources of the World Food Programme, so as to enable it to play a greater and more effective role in rendering development assistance to developing countries in promoting food security and in emergency operations, and also recognizing the need to increase the resources of the United Nations Children's Fund, to enable it to play a greater role in meeting the food needs of children in emergency operations,

1. *Affirms* the need for continuity of a minimum level of food aid in physical terms, in order to insulate food aid programmes from the effects of excessive fluctuations in production and prices;

2. *Recommends* that all donor countries accept and implement the concept of forward planning of "food aid," make all efforts to provide commodities and/or financial assistance that will ensure in physical terms at least 10 million tons of grains as food aid a year, starting from 1975, and also to provide adequate quantities of other food commodities;

3. *Requests* that interested cereals-exporting and importing countries as well as current and potential financial contributors meet as soon as possible to take cognizance of the needs and to consider ways and means to increase food availability and financing facilities during 1975 and 1976 for the affected developing countries and, in particular, for those most seriously affected by the current food problem;

<sup>6</sup> E/CONF. 65/4, chapter 14, annex A.

4. *Urges* all donor countries to (a) channel a more significant proportion of food aid through the World Food Programme, (b) consider increasing progressively the grant component in their bilateral food aid programmes, (c) consider contributing part of any food aid repayments to supplementary nutrition programmes and emergency relief, and (d) provide, as appropriate, to food aid programmes additional cash resources for commodity purchases from developing countries to the maximum extent possible;

5. *Recommends* that the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme, reconstituted as recommended in Conference resolution XXII on arrangements for follow-up action, be entrusted with the task of formulating proposals for more effective co-ordination of multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental food aid programmes and of co-ordinating emergency food aid;

6. *Recommends* that Governments, where possible, earmark stocks or funds for meeting international emergency requirements, as envisaged in the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security, and further recommends that international guidelines for such emergency stocks be developed as a part of the proposed Undertaking to provide for an effective co-ordination of emergency stocks and to ensure that food relief reaches the neediest and most vulnerable groups in developing countries;

7. *Recommends* that a part of the proposed emergency stocks be placed at the disposal of the World Food Programme, on a voluntary basis, in order to increase its capacity to render speedy assistance in emergency situations.

## RESOLUTION XIX

### *International trade, stabilization and agricultural adjustment*

#### *The World Food Conference,*

*Recognizing* the interrelationship between the world food problem and international trade, and the role which international trade based on mutual and equitable benefits can play in solving the world food problem, including its development aspects,

*Bearing in mind* that the instability in the world agricultural markets as reflected in excessive fluctuations of prices and the uncertainty about availability of agricultural products in world markets benefits neither the producer nor the consumer countries and has negative impacts on their economies, particularly those of the developing countries,

*Bearing in mind* also that this instability seriously affects the planning of export opportunities and of import requirements,

*Considering* the need for stability in world markets for food, taking full account in this respect of the interests of developing importing countries which cannot afford high prices for their imports, and the interests of developing exporting countries to have increased access to markets for their exports, and recalling in this connexion the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and the United Nations General Assembly Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

*Recognizing* the role of on-going activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Wheat Council and other international organizations which have a direct or indirect concern with the questions of expansion and access to markets and pricing policy,

*Emphasizing* the urgent need for food deficit developing countries to have available food imports at stable and reasonable prices,

*Endorsing* the view that increasing interdependence of the economies of individual countries necessitates a global concept of agricultural adjustment,

*Bearing in mind* that the international trade of agricultural and especially food products has been restricted by various tariff and non-tariff barriers as well as by other restrictions which impose a heavy burden on the balance of payments, particularly of developing countries and that these problems have been aggravated by inflation and monetary crises,

*Bearing in mind* that the foreign exchange earnings of the majority of developing countries are predominantly dependent on exports of agricultural and food products and recognizing that the share of these developing countries in the world agricultural exports, already modest, is continuously declining,

*Bearing also in mind* that the provision of agricultural inputs at reasonable and stable prices has a fundamental effect upon enhancing stability in the markets of agricultural products exported by developing countries,

*Underlining* the importance of national measures such as agrarian reforms, market organization, development of infrastructure et cetera, for allowing the benefit of possibilities created by trade expansion to accrue to the poorer sections of the rural population,

1. *Calls upon* all Governments to co-operate in promoting a steady and increasing expansion and liberalization of world trade with special reference to food products and an improvement in the welfare and living standards of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries; accordingly, requests all Governments to co-operate, *inter alia*, towards the progressive reduction or abolition of obstacles to trade and all discriminatory practices taking into account the principle of most-favoured nation treatment as applicable in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and towards the improvement of the international framework for the conduct of world trade; to these ends, co-ordinated efforts shall be made to solve in an equitable way the trade problems of all countries taking into account the specific trade problems of the developing countries;

2. *Urges* Governments to take measures aimed at securing additional benefits for the international trade of developing countries so as to achieve a substantial increase in their foreign exchange earnings, the diversification of their exports, the acceleration of the rate of growth of their trade, taking into account their development needs, an improvement in the possibilities for these countries to participate in the expansion of world trade and a balance more favourable to developing countries in the sharing of the advantages resulting from this expansion, through, in the largest possible measure, a substantial improvement in the conditions of access for the products of interest to the developing countries and, wherever appropriate, measures designed to attain stable, equitable and remunerative prices particularly for food and agricultural products;

3. *Calls upon* all Governments to co-operate in taking measures to prevent speculative practices aimed at destabilization of markets and attaining of extra profits;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to devise in the appropriate organizations, effective steps for dealing with the problem of stabilizing world markets, particularly in respect of food-stuffs and specially through international arrangements aimed, *inter alia*, at increasing food production, particularly in developing countries, alleviating food shortages, ensuring food security,

and promoting prices which are remunerative to producers and fair to consumers, and which give particular attention to the interests of developing countries as importers and exporters;

5. *Urges* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to intensify its efforts in considering new approaches to international commodity problems and policies and in elaborating further the proposals for an over-all integrated programme for commodities, with particular reference to food-stuffs, to give priority consideration to recommendations including a time-table of work for appropriate action at an early date;

6. *Requests* the responsible international bodies to give the highest possible priority to speed up the consultations and negotiations within agreed time-limits for reaching agreements on reduction or elimination of barriers to and restrictions on international trade and enabling substantially improved access of agricultural and food products of developing countries to the markets of developed countries in accordance with basic objectives guiding the comprehensive multilateral trade negotiations within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade as agreed upon in Tokyo, including the concept of non-reciprocity and of special and more favourable treatment through differential measures in favour of developing countries through negotiations, where this is feasible and appropriate;

7. *Requests* all developed countries to implement, improve and enlarge their schemes under the Generalized System of Preferences and to consider its extension to food and agricultural commodities, including those which are processed or semi-processed;

8. *Urges* the Governments participating in the intensive *ad hoc* consultations on commodities, as well as other Governments, to make determined efforts to achieve substantial and concrete results in the fields of access to markets and pricing policy and recommends to all Governments to take concrete action on proposals made in the intensive consultations which are accepted by them;

9. *Calls upon* Governments of developed countries, in the determination of attitudes towards farm support programmes for domestic food production, to take into account as far as possible the interests of the food-exporting developing countries, in order to avoid detrimental effects to their exports;

10. *Requests* the developed countries to allow and facilitate to the extent possible the expansion of food and agricultural imports from developing countries, in competition with domestic production, thus providing a fair and reasonable opportunity to increase their export earnings and to allow developing countries which export to these developed markets to plan their production and exports on a forward basis;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance given by the member countries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to international agricultural adjustment and the need for Governments to work together towards greater consistency in their national and regional policies bearing on future changes in food and agriculture;

12. *Requests* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations take full account of the discussions and decisions of the World Food Conference in formulating and implementing the proposed strategy of the international agricultural adjustment;

13. *Requests* the Governments of developed countries and international organizations concerned to increase the field assistance to the developing countries in export promotion activities and mechanisms, and in training of agricultural

marketing and trade personnel taking due account of the diversification process and development needs;

14. *Calls upon* countries and organizations concerned to devote special attention to the solution of the problems facing developing countries in the matter of transportation of food-stuffs;

15. *Invites* the developing countries to expand their mutual economic co-operation and invites the developed countries and the international organizations concerned to maintain and expand their support for economic co-operation among developing countries;

16. *Stresses* the need for measures assuring the poorer sections of the rural population of their share in the opportunities and benefits offered by trade expansion;

17. *Requests* the World Food Programme and other international organizations concerned to give priority to the use of cash resources available for multilateral or bilateral food aid for purchases in developing countries at competitive world market prices and terms;

18. *Urges* the developed countries and other countries concerned, as well as international financial institutions concerned, to give favourable consideration to the provision of adequate assistance to developing countries in cases of balance-of-payments difficulties arising from fluctuations in export receipts or import costs, particularly with regard to food;

19. *Requests* the Governments of all countries and international organizations concerned, when considering all the subjects contained in the present resolution, to give the highest possible priority and the most favourable terms to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and to developing countries most seriously affected by economic crises.

## RESOLUTION XX

*Payment of travel costs and other related expenses to representatives of national liberation movements*

*The World Food Conference,*

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 1892 (LVII) of 1 August 1974 and in particular paragraph 2 (d),

*Recalling further* resolution XX<sup>1</sup> of the World Population Conference,

*Requests* the General Assembly to defray all travel costs and other related expenses of representatives of the national liberation movements who have participated in the World Food Conference.

## RESOLUTION XXI

*Expression of thanks*

*The World Food Conference,*

*Recognizing* the gravity of the world food problem and the importance of national and international efforts to find adequate solutions therefor,

*Convinced* that the World Food Conference which took place at Rome from 5 to 16 November 1974 represents a major

<sup>1</sup> Report of the United Nations World Population Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 75. XIII. 3), part one, chapter II.

contribution to the efforts of the United Nations as well as of the international community to find urgent solutions to the immediate and long-term problems of food shortages, hunger and malnutrition.

*Expresses its deep appreciation* to the President of the Republic of Italy, Mr. Giovanni Leone and to all the people of the Republic of Italy for hosting the World Food Conference at Rome, and for their generous hospitality and great contribution to the successful completion of the work of the Conference.

## RESOLUTION XXII

*Arrangements for follow-up action, including appropriate operational machinery on recommendations or resolutions of the Conference*

*The World Food Conference,*

*Recognizing* that an assurance of adequate world food supplies is a matter of life and death for millions of human beings,

*Appreciating* the complex nature of the world food problem, which can only be solved through an integrated multi-disciplinary approach within the framework of economic and social development as a whole,

*Considering* that collective world food security within the framework of a world food policy should be promoted and its concept further defined and elaborated, so that it should foster the acceleration of the process of rural development in developing countries as well as ensure the improvement of international co-operation,

*Appreciating* the need to co-ordinate and strengthen the work of the international agencies concerned, and to ensure that their operational activities are co-ordinated in an effective and integrated world food policy,

*Recognizing* in particular the need for improved institutional arrangements to increase world food production, to safeguard world food security, to improve world food trade, and to ensure that timely action is taken to meet the threat of acute food shortages or famines in the different developing regions,

1. *Calls upon* the General Assembly to establish a World Food Council, at the ministerial or plenipotentiary level, to function as an organ of the United Nations reporting to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, and to serve as a co-ordinating mechanism to provide over-all, integrated and continuing attention for the successful co-ordination and follow-up of policies concerning food production, nutrition, food security, food trade and food aid, as well as other related matters, by all the agencies of the United Nations system;

2. *Takes note* of the fact that interagency meetings between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the heads of the specialized agencies provide an opportunity for considering necessary constitutional amendments to improve the functioning of the United Nations system;

3. *Requests* that the present resolution be taken into account in such consultations with a view to facilitating its early implementation;

4. *Recommends* that:

(a) The World Food Council should consist of...<sup>a</sup> members, nominated by the Economic and Social Council and

elected by the General Assembly, taking into consideration balanced geographical representation. The Council should invite the heads of United Nations agencies concerned to attend its sessions;

(b) The Council should elect its President on the basis of geographical rotation and approve its rules of procedure. It should be serviced within the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with headquarters at Rome;

(c) The Council should review periodically major problems and policy issues affecting the world food situation, and the steps being proposed or taken to resolve them by Governments, by the United Nations system and its regional organizations, and should further recommend remedial action as appropriate. The scope of the Council's review should extend to all aspects of world food problems in order to adopt an integrated approach towards their solution;

(d) The Council should establish its own programme of action for co-ordination of relevant United Nations bodies and agencies. While doing so, it should give special attention to the problems of the least developed countries and the countries most seriously affected;

(e) The Council should maintain contacts with, receive reports from, give advice to and make recommendations to United Nations bodies and agencies with regard to the formulation and follow-up of world food policies;

(f) The Council should work in full co-operation with regional bodies to formulate and follow-up policies approved by the Council. Committees to be established by these regional bodies should be serviced by existing United Nations or FAO bodies in the region concerned;

5. *Recommends further* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations establish a Committee on World Food Security as a standing committee of the FAO Council. The Committee should submit periodic and special reports to the World Food Council. The functions of the Committee on World Food Security should include the following:

(a) To keep the current and prospective demand, supply and stock position for basic food-stuffs under continuous review, in the context of world food security, and to disseminate timely information on developments;

(b) To make periodic evaluations of the adequacy of current and prospective stock levels, in aggregate, in exporting and importing countries, in order to assure a regular flow of supplies of basic food-stuffs to meet requirements in domestic and world markets, including food aid requirements, in time of short crops and serious crop failure;

(c) To review the steps taken by Governments to implement the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security;

(d) To recommend such short-term and long-term policy action as may be considered necessary to remedy any difficulty foreseen in assuring adequate cereal supplies for minimum world food security;

6. *Recommends further* that the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme be reconstituted so as to enable it to help evolve and co-ordinate short-term and longer-term food aid policies recommended by the Conference, in addition to discharging its existing functions. The reconstituted Committee should be called, and function as, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. The Committee should submit periodical and special reports to the World Food Council. The functions of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes should include the following:

<sup>a</sup> At its 2323rd plenary meeting on 17 December 1974, the General Assembly, by resolution 3348 (XXIX), decided that the World Food Conference should consist of 36 members.

(a) To provide a forum for intergovernmental consultations on national and international food aid programmes and policies, with particular reference to possibilities of securing improved co-ordination between bilateral and multilateral food aid;

(b) To review periodically general trends in food aid requirements and food aid availabilities;

(c) To recommend to Governments, through the World Food Council, improvements in food aid policies and programmes on such matters as programme priorities, composition of food aid commodities and other related subjects;

7. *Recommends further* that the Governing Board of the proposed International Fund for Agricultural Development should submit information periodically to the World Food Council on the programmes approved by the Board. The Board should take into consideration the advice and recommendations of the Council;

8. *Recommends* that the World Food Council should receive periodic reports from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, through the Economic and Social Council, on the world food trade situation, as well as on the effective progress to increase trade liberalization and access to international markets for food products exported by developing countries. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should take into consideration the advice and recommendations of the Council on these matters. The Council should also seek to arrange for the receipt of relevant information from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. In its recommendation on food trade matters, the Council should pay particular attention to the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference;

9. *Requests* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to initiate urgent steps, through its Commission on Fertilizers, for following up on Conference resolution III on fertilizers, and to take appropriate initiatives with respect to fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides, working in close co-operation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other agencies. The FAO Commission on Fertilizers should submit periodic reports to the World Food Council, and should be guided by the advice and recommendations of the Council;

10. *Requests* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to examine its ability to follow up on Conference resolution XVI entitled "Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture", with a view to recommending to the FAO Council, at its sixty-fifth session in 1975, any new arrangements which may be necessary with respect to its activities in this field, and to initiate whatever other arrangements may be necessary to facilitate global coverage as called for by the above-mentioned resolution, drawing upon the help in this regard of the Economic and Social Council, if necessary, as well as that of the International Wheat Council and other organizations. Periodic reports on progress should be submitted to the World Food Council;

11. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to consider on an urgent basis, and make recommendations on whether or not rearrangements in the United Nations system or new institutional bodies may be justified in order to ensure effective

follow-up on Conference resolution V on nutrition, examining nutritional activities within bodies such as the United Nations, the specialized agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme, and also giving appropriate attention to nutritional programmes being conducted on a bilateral basis;

12. *Requests* the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Technical Advisory Committee to assume leadership in following up on the research aspect of Conference resolution IV on research;

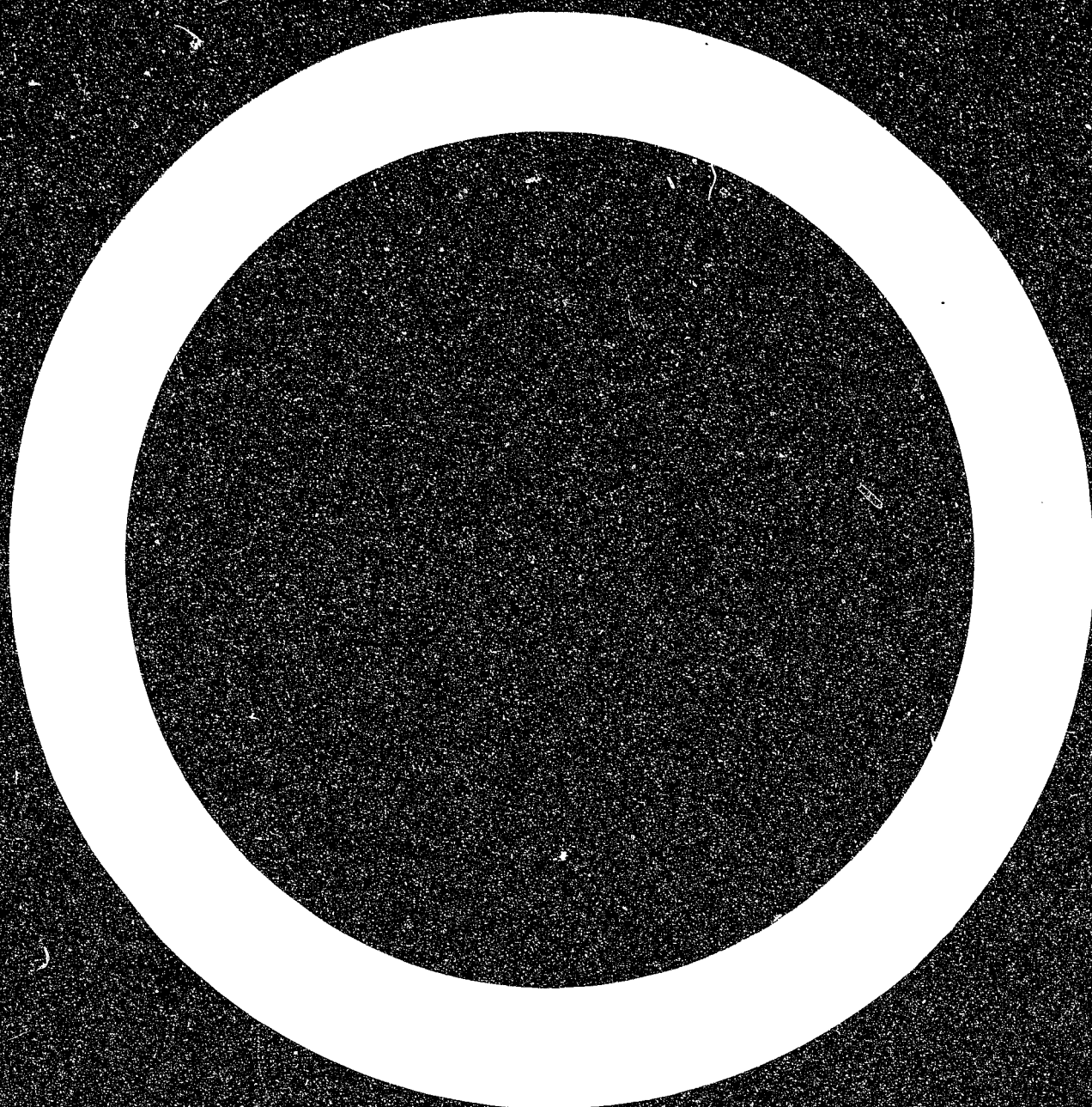
13. *Requests* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant international organizations and interested Governments to investigate the desirability of introducing an organizational approach, along the lines of the Consultative Group - Technical Advisory Committee for Agricultural Research, for other sectors such as extension services, agricultural credit and rural development;

14. *Requests* the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme to organize a Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in Developing Countries (CGFPI), to be composed of bilateral and multilateral donors and representatives of developing countries, chosen as in the case of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, to be staffed jointly by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, and invites this Consultative Group to keep the World Food Council informed of its activities to increase, co-ordinate, and improve the efficiency of financial and technical assistance to agricultural production in developing countries;

15. *Recommends that* the main functions of the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in Developing Countries should be (a) to encourage a larger flow of external resources for food production, (b) to improve the co-ordination of activities of different multilateral and bilateral donors providing financial and technical assistance for food production and (c) to ensure a more effective use of available resources;

16. *Requests* the Development Committee established by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund, in anticipation of the possibility that such measures as may be agreed to provide financial assistance to developing countries for procurement of food and necessary food production inputs, particularly fertilizers and pesticides, and for investment in food production and distribution systems, may not fulfil all needs, to keep under constant review the adequacy of the external resources available for these purposes, especially to the less advantaged countries, and to consider in association with the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in Developing Countries, new measures which may be necessary to achieve the required volume of resources transfers.





## Part Two

### BACKGROUND

#### Chapter III

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE CONFERENCE

1. The Fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Algiers from 5 to 9 September 1973 urged that, in the context of the serious food crisis confronting vast areas and populations of the world, an emergency joint conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) should be convened at ministerial level in order to formulate a programme of international co-operation to overcome the increasing shortage of food and other commodities and to maintain stable prices.

2. On 24 September 1973, the Secretary of State of the United States of America, in a statement to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session,<sup>1</sup> proposed that a world food conference be convened under United Nations auspices in 1974 to discuss ways to maintain adequate food supplies and to harness the efforts of all nations to meet the hunger and malnutrition resulting from natural disasters.

3. On 4 October 1973, the United States of America proposed the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, as an important and urgent matter, of an item entitled "Convocation of a world food conference under the auspices of the United Nations". The General Assembly decided at its 2152nd meeting to include this item in the agenda and to allocate it to the Second Committee. An item entitled "World Food Conference" was also included in the agenda of the resumed fifty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Council.

4. At its 1885th meeting, on 18 October 1973, the Economic and Social Council decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session the convening of a world food conference in 1974 under the auspices of the United Nations and to invite the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to consider this question as a matter of priority and to submit their reports to the Economic and Social Council.

5. In response to that invitation, the FAO Conference gave the matter priority consideration at its seventeenth session.<sup>2</sup> It welcomed and supported the proposal for a world food conference in 1974 under the auspices of the United Nations. It advanced a number of suggestions regarding the possible scope

and organization of the world food conference and concluded that the principal task of the world food conference, on which most of its efforts should be focused, should be to bring about a commitment by the world community as a whole to undertake concrete action towards resolving the world food problem within the wider context of development problems. It authorized the Director-General of FAO to enter into appropriate arrangements for FAO participation in the world food conference, should the General Assembly decide to convene it.

6. The FAO Conference also authorized the Director-General of FAO to draw on the Working Capital Fund of FAO, up to a maximum amount of \$500,000, to cover costs connected with the preparation for, or servicing of, the proposed world food conference.

7. The Governing Body of the International Labour Office discussed the question of convening a world food conference at its 191st session. It concluded that, though the grave problem of world food shortages did not, of course, fall directly within the competence of the International Labour Organization (ILO) any efforts to tackle the problem as a whole were nevertheless to be welcomed, because the current dangerous situation contained not only the risk of famine but also a threat to social peace. Even if the conference were not to discuss such social problems, the ILO was anxious to indicate its concern at the possible effects of changes in food policy on the worker.

8. On 11 December 1973, the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1831 (LV) took note with satisfaction of the report of the FAO Conference and of the report of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office at its 191st session. It also noted with appreciation the views of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD expressed at the seventeenth session of the FAO Conference, and also the offer of financial and administrative resources contained in the report of the FAO Conference.

9. In the same resolution, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution under which it would convene a World Food Conference under the auspices of the United Nations, and, subject to the adoption by the Assembly of that draft resolution, it established an inter-governmental preparatory committee for the conference.

10. The General Assembly, at its twenty-eighth session, adopted resolution 3180 (XXVIII) in which it: decided to convene a World Food Conference under the auspices of the United Nations for about two weeks, in November 1974, in Rome; recommended that the Conference be an intergovernmental conference at the ministerial level; entrusted the

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 2124th meeting.

<sup>2</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Seventeenth Session, Rome, 10-29 November 1973*, paras. 280-290.

Economic and Social Council with over-all responsibility for the Conference; requested the Secretary-General, after consultation with the Director-General of FAO and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, to appoint as soon as possible a Secretary-General of the Conference, and to set up a small Conference secretariat drawing particularly upon the expertise and competence of FAO, UNCTAD and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system; recommended that, in preparing for the Conference, proper account be taken of the recommendations of the seventeenth Conference of FAO and of the recommendations made by legislative bodies of other organizations in the United Nations system concerning the goals and objectives of the Conference, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its decision of 18 October 1973; invited all the competent organizations of the United Nations system to collaborate closely in the organization of the Conference; and accepted with appreciation the invitation of the Government of Italy to act as host to the Conference in Rome.

11. On 1 February 1974, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Mr. Sayed Ahmed Marei as Secretary-General of the Conference.

12. The Preparatory Committee of the World Food Conference, at its first session held at Headquarters in New York from 11 to 15 February 1974, considered the provisional agenda for the Conference, the Committee's documentation, the dates and place for its second session, and the dates and place of the Conference itself on which it made recommendations to the Council (E/5454).

13. The General Assembly, at its sixth special session held from 9 April to 2 May 1974, gave its attention to the problem of food and, in the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted by resolution 3202 (S-VI), it declared, in section IX, paragraph 2 that all the activities of the United Nations system to be undertaken under the Programme of Action as well as those already planned, such as the World Food Conference, should be so directed as to enable the special session of the General Assembly on development, called for under Assembly resolution 3172 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973, to make its full contribution to the establishment of the new international economic order.

14. On 15 May 1974, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1840 (LVI), took note of the report of the Preparatory Committee of the World Food Conference on its first session and decided to convene the World Food Conference from 5 to 16 November 1974.

15. In the same resolution, it requested the Secretary-General to invite:

- (a) All States to participate in the Conference;
- (b) The representatives of the liberation movements now recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States to participate in the Conference without the right to vote;
- (c) The interested organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to participate in the Conference;
- (d) Other interested intergovernmental organizations to be represented by the observers;
- (e) Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or with FAO to send observers to the Conference;
- (f) Other non-governmental organizations which might have a specific contribution to make to the work of the Conference to send observers to the Conference.

16. The Preparatory Committee of the Conference, at its second session held at Geneva from 4 to 8 June 1974, recommended draft provisional rules of procedure (E/CONF.65/2), a draft provisional agenda (E/CONF.65/1) and a proposed organization of work of the Conference for approval by the Economic and Social Council and adoption by the World Food Conference. It also considered a paper (E/CONF.65/PREP/6) providing a preliminary assessment of the world food situation, present and future, submitted by the Secretary-General of the Conference. It noted that this preliminary assessment would be revised and amplified on the basis of more recent data and in the light of the comments made by representatives at the second session.

17. The Preparatory Committee at its second session also recommended that the Economic and Social Council should convene a meeting of interested delegations at Rome from 16 to 20 September 1974, to consider certain specific proposals submitted or to be submitted by various delegations for possible consideration by the World Food Conference and to report thereon to the Preparatory Committee, at its third session.

18. In its decision 23 (LVII) of 19 July 1974, the Economic and Social Council approved the draft provisional rules of procedure, the draft provisional agenda and the proposed organization of work of the Conference, as reproduced in the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session, and decided to transmit them for adoption by the Conference. It also decided to convene a meeting of interested delegations at Rome from 16 to 20 September 1974 as recommended by the Preparatory Committee.

19. In its decision 24 (LVII) of 31 July 1974, the Council decided to consider the report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session, together with the report of the World Food Conference, as soon as the latter report became available.

20. The Preparatory Committee held its third session at Rome from 23 September to 4 October 1974.

21. It considered, first, the revised version (E/CONF./65/3) of the assessment of the world food situation which took into account both the observations and suggestions made at the Committee's second session, as well as the General Assembly's deliberations and conclusions on raw materials and development at its sixth special session, in so far as they were relevant to the objectives of the World Food Conference. Although some delegations felt that the document did not fully reflect their points of view, most representatives believed that the document and the substance of the main issues raised by it provided a reasonable basis for deliberation by the Conference on proposals for national and international action to solve the world food problem.

22. Secondly, the Preparatory Committee heard a report from the Chairman of the Meeting of interested delegations on specific proposals for possible consideration by the World Food Conference. The Chairman of the Meeting stated that the Meeting had agreed that an integrated approach should be adopted in solving the world food problem and that all the proposals referred to the Meeting merited consideration by the Preparatory Committee as they constituted important and complementary elements of such an approach. The Meeting had agreed that the provision of additional resources to increase food production, particularly in the developing countries, the need to improve food aid and the need to ensure greater food security constituted the main elements of a world food policy. It had further agreed that effective follow-up action was needed to achieve the objectives which were expected to emerge from the deliberations of the World Food Conference, and that effective follow-up action would require efficient and adequate institutions.

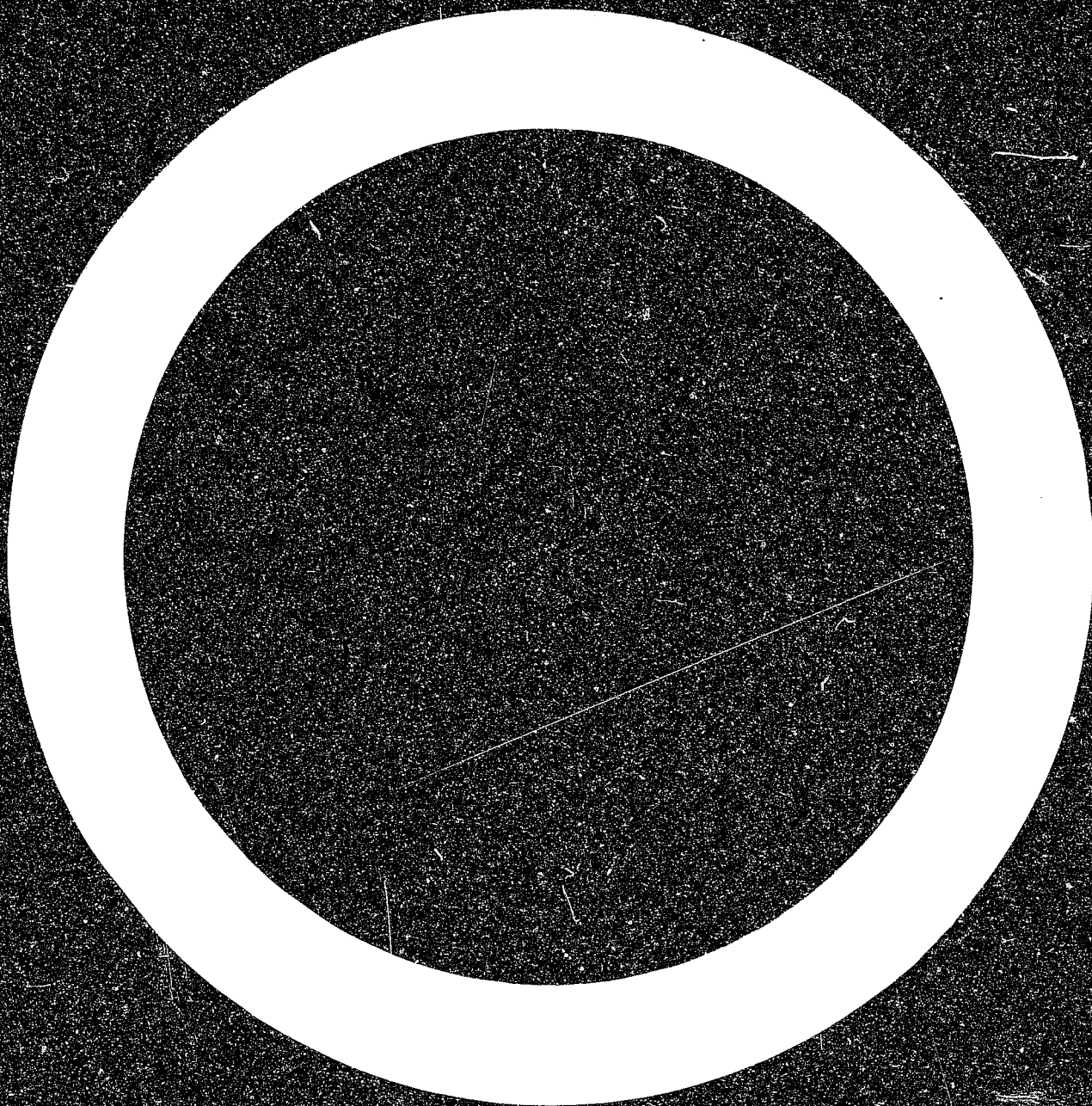


23. Thirdly, the Preparatory Committee had before it the Conference secretariat document entitled "The World Food Problem: proposals for national and international action" (E/CONF.65/4), and discussed these proposals under the following four main section headings: I. Measures for increasing food production in developing countries; II. Policies and programmes for improving nutrition; III. Action to strengthen world food security and IV. Trade, stability and adjustment. It also examined the arrangements for follow-up action proposed in the same document under section V. as well as other proposals for institutional arrangements and follow-up action that were before it.

24. As regards follow-up action, it accepted the views of the Meeting of interested delegations concerning the need for an integrated approach in tackling various aspects of the world food problem and the need for follow-up action to be effective, and it suggested two further basic elements as follows: (a) maximum efforts should be made to strengthen and reinforce existing institutions in this area, but at the same time Governments should keep an open mind on the establishment of new international machinery if there was strong justification for it; (b) high priority should be given to actions designed to increase

the flow of resources for increasing food production in developing countries. In the light of these principles, an examination was made of the various concrete proposals submitted to the Preparatory Committee by delegations or groups of delegations, or by the Conference secretariat; and, as a result of this examination, the Preparatory Committee transmitted to the World Food Conference the specific proposals which are listed in the annexes to the report on its third session (E/CONF.65/6).

25. The Preparatory Committee further agreed that the best way to present the conclusions of the Conference to the world would be to have: (a) a declaration designed to inform public opinion which would contain the reasons for convening the World Food Conference, the policy implications flowing from the current and prospective assessment of the world food situation and formulate the major points of decision adopted by the Conference for resolving the world food problem; (b) a set of specific resolutions on priority proposals for action on which clear-cut understandings and commitments could be reached and (c) a report of the Conference incorporating a series of recommendations of a technical or general nature addressed to national Governments, to international organizations and other appropriate fora.



## Part Three

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

#### Chapter IV

#### ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

26. The United Nations World Food Conference was held at Rome, Italy, from 5 to 16 November 1974.

##### A. Attendance

27. The representatives of the following States, invited in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1840 (LVI), took part in the Conference:

Afghanistan	Ethiopia	Malawi
Albania	Finland	Malaysia
Algeria	France	Maldives
Argentina	Gabon	Mali
Australia	Gambia	Malta
Austria	German Democratic Republic	Mauritania
Bahamas	Germany, Federal Republic of	Mauritius
Bahrain	Ghana	Mexico
Bangladesh	Greece	Mongolia
Barbados	Guatemala	Morocco
Belgium	Guinea	Nepal
Bhutan	Guyana	Netherlands
Bolivia	Holy See	New Zealand
Botswana	Honduras	Nicaragua
Brazil	Hungary	Niger
Bulgaria	Iceland	Nigeria
Burma	India	Norway
Burundi	Indonesia	Oman
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Iran	Pakistan
Canada	Iraq	Panama
Central African Republic	Ireland	Paraguay
Chad	Israel	Peru
Chile	Italy	Philippines
China	Ivory Coast	Poland
Colombia	Jamaica	Portugal
Congo	Japan	Qatar
Costa Rica	Jordan	Republic of Korea
Cuba	Kenya	Republic of Viet-Nam
Czechoslovakia	Khmer Republic	Romania
Dahomey	Kuwait	Rwanda
Democratic Yemen	Lebanon	Saudi Arabia
Denmark	Lesotho	Senegal
Dominican Republic	Liberia	Sierra Leone
Ecuador	Libyan Arab Republic	Somalia
Egypt	Luxembourg	Spain
El Salvador	Madagascar	Sri Lanka
		Sudan
		Swaziland

Sweden	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	United Republic of Tanzania
Switzerland	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	United States of America
Syrian Arab Republic	United Arab Emirates	Upper Volta
Thailand	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Uruguay
Togo		Venezuela
Trinidad and Tobago		Yemen
Tunisia		Yugoslavia
Turkey	United Republic of Cameroon	Zaire
Uganda		Zambia

28. Representatives of the following liberation movements, invited in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1840 (LVI), also took part in the Conference:

National Front for the Liberation of Angola  
Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO)  
Palestine Liberation Organization  
People's Liberation Movement of Angola  
Seychelles People's United Party  
Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU)

29. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was present at the Conference.

The United Nations Secretariat was represented as follows:

Regional economic commissions  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
United Nations Environment Programme  
United Nations Disaster Relief Office

The following United Nations bodies were represented:

United Nations Children's Fund  
United Nations Development Programme  
United Nations Fund for Population Activities  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
United Nations Institute for Training and Research  
World Food Programme (joint United Nations/FAO programme)

30. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
 World Health Organization  
 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
 International Monetary Fund  
 World Meteorological Organization

31. The Conference was also attended by representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

32. Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations participated in the Conference:

African Development Bank  
 Arab Organization for Agricultural Development  
 Asian Development Bank  
 Asian Productivity Organization  
 Commission of the European Communities  
 Commonwealth Secretariat  
 Council of Arab Economic Unity  
 Council of Europe  
 European Economic Community  
 International Olive Oil Council  
 International Wheat Council  
 Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration  
 Inter-American Development Bank  
 Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences  
 International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT)  
 International Seed Testing Association  
 Istituto Italo-Latino Americano  
 International Regional Organization of Plant Protection and Animal Health  
 League of Arab States  
 Organization of African Unity  
 Organization of American States  
 Organisation commune africaine, malgache et mauricienne (OCAM)  
 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development  
 Parlement Européen  
 Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration  
 South Pacific Commission

Representatives of 161 international and national non-governmental organizations invited to the Conference also participated.

## **B. Opening of the Conference and election of the President**

33. The Conference was opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In his statement, the Secretary-General thanked the Preparatory Committee, the Secretary-General of the Conference, the Director-General of FAO and their staffs for their tireless efforts in the preparation of the Conference. He expressed particular gratitude on behalf of the United Nations for the active assistance and co-operation of the Italian Government throughout the preparations for the Conference. The World Food Conference was the last of the great conferences and debates that had made 1974 a year of unprecedented United Nations activity in the economic field. Food was not only the major economic and social problem faced by the international community in the present difficult period of perplexity and change, but it was without question the most immediately important. The Conference had it in its power to render an immediate service to humanity, both now and in the future.

34. The situation that was now being faced was indeed urgent. However, while those perils were real enough, they formed only one part of the Conference's concern. Less dramatic than actual starvation, but perhaps for that reason even more insidious, were the tragic effects of prolonged malnutrition. That was a situation which could not be permitted to continue.

35. It was difficult to review the sequence of events that had led to the current food crisis without being dismayed by the lack of foresight and common interest shown by individuals, Governments and the international community. One conspicuous exception had been FAO, whose warnings had been clear and whose Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development, had it been followed, could have avoided some of the worse aspects of the current situation. There had been a general failure to meet the target of a 4 per cent annual increase in over-all agricultural production called for in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2626 (XXV). As a consequence, many developing countries had become heavy importers of food. Together with the higher prices that had to be paid for other imports, including fuel, fertilizer and other agricultural needs, that was one of the reasons for the current severe drain on the foreign exchange reserves of many developing countries. It was to assist the countries most severely affected that the United Nations Emergency Operation had been established, under General Assembly resolution 3202 (S-VI), and it was hoped that, in committing those funds, high priority could be given to the financing of imports of food and fertilizers.

36. It was also clear, however, that such emergency programmes, important though they were, did not provide the answer to the problem of how to attain global medium- and long-term food sufficiency. If enough food were to be produced to keep up with population growth, if some improvements in living standards were to be achieved for the most underprivileged, and if adequate security stocks were to be established and maintained, it was necessary to begin immediately to work for an expansion of food production on a scale never before undertaken or even planned. Food production would have to more than double by the end of the century to provide improved nutrition for those who needed it most. Such a programme, which was essential in order to carry out the international community's responsibilities to present and future generations, would require an unprecedented effort of international co-operation. It was the task of the World Food Conference to determine how that could be achieved, but already there were certain incontestable essentials. The developing countries would have to reassess their planning priorities to ensure that they were making adequate provision to meet required food production targets. The industrial nations would have to be prepared to assist in massive transfers of capital and technology, including fertilizers and pesticides.

37. The Secretary-General of the United Nations then reviewed the proposals for national and international action before the Conference. He wished to emphasize that, in his judgement, it was of crucial importance to attain the following objectives: a balance between the rate of increase in a nation's population and its increased production of food; increased food production in the developing countries through national action; maximum assistance by the international community and, particularly, development assistance for agriculture, increased production of fertilizers and pesticides, and the strengthening and expansion of research facilities. Such ambitious goals, if they were to be met, would require efficient international machinery, and representatives might wish to consider whether existing institutions should be reshaped and

strengthened or whether new ones would be needed. While it was important to analyse problems, it was now necessary to enter the realm of action. The Conference should provide concrete proposals for national and international action to meet the immediate short-term problems that would be faced over the next two years, and should plan ahead for meeting the difficulties of the mid-term period between 1976 and 1980 and for the decade of the 1980s. It should also recognize the overriding need for the creation of international monitoring procedures to ensure that the world did not drift into crises without understanding or warning.

38. In conclusion, he stressed that the world possessed the means to produce substantially more food. Although the Nation-State must remain the unit for putting the necessary policies into effect, the policies must form part of a coherent, efficient and equitable global strategy. The collective means to do that was available through the United Nations, and he believed that there was now the political will to do it. The question of food could not be considered in isolation, and constituted only one part of the complex of economic and political problems confronting mankind today. But failure to resolve that problem, both in the immediate and longer term, would be calamitous for all the plans and aspirations for a more equitable and advanced world society. Although the situation was grave, he believed that mankind was standing on the threshold of significant forward action in his struggle to overcome hunger, and it was in that spirit that he wished the Conference all success in its critically important work.

39. At the same meeting, the Conference heard an address by His Excellency Mr. Giovanni Leone, President of Italy. He extended a cordial welcome to the Conference and expressed his appreciation that Rome had been offered the privilege of acting as its host. The Conference provided the occasion for initiating a constructive dialogue between countries that, in spite of their different accomplishments, were united in the effort to defeat the spectre of hunger. It was significant that the Conference was being held after the sixth special session of the General Assembly and the World Population Conference. Those important international meetings reflected the increasingly influential role of the United Nations in establishing a new world equilibrium for the achievement of peace among peoples.

40. The tasks before the Conference were difficult and urgent, since it was being held in a general context characterized by profound imbalances in the individual economies of the world and in their mutual relations. The problems could not be faced within a merely technical perspective, but must be seen within a political context requiring concrete measures for providing the poorest populations with the food they needed. The solution of problems of such great complexity provided the opportunity to establish new and closer co-operation between countries, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

41. Mr. Leone said that Italy had always followed such a policy, believing that only close links of human solidarity could make it possible some day to reach a more just distribution of food in order to adapt the supply to the needs of an ever-increasing population. The search for solutions to the serious problems of food supply should not be independent from efforts to solve the other economic problems facing the world. The solution of the food supply problems, however, would itself greatly alleviate the economic situation, in view of the close interdependence of the destinies of all countries of the world. It was with this belief that he expressed his sincere wishes for a fruitful Conference. He trusted that the results of the Conference would mark it as a historic point of reference and a guarantee of life and peace for present and future generations.

42. The Conference then elected by acclamation His Excellency Mr. Giuseppe Medici (Italy) as President of the Conference. The President, in his address to the Conference, said that it had kindled great hopes among all peoples of the world. The scarcity of food claimed the most serious attention, especially because the massive increase of population still continued to an alarming degree. The really serious obstacles were not of a technical nature but political and social. A fresh approach to the problem was required, and a national and international determination to utilize effectively the great progress of science and technology. There could be no lasting peace when profound economic and social injustices prevailed.

43. The President said that the World Food Conference was beginning in a difficult period of history but also in a period of great expectations. New peoples had entered the international community bringing with them the impetus of a generous creative spirit. Others were prepared to put their rich heritage of experience at the disposal of all. Only by intensifying the co-operation between peoples could it be possible to alleviate the sufferings of humanity and smooth the way for civilized progress. The peoples of the world expected the Conference to formulate adequate proposals for achieving increased agricultural production, for improving the quality of diet, and for developing trade in food throughout the world. He concluded by expressing the hope that the Conference would not lack the constructive spirit and the desire for co-operation that were necessary to attain its goals.

44. At the same meeting, the Conference heard an address by the Secretary-General of the Conference who said that the Conference offered a rare opportunity to serve a cause that both in its human appeal and its social urgency seemed to transcend the claims of all other contemporary problems.

45. The Conference was meeting in the shadow of a grave world crisis. Millions of people in the poorer regions, especially Asia and Africa, were faced with the threat of starvation. Since the General Assembly convened the Conference in December 1973, the food crisis had been aggravated by other disruptive factors, including runaway inflation, the energy crisis, unemployment and monetary instability, which had shaken the foundations of even affluent nations and spread despair among the poorer nations. But the deeper causes of the world food problem lay in rural poverty and in traditional, as opposed to modern, agriculture in the developing countries. The necessary changes would take time and could not be made without help from the developed countries.

46. International co-operation in agriculture had a long history, starting with the establishment of the International Institute of Agriculture in 1905. Much valuable and pioneering work had been done by FAO in all the related fields of agriculture and nutrition, in which it was the leading international agency. The preparatory work for the Conference had been carried out in close collaboration with the United Nations, FAO, UNCTAD and other agencies, and he had held intensive consultations with a number of Governments. All the past efforts in the fields of agriculture and nutrition had to be pieced together and given a new thrust to make an impact on the current situation and lay the foundation for a better future.

47. The three sessions of the Preparatory Committee and the Meeting of interested delegations that preceded the third session had brought general agreement on the nature and magnitude of the food problem that faced mankind in the future and on the broad elements of a strategy to resolve the problem. It was now for the Conference to provide the means and the policy support for implementing this strategy. The strategy rested on three main pillars: increasing food production in the developing countries, improving consumption and

distribution of food, and establishing a better system of food security. The three pillars taken together could provide the basis for the formulation and evolution of a world food policy. The objectives were not entirely new, but what was perhaps new was the emphasis on an integrated package approach with clearly defined priorities.

48. With regard to the first point, on increasing food production in the developing countries, it was well to pause and explore the obstacles to agricultural development in those countries which constricted their economic growth. The obstacles were, of course, many and varied, and different countries and regions had different approaches to bring about their removal. But the fundamental change that was required in all stagnant rural economies was to correct the situation mainly in two directions: first, by encouraging a far greater investment in the development of resources and secondly, by adopting appropriate technologies for modernizing agriculture, including the application of essential inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and credit. But that was not all that was required to bring about the agricultural revolution in the poor countries, which remained the long-term objective. It was essential also to mobilize the human resources which the developing countries had in abundance. Whether or not one agreed with the detailed targets and estimates as presented in the documents before the Conference, there could be no question that increased investment in agricultural modernization, food production and rural development was the crux of the world food problem. Without an appreciable increase in food production, it would not be possible to have the desired world food policy. It was, therefore, of the utmost importance that the Governments of food-deficient countries should place their first priority on increasing their food production. That was the first step towards solving their food problem.

49. Expansion in food aid programmes for a number of years to enable the developing countries to meet their food requirements would be essential for development. It was fitting, in that regard, to talk of "food aid for development" rather than the present "aid motivated by charity". If food aid were to achieve its purpose, it must be linked with the execution of national agricultural development programmes by the recipient countries. The effects of food aid were not confined to development; food aid also had a role to play in emergencies and in mitigating food shortages. But it was essential to avoid situations in which food was used as an instrument of foreign policy; the most crying need of the era was to de-politicize food aid and to rehumanize it.

50. With regard to food security, several Governments seemed to be displaying a particular interest in, and support for, the International Undertaking on World Food Security sponsored<sup>1</sup> by FAO. Obviously, food security was a vastly complicated subject and negotiations among the major cereal exporting and marketing countries on a more precise and organized scheme of reserves, stocks and prices would be necessary if the Undertaking was to prove an effective instrument of food security. Nevertheless, a good start had been made, and he hoped that the Conference would express itself in favour of certain specific aims which would strengthen the basis of the Undertaking and carry it forward to its declared goals. Closely related to the problems of world food security were the questions of trade, stability and adjustment. Item 9 (d)<sup>4</sup> of the

provisional agenda related to specific objectives and measures in the area of international trade and adjustment which were relevant to the food problem, including measures towards stabilization, and expansion of markets for exports from developing countries. The developed countries had always looked upon fair trade opportunities as an important factor in their development strategy, but the progress that had been made so far in removing obstacles to trade was very little. That constituted a serious constraint on the economic progress of the developing countries.

51. Referring to follow-up action, he said that, at its third session, the Preparatory Committee had discussed the proposals and had recognized the need for an over-all and high-level mechanism to provide integrated and continuing attention for the successful direction, co-ordination and implementation of policies and programmes concerning food production, nutrition and food security recommended by the World Food Conference. Without effective follow-up, the efforts of the Conference would be in vain and its resolutions meaningless. The discussions in the Preparatory Committee had clearly indicated that the proposed mechanism should not duplicate the work of existing international institutions. It should have the specific functions that were indispensable for carrying out its task effectively, and should be able to lead the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States in an effective manner. He believed that there was also a need for additional measures to improve arrangements for agricultural project preparation, and to co-ordinate the activities of the different bilateral and multilateral donors providing financial and technical assistance to agriculture, without unduly expanding the international bureaucracy.

52. The Secretary-General of the Conference concluded by saying that it was now for the Conference to agree on specific recommendations and measures. The Conference was considering the problems of worsening food shortages that were threatening large parts of the planet with starvation. It was for the Conference to answer the basic question of whether the international community could avert that ominous disaster and secure man's capacity to feed himself. The goals before the Conference could not be reached without more meaningful co-operation between the world's fortunate one third and unhappy two thirds. The current difficulties facing the rich countries could not be ignored, but the rich were still very rich and held the key to many doors which could lead to progress and stability. The world had arrived at a new watershed of history, and the future of the human species depended on the road it took henceforward. The Conference had lit a lamp of hope, and the whole world saw in it the possible opening of a new era of co-operation and sharing. He expressed his fervent hope that the message that would go out from the Conference to the four corners of the world would be a positive and historic one.

### C. Adoption of the rules of procedure

53. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 5 November 1974, the Conference adopted the provisional rules of procedure approved by the Economic and Social Council (E/CONF.65/2) on the understanding that a decision would be taken in due course regarding the number of vice-presidents of the Conference, the election of which should be provided for in rule 6. At its 4th meeting, on 6 November 1974, the Conference decided that rule 6 of the rules of procedure should provide for the election of 18 vice-presidents.

<sup>1</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization, of the United Nations, *Report of the Council of FAO, Sixty-Fourth Session, 18-19 November 1974, resolution 1/64*.

<sup>4</sup> Item 9 (d) became item 9 (e) after the adoption of a revised agenda.



#### D. Adoption of the agenda

54. The Conference, at its 1st plenary meeting, decided to revise the provisional agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council (E/CONF.65/1) by the insertion in item 9 of a new subparagraph (b) which read as follows:

"Measures for increasing food production in developed countries". The Conference then adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Conference and election of the President
2. Adoption of the rules of procedure
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Establishment of committees and other sessional bodies
5. Election of the officers other than the President
6. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
  - (a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee
  - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee
7. General debate
8. Assessment of the world food situation based on the reports of the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Preparatory Committee
9. National and international programmes of action:
  - (a) Measures for increasing food production in developing countries within the wider framework of development
  - (b) Measures for increasing food production in developed countries
  - (c) Policies and programmes for improving consumption patterns in all countries, and aiming at ensuring adequate availability of food in developing countries, particularly to vulnerable groups
  - (d) The strengthening of world food security through measures including *inter alia* a better early warning and food information system, more effective national and international stock-holding policies and improved arrangements for emergency relief and food aid
  - (e) Specific objectives and measures in the area of international trade and adjustment which are relevant to the food problems, including measures towards stabilization, and expansion of markets for exports from developing countries
  - (f) Arrangements for follow-up action, including appropriate operational machinery on recommendations or resolutions of the Conference
10. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

#### E. Constitution of sessional bodies

55. In accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure, the Conference, at its 1st plenary meeting, on 5 November 1974, established a Credentials Committee composed of the following States: Belgium, Costa Rica, Philippines, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela and Zambia.

56. At the same meeting, the Conference established three main committees of the whole to study the substantive items of its agenda. It also decided upon the following allocation of work:

Plenary:	Items 1 to 6 and item 10 and item 7 (General debate)
First Committee:	Items 9(a), (b) and (c)
Second Committee:	Item 9(d)
Third committee:	Item 9(e)

The Conference agreed that the Committees should, in the consideration of their items, bear in mind also item 8 entitled "Assessment of the world food situation based on the reports of

the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Preparatory Committee".

57. The Conference also decided on the allocation of the proposals transmitted to the Conference by the Preparatory Committee in the report on its third session (E/CONF.65/6). For the proposals allocated to each Committee, see the reports of the Committees in chapter VI. It was decided that questions regarding follow-up action considered by the Committees, item 9 (f), be referred to the Second Committee in order to ensure consistency in the decisions of the Conference on such matters.

#### F. Election of officers other than the President

58. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 6 November 1974, the Conference elected 18 Vice-Presidents from the following States: Algeria, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Cuba, Ghana, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Nigeria, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Venezuela.

59. It also elected Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khan (Pakistan) as Rapporteur-General.

60. The Conference also elected the following officers of Committees:

##### First Committee

Chairman:	Mr. S. A. Jabati (Sierra Leone)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. Alfredo Saco Miró Quesada (Peru) Mr. Siegfried Münch (German Democratic Republic)
Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur:	Mr. Abu Hakim (India)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Ulf Hjertsonsson (Sweden)

##### Second Committee

Chairman:	Mr. Roy D. Morey (United States of America)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. Mircea Zara (Romania) Mr. W. S. M. Ndow (Gambia) Mr. Asoka Jayasinha (Sri Lanka)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Santiago Fonseca (Colombia)

##### Third Committee

Chairman:	Mr. Conrado Beckmann (Argentina)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. Mohamed Brick (Morocco) Mr. A. Regnier (Belgium) Mr. Ljubisa Milanović (Yugoslavia)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Ivailo Dimitrov (Bulgaria)

#### G. Payment of travel costs and other related expenses to representatives of national liberation movements

61. At the 13th plenary meeting, on 15 November 1974, the representative of Zambia introduced a draft resolution entitled "Payment of travel costs and other related expenses to representatives of national liberation movements", which was sponsored by his own delegation and that of the United Republic of Tanzania. The Conference adopted the draft resolution without a vote. (For the text, see part one, chapter II, resolution XX).

62. The representatives of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands said that, if a vote had

been taken, they would have abstained since the resolution raised legal and political issues which had not yet been solved.

63. The representative of Israel said that he was strongly opposed to the decision in the operative paragraph of the

resolution in so far as it might apply to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

64. The representative of Romania said that he strongly supported the resolution.



## Chapter V

### SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

#### A. Addressees and messages to the Conference

65. At its 11th plenary meeting on 11 November 1974, the Conference heard an address by His Excellency Mr. Luis Echeverría Álvarez, President of Mexico, who stated that the present chaotic condition of markets, prices and raw materials could not be attributed to the third world. It had been determined and brought about by the inability of the great industrial nations to submit their production model to a system of international solidarity, shared development and interdependence based on equity and justice. As a contribution to the solution of the food problem, Mexico had proposed ' the creation of a world food and agricultural research bank and a world food plan to designate crop areas, make collective action possible, establish bases for regulating use of fertilizers, seeds and water, and guide agricultural education towards new crops and techniques of protein development.

66. Mr. Echeverría said that hunger or soil erosion in the world could not be corrected without changing the traditional structures of the contemporary power system. Transnational corporations and their technical agents in the international raw materials stock markets must not be the ones to regulate world trade supply and demand. Governments should regain the initiative from transnational corporations and should engage in Government-to-Government purchasing to eliminate intermediaries. A new institution, bank or fund, with contributions from all developed and developing countries and of a truly democratic nature, had to be created. The Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States proposed by Mexico in the United Nations could serve as the basis for solving problems arising from the alarming increase in prices. It would be a mistake for developing countries to accept blindly as development models the present patterns in industrialized countries; they should, instead, choose their own paths. Specifically, the enormous waste of resources and technology inherent in the armaments race, which contrasted cruelly with the hunger of much of the world, should be halted.

67. Messages from H.E. Mr. Houari Boumédiène, President of the Revolutionary Council and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Algeria, H.E. Mr. Joaquín Balaguer, President of the Dominican Republic, H.E. Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu, President of Romania, H.E. Mr. Carlos Andrés Pérez, President of Venezuela, and H.E. Mr. Josip Broz Tito, President of Yugoslavia, were read out to the Conference.

68. At its 2nd plenary meeting on 5 November 1974, the Conference heard an address by the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Mr. Henry A. Kissinger. The substance of Mr. Kissinger's address has been incorporated in the sections of the summary of the general debate which follow below.

#### B. General approach

69. The general debate was conducted in 11 plenary meetings from 5 to 13 November 1974. The Conference was addressed by the representatives of 104 States, as well as by liberation movements, United Nations bodies, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. All expressed their gratitude to President Giovanni Leone and to the Government and people of the Republic of Italy, and their congratulations to the President and the Secretary-General of the Conference.

70. The debate reflected the serious concern that the eternal problem of famine and hunger, which had haunted men and nations throughout history, had now assumed an unprecedented scale and urgency, and that it could only be dealt with by concerted world-wide action. Nearly 30 years ago, John Boyd Orr, speaking as the first Director-General of FAO, had for the first time evoked the idea of "a great world food scheme, which will bring freedom from want of food to all men". Yet, a whole generation later, the world food problem was not only unsolved but was worsening, and there were more people in want of food than at any time since then.

71. There was agreement with the conclusion of the Preparatory Committee at its third session that the revised assessment of the world food situation, present and future, contained in document E/CONF.65/3, provided a reasonable basis for deliberation by the Conference on the action that was required to solve the world food problem. The Conference noted from the up-to-date information on the world food situation in mid-October presented in document E/CONF.65/11 that the situation had worsened still further in recent months. It regarded the proposals for national and international action set forth in document E/CONF.65/4, together with the comments of the Preparatory Committee at its third session and the other specific proposals appended to its report, as a valuable starting point for its discussions of concrete action to overcome the world food problem.

72. The Conference had been convened because of the immediate food crisis, and many speakers called for urgent action on a short-term basis to deal with this situation. But there was agreement that the main objective of the Conference must be to obtain a commitment to longer-term action in order to prevent such a crisis from ever occurring again. Without such action, each new crisis was likely to be worse than the last. The world could never again afford to lapse back into complacent relief such as had greeted the green revolution when it had followed the earlier food crisis of the mid-1960s.

73. Many speakers stressed that, in considering longer-term action, the Conference should constantly bear in mind that the food problem was not a problem of agriculture alone. The main cause of undernutrition and malnutrition was poverty, and the main remedy for poverty was economic and social development. What was needed was a world food policy,

<sup>1</sup> E/CONF. 65/6, annex I.

including nutrition, as an integral part of a world development policy, and a commitment to immediate action by the Conference collectively and by nations separately. The Conference provided the opportunity to build up a world food policy in the context of a wider world development policy which would, in the belief of many speakers, grow out of the work already done or under way on the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and on the New International Economic Order.

74. During the course of the debate many speakers detailed the food and agricultural problems faced in their own countries. Many also indicated specific action their Governments had taken or were proposing to take either on a national basis or in support of international initiatives. Many specific proposals for national and international action and for the institutional arrangements required for adequate follow-up also emerged from the debate, and were referred for discussion in more detail to the three main Committees of the Conference.

75. While the general debate reflected serious concern at the magnitude and complexity of the problems that were faced, there was widespread agreement that the necessary remedies were within man's power. The Conference could give the world new concepts for planning remedial actions and new resources for implementing them. It could lead to a new and overdue priority being given to food in national development plans, and could step up the pace at which international co-operation was growing in the food and agricultural sector. Above all, it could crystallize the political will of all Governments and all peoples to seek, through collaboration and not through confrontation, a final victory in the greatest and oldest battle of mankind. The collective response would have an important influence on the nature of the world inherited by future generations. As the nations moved towards the next century, they must begin to fashion a global conception. The challenge before the Conference was to translate needs into programmes and programmes into results. There was no time to lose.

### C. The world food problem

76. There was agreement with the assessment of the world food situation and the nature and magnitude of the world food problems presented in document E/CONF.65/3 and up-dated in document E/CONF.65/11. Where speakers differed from the assessment was mainly in respect of the relative importance assigned to the principal factors which had precipitated the current food crisis, and the uncertainty inherent in making quantitative forecasts.

77. The crisis had become particularly acute in 1972 when, as a result of widespread bad weather, world food production had fallen slightly for the first time since the Second World War. The consequent increase in import demand, especially for staple cereals, had seriously depleted the stocks of the main exporting countries. World prices for most agricultural commodities had risen steeply, and food prices had been a major factor in a rapid inflation of retail prices that had caused severe hardship for the poorest people and even brought difficulties in the affluent countries.

78. Thus, world food supplies in the 1973 crop season had depended precariously on the outcome of the current year's harvests and to a large degree on the weather. Most countries had made special efforts to increase food production in 1973 and any remaining restrictions on production had been removed. Fortunately the weather had in most regions been favourable for agriculture and harvests had been large. But the

increase in food production in 1973, although substantial, was not sufficient to prevent a further depletion of cereal stocks, or to bring much alleviation in the continuing rise in prices. Moreover, the difficulties in the agriculture sector were by now accompanied by many wider problems, including inflation, worsening unemployment, monetary problems, the energy crisis, fears of world-wide recession, and a general atmosphere of uncertainty about the future.

79. In 1974, therefore, world food supplies were again almost entirely dependent, for the second year in succession, on the current harvests. Even if the weather had been optimal in 1974, there were additional difficulties in maximizing food production as a result of the worsening shortage and rising price of chemical fertilizers, the new shortage and high price of fuel and power for irrigation pumping and other agricultural purposes, an incipient serious shortage of pesticides, and the increased cost of transportation. There was a dual crisis - a shortage of food and a shortage of inputs, especially fertilizers. Some speakers, however, felt that the role of increased petroleum prices had been exaggerated as a cause both of the general inflation and of the difficulties in the agricultural sector.

80. Unfortunately, it was now clear that, although in 1974 there had been large harvests in most parts of Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Near East, earlier optimistic forecasts had been progressively scaled down in North America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the Far East, where the final results were not yet known, the monsoon had been late and erratic, causing serious droughts and floods in many areas. FAO's preliminary estimates indicated that world cereal production had declined in 1974 for the second time in three years, especially in North America, the main exporting region, and in South-East Asia, where the majority of the world's undernourished people were concentrated. Although livestock production had made a substantial recovery in 1974, it had not contributed to food supplies in the areas of greatest shortage.

81. There had thus been a further worsening in the world food situation in recent months. Contrary to earlier expectations, 1974 had failed to bring the good harvests needed for the replenishment of stocks and the re-establishment of a reasonable degree of security in world food supplies. The developing countries continued to face a situation of shortage and uncertainty. Stocks had been still further depleted and prices had begun to climb again. For the third successive year, world food supplies in 1975 were dangerously dependent on a single year's production. Even in the best of circumstances, it would be at least two or three years before stocks could be built up enough to provide any real security.

82. In the meantime, many developing countries faced extremely difficult situations. Although many of them had benefited from the general rise in the price of their exports, these benefits had been vastly outweighed by the need to pay much higher prices for their essential imports of food, fertilizers, fuel, and other raw materials and manufactures. Partly because of the higher prices, the availability of food aid on concessional terms had been reduced just when it was most needed. Many speakers therefore stressed the importance of immediate, emergency measures to assist the countries most seriously affected by the recent situation. Increased support was needed for the United Nations Emergency Operation and for FAO's International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. Several speakers also commended the initiative of the Director-General of FAO in proposing that the main cereal exporting countries should, immediately, while supplies were still available, set aside sufficient quantities to meet the potential needs of the hardest-hit countries.

83. However, while stressing the gravity of the immediate food crisis, most speakers were agreed that this was superim-

posed on a less dramatic but equally serious long-standing unsatisfactory situation in the world's food and agricultural sector. The main task of the Conference was to agree upon and to assure the implementation of the measures needed to overcome these longer-term problems.

84. At the world level and in the developing countries as a whole, food production had on the average kept up with the unprecedented population growth of the past two decades. This was already a considerable achievement. However, in many individual developing countries, including some of the most heavily populated ones, food production had failed to match population growth, and in even more countries it had not kept up with the total increase in domestic demand for food. From being net exporters of cereals before the Second World War, the developing countries as a whole had during the 1950s become substantial net importers. Even before the widespread poor harvests of the last few years, the food imports of many developing countries had reached burdensome proportions, although in a few cases there had been some temporary easing in the situation during the years of generally good harvests from 1967 to 1970.

85. In addition to the growing dependence of the developing countries on the developed countries for their food supplies, another major imbalance in the world food situation was represented by the high proportion of world grain production that was not used directly for human consumption but for the production of livestock products consumed largely in the affluent countries. Several speakers stated that a change in this situation would be a major step towards a more equitable distribution of the available food supplies. It was also noted that consumption in the developed countries, especially of livestock products, was excessive in both absolute and dietary terms, and that these countries should also reduce waste. It was noted in this connexion that the increase in the feeding of grain to livestock had recently slowed down as a result of price relations. It was also suggested that more fish-meal and oil could be used for direct human consumption instead of livestock feeding.

86. Some speakers noted that these growing imbalances in the world food supply situation had come on top of a long-standing, chronic state of hunger and malnutrition among large parts of the populations of the developing countries. Many speakers expressed their concern at the dimensions of hunger and malnutrition in the world as revealed by FAO's latest estimates. These indicated that at least 460 million people now suffered from a severe degree of protein-energy malnutrition, and that almost half of these were young children. In some countries more than half of the deaths of children under five years of age were directly or indirectly attributable to malnutrition. In addition many millions of people still suffered from disabling diseases caused by a deficiency of specific nutrients such as vitamin A and iron.

87. Projections of the future course of events differed according to the assumptions made. It was generally agreed, however, that the situation was bound to get considerably worse in the future unless appropriate action was begun immediately. The latest demand projections of FAO indicated that the food import requirements of the developing countries would rise steadily to unmanageable proportions if the increase in their food production were not substantially accelerated over the rates achieved in the last decade or so. Even if the projected increase in the demand for food in the developing countries were met by a combination of accelerated increases in their own production, commercial imports and food aid, the number of people afflicted by protein-energy malnutrition would still continue to increase.

88. In discussing the causes of the long-standing unsatisfactory food situation in the developing countries, many speakers referred to the urgent need of these countries for adequate supplies of capital and of fertilizers and other modern inputs. It was pointed out that no solution to the substantial world food problem could be found without a transfer of technology and capital to the developing countries. Several speakers, on the other hand, felt that the increasingly capital-intensive agricultural production techniques that were being introduced in many developing countries dangerously increased their already substantial dependence on the developed countries and reduced their self-reliance. Many speakers emphasized the importance of improving extension, training and credit services, especially for small farmers, and of changing outmoded rural institutional structures, particularly regarding land tenure, in order to provide the opportunity and the incentive for the vast mass of rural people to increase their production and to participate more fully in the process of development both as contributors and beneficiaries. The tendency to neglect the important role played by women in food and agricultural production, and in rural society as a whole, was criticized by several speakers. Many referred to the effect on nutrition and on general levels of living of the worsening unemployment and under-employment in most developing countries. Several speakers considered that a main obstacle to improving the food situation in developing countries lay in the present discriminatory world trade arrangements, which operated in favour of developed countries. It was stated that it was not sufficient to increase agricultural production, but it was also necessary to increase trade in agricultural products and to produce surpluses that would contribute to stability.

89. Some speakers referred to difficulties caused by the current rapid population growth in the developing countries, and mentioned the relevant conclusions of the recent World Population Conference that had been transmitted to the World Food Conference in document E/CONF.65/9.<sup>6</sup> Although the period of the future on which the World Food Conference was focusing mainly concerned the next 10 years or so, during which time the rate of population growth was virtually predetermined, action should be undertaken now to ensure that population growth was reduced in the more distant future and the size of the task for world food production proportionately reduced. Although it was clear that the food needs entailed by inevitable population growth must be met, it was equally clear that population could not indefinitely continue to double every generation, and that at some point the earth's capacity to sustain human life would inevitably be overstretched if present trends continued. Other speakers, however, believed that the role of rapid population growth in causing or exacerbating the world food problem had been exaggerated and could divert attention from the real solution to the problem. Several speakers felt that the prime causes of the food problem, as well as of most other international problems, lay in political factors such as capitalist and colonialist domination and exploitation, the egoism of nations, the confrontations between the superpowers, and unnecessary expenditure on armaments. Some speakers said that past colonial rule had distorted the pattern of agricultural production towards too great an emphasis on export crops, so that food crops had been neglected and left to the small subsistence farmer. Several speakers believed that the solution of the food problem depended primarily on universal peace and security and the adoption of concrete measures for disarmament.

<sup>6</sup> *Report of the United Nations World Population Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 75. XIII. 3).

#### D. Increasing food production in developing and developed countries

90. While many speakers were urgently concerned with the need for emergency measures to meet the immediate food crisis, the main emphasis of the general debate was on the national and international action required to overcome longer-term problems. Many speakers stressed the need to achieve a better distribution of available food supplies, both between and within countries. However, there was general agreement that the first priority for the next decade must be a substantial and sustained acceleration in the increase in food production, in order to meet the increase in demand expected from population growth and rising incomes, to rebuild stocks to safe levels, and to provide for some improvements in nutrition over and above those that would come from meeting the increase in effective market demand.

91. It was agreed that increased food production in the developed countries would have a crucial role during the next few years before it was possible to build up sufficient momentum in the increase in production in the needy, developing countries themselves. Increased production in developed countries would also have an important role in balancing supply and demand in the longer run. Some speakers warned, however, against the encouragement of uneconomic production in these countries. It was suggested that the efforts to increase production in developed countries should be undertaken in a concerted way, in order to work towards an economic utilization of resources at the world level and thus ensure that the special effort in developed countries went hand in hand with the promotion of production in developing countries. One speaker indicated that immediately after the Conference his Government proposed to convene an export planning group of major exporters to shape a concrete and co-ordinated programme for the necessary increase in production.

92. The general debate indicated full agreement on the urgent need for a massive acceleration in the increase in food production in the developing countries, which had, in general, fallen woefully short of the target of a 4 per cent annual average increase called for in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and had in most cases been below the goals specified in national development plans.

93. There was general agreement that a huge increase in investment in the agricultural sector would be required in order to achieve the necessary expansion of food production in the developing countries. Most of the extra effort must obviously be undertaken by these countries themselves. A first need was to give due priority to food and agriculture in national development plans, although it was pointed out that if agriculture had been neglected in the past it was because of a lack not of political will but of resources. Many speakers stressed the need for greater self-reliance in the developing countries. However, it was agreed that increased foreign assistance was indispensable at the present stage of their development, particularly because agricultural modernization depended so heavily on the use of inputs that at present had to be imported mainly from abroad.

94. There was broad support for the estimate in document E/CONF.65/4 that foreign assistance for agriculture in the developing countries should be raised from the current level of about \$US 1,500 million to at least \$US 5,000 million a year by 1980. Many speakers deplored the failure of over-all development assistance to even approach the targets set out in the International Development Strategy for the Second United

Nations Development Decade. Several stressed the potential role of the newly-increased earnings of the petroleum-exporting countries, although speakers from these countries pointed out that they could not be regarded as wealthy in relation to their own development needs. It was suggested that assistance from both industrialized and petroleum-exporting countries should be determined on an equitable basis. Several speakers proposed a 10 per cent reduction in armaments expenditure in order to free the necessary funds for agricultural development. Several stressed that technical assistance should not be neglected in relation to financial and material assistance. It was suggested that the delays involved in obtaining funds from bilateral and multilateral donors should be reduced, and that, to that end, a major effort was needed in the preparation of projects and the approval of feasibility studies without needless loss of time.

95. Many speakers indicated the assistance their Governments were already providing for agriculture in the developing countries, and some announced specific increases in their assistance allocations and programmes. There was widespread support for the establishment of the Agricultural Development Fund proposed in document E/CONF.65/4. It was suggested by some that the World Bank, FAO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) should immediately form and convene this year a co-ordinating group for food production and investment, bringing together traditional and new donors, multilateral agencies and developing countries. Several speakers stressed the need to concentrate investment funds on strategic priority areas. The suggestion was made that aid should be on a sectoral rather than a product basis, and that a regional approach would be useful.

96. It was agreed that fertilizers constituted one of the main priority areas. Some suggested that fertilizer production was an ideal means by which the technology of the developed countries and the capital and raw materials of the petroleum producers might combine to serve the growing needs of developing countries, particularly on the basis of regional co-operation. It was suggested that international co-ordination of investment was needed in order to even out the fertilizer cycle. Many speakers emphasized the need for special arrangements to enable the developing countries to obtain adequate supplies of fertilizers and other inputs, including equipment and machinery in general, and assistance in paying for them. Several suggested that the FAO International Fertilizer Supply Scheme should be put on a longer-term basis and extended to cover pesticides. There was broad support for the proposed World Fertilizer Fund. It was suggested that the provision of fertilizers under such a scheme could be linked to the establishment of food storage facilities.

97. Many representatives also accorded high priority to research. Much more of the world's research effort should be devoted specifically to food production and related problems of the developing countries. It was proposed that, in addition to establishing new facilities, the resources for the eight international research centres should be doubled by 1980. Among other suggestions were those calling for the fuller use of national research centres and the establishment of a network of research centres in scientifically chosen climatic areas. The co-ordinating role of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research was commended. Reference was also made to a study on climate and food supply being undertaken by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and to a project to use advanced satellite techniques for surveying and forecasting important food crops.

98. The importance of reducing post-harvest losses of foods, through better processing, storage and distribution, was

stressed by several speakers. A number also referred to the important role of agro-industries, both for processing agricultural products and for the provision of essential inputs. Reference was made to the importance of environmental considerations in agricultural policy decisions and to the need to avoid erosion, deforestation and overgrazing. It was also important to make better use of energy in farming, to ensure that the transfer of technology paid full regard to local conditions, to seek more effective methods in the employment of fertilizers and pesticides and to limit their excessive use. Also stressed was the need to pay more attention to the improvement of traditional systems of agriculture that did not require massive investment, and to review whether any modifications in technology were required in the face of changing weather conditions, especially in arid lands. Many speakers laid special emphasis on the importance of irrigation and better use of water resources, and on the urgent need to expand the area under assured irrigation and scientific water management, particularly in view of the effects of weather on food supplies.

99. Several speakers, however, cautioned against taking a too exclusively technological approach to production problems that had mainly social and political causes. Long-term success on the food front would depend on the ability of Governments to face up to the need for social, structural and institutional change and to interweave the food production drive with a general strategy of development. It was necessary to identify more clearly what motivated farmers to produce more food in different countries, and to formulate comprehensive policies to provide them with the necessary incentives. In the view of some speakers, land reform and a social transformation of agriculture were highly important prerequisites for progress. Other factors touched on different speakers included the need for an integrated approach to rural development, price policies fair both to producers and consumers, crop insurance policies, co-operative farming, the role of co-operatives in agriculture, the need to make agriculture as attractive as the other sectors of the economy, the consolidation of rural communities in order to reduce infrastructure investment, farmer involvement in planning, the involvement of women and youth in decision-making, and the training of managers and administrators.

#### **E. Improving consumption and nutrition**

100. While it was urgent that more food be produced, the problem of its better distribution and of improving the nutrition of vulnerable and deprived groups, particularly young children and pregnant and nursing mothers, remained crucial. Even if the expected increase in demand for food in the developing countries could successfully be met, it was likely that the number of people suffering from severe protein-energy malnutrition would continue to rise. Many speakers therefore laid considerable stress on the urgent need for measures to improve the quality of diet for special nutritional programmes in favour of these groups.

101. A first need was to understand the problem better and to develop new methods for combating it, and it was therefore suggested that WHO, FAO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) should establish a global nutrition surveillance system, and should arrange for an internationally co-ordinated programme in applied nutritional research. Several speakers emphasized the need to devote special attention to food aid programmes explicitly designed to fight malnutrition among the most vulnerable groups. It was suggested that campaigns should be begun immediately against two of the most prevalent and blighting effects of malnutrition: vitamin A blindness and iron deficiency anaemia. Among other suggestions were those calling for rationing and subsidies for

low-income consumers, more attention to the need to prevent premature weaning, and research programmes giving priority to the development of suitable, locally-grown diets for young children.

#### **F. World food security and food aid**

102. The general debate indicated broad agreement on the need for a system of world food security as one of the main pillars of a world food policy. The current world food crisis clearly demonstrated the need for adequate reserve stocks for protection against the vagaries of the weather and other disasters. The proposals in document E/CONF.65/4 concerning a co-ordinated system of stock-holding, a food information system, and food aid received general support.

103. Many speakers commended the Director-General of FAO for his initiatives with regard to reserve stocks, and expressed their support for the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security. Several emphasized the desirability that all the major food exporting and importing countries should be involved in the world stock holding system. It was neither prudent nor practical for one or even a few countries to be the sole holder of the necessary reserves. Nations with a history of extreme fluctuations in import requirements had an obligation, both to their own people and to the world community, to participate in a system that shared that responsibility more widely.

104. It was suggested that reserve stocks of cereals of as much as 60 million tons above the current carryover might be necessary for adequate protection. Several speakers stressed the need for prudent management of the system at all levels, while others mentioned the need for improved storage in the developing countries. Some speakers felt that stocks should be located in strategic areas near where they were likely to be needed, in order to reduce transport costs and increase the speediness with which they would be available. A number proposed their own countries as suitable locations for regional stocks. It was suggested that the present scarcity should not be allowed to delay action on world food security, and that consultations should start as soon as possible.

105. It was generally agreed that a food information system, providing speedy information on harvest prospects and stocks, as well as early warning of shortages, was a vital part of world food security. It would be useful for exporting countries to have advance information in order to plan production and exports. Here too, many speakers stressed the need for participation by all countries, especially those large ones that might significantly affect the world situation. Several speakers emphasized the need for having information on production prospects in exporting countries, so that they could plan their import requirements and schedules accordingly. Reference was also made to the sensitive nature of food information and to the danger that its misuse by speculators could lead to the destabilization of markets. One speaker made a specific proposal for a World-Wide Information System on the Food and Agricultural Situation, and indicated that his Government would be prepared to bear a substantial part of the cost of putting it speedily into operation. It was suggested that improvements were required in the techniques of forecasting yields.

106. It was agreed that, even if the increase in food production in the developing countries could be considerably stepped up, for the foreseeable future food would still have to be transferred on a substantial scale from where it was in surplus to where it was in shortage. Even with the maximum likely increase in food production in the developing countries,

their import requirements were likely to increase greatly for some years. The earnings of the developing countries themselves must of course remain the principal source for meeting the cost of these imports, and the industrialized countries could make a significant contribution simply by improving access to their markets. Nevertheless, an expanded flow of food aid would clearly be necessary.

107. Many supported the minimum target of 10 million tons of food aid a year proposed in document E/CONF.65/4. The opinion was also expressed that food aid should no longer be the haphazard result of chance surpluses, and many speakers stated that it should be planned for a period of about three years ahead. It was suggested that the proposed Co-ordinating Group for Food Production and Investment could form a sub-committee on food financing, the first task of which would be to negotiate a minimum global quantity of food whose transfer over the next three years it was prepared to finance. Many speakers stressed that food aid targets should be expressed in physical quantities rather than in terms of a particular currency, in order to avoid possible loss because of inflation.

108. It was felt that a clearer definition was needed of the role of food aid, and a number of suggestions were made in this regard. It was necessary to ensure that it did not operate as a disincentive to increasing production in the developing countries or adversely affect the trade of food exporting developing countries. It should be regarded as a transitional or palliative measure while the developing countries did not produce enough food or have enough purchasing power to obtain it. It must not be allowed to perpetuate dependence or foster the idea that it would always be available. It was further emphasized that it was imperative to free the provision of food aid from all political considerations.

109. Several representatives spoke in favour of multilateral food aid, and commended the work of the United Nations/FAO World Food Programme established by the General Assembly under resolution 1714 (XVI). It was suggested, however, that multilateral food aid needed more resources in order to play a greater and more effective role. It was also suggested that the co-ordinating function of the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme should be strengthened.

110. Many speakers commended the role of food aid in emergencies and disaster relief. There was widespread support for the proposal that 500,000 tons of stocks should be set aside specifically for this purpose. It was suggested that the WFP should be given a stronger role in disaster relief and emergency operations. Special attention should also be given to food aid programmes explicitly designed to fight malnutrition among the most vulnerable groups, including the provision of a special "food aid basket" for this purpose.

### G. Trade and agricultural adjustment

111. It was generally agreed that a comprehensive solution of the food problem must include measures to improve the conditions of the international trade in food. Many speakers emphasized the need for the removal of trade restrictions, the stabilization of commodity prices, improvements in the terms of trade for food and agricultural products, and for orderly marketing at the world level based on the concepts of equity and justice. Many believed that trade problems reflected serious shortcomings in the world's political, economic and social structures and organization. Several speakers referred to the effect on the terms of trade of the operations of multina-

tional corporations, both as buyers of the products of the developing countries and as suppliers of the inputs they had to import.

112. Although many considered that the Conference was not a trade negotiation forum, there was broad agreement that it should contribute to the negotiation of improved commodity arrangements by underlining the urgency of the problem. The proposed system of reserve stocks of cereals would itself be an important contribution to greater stability. It was envisaged that the proposals before the Conference should evolve eventually into more integrated stabilization arrangements for food as a whole, as part of an over-all strategy for commodities in general.

113. Several speakers commended the work of UNCTAD on trade problems and that initiated by FAO on international agricultural adjustment. Several referred to the complexity of the issues involved. It was necessary to increase the capacity of the developing countries to be more self-reliant in food matters, while at the same time maintaining the capacity of the developed countries to provide food and aid. All countries should re-examine their national policies in order to give greater priority to food production, but these national policies needed to be reviewed at the international level in order that international objectives should also be met.

114. A number of specific suggestions for approaches to trade problems emerged from the statements made during the course of the general debate. In the search for commodity stabilization it was necessary to look beyond a narrowly commercial, product-by-product approach. The general system of tariff preferences should be extended to cover fully the agricultural exports of the developing countries. A pragmatic and flexible approach should be taken to the problem of achieving more orderly marketing of food, combining the free play of market forces with planning where necessary. It was also necessary to eliminate support programmes in developed countries that acted as a disincentive for production in the developing countries. The need was suggested for a link between the prices of raw materials and finished products. Several speakers referred to their expectations from the current round of trade negotiations in the GATT.

### H. Follow-up action

115. A major theme of the general debate was the urgent need to ensure speedy and effective follow-up action to implement the decisions of the Conference. It was suggested that detailed discussions should be held as early as possible on each of the resolutions adopted by the Conference.

116. It was recognized that the implementation of many of the proposals before the Conference might imply the need for changes in international organizational and institutional structures. Several speakers were opposed to the proliferation of new institutions and believed that FAO and the other existing institutions were adequate for the task. Several others felt that follow-up action would require a multidisciplinary and integrated approach which would not be possible through a single and isolated body, and that it might therefore be necessary to establish a new order of institutions. Many speakers preferred to keep an open mind on the form of a new over-all body, such as the World Food Authority proposed in document E/CONF.65/4. It was, however, generally believed that modifications would, in any case, be needed in existing institutions to discharge any additional responsibilities. Particular stress was laid on the need to strengthen these institutions by increasing their resources and authority, to improve their

operating procedures, and to achieve better co-ordination and co-operation between them.

117. Several speakers mentioned the potential co-ordinating role of the Economic and Social Council and of the FAO Council. A number supported the creation of a World Food Security Council at the highest political level, with supporting subsidiary bodies attached to existing United Nations and FAO institutions. Reference was also made to the need for universal participation in new arrangements for follow-up action.

#### **I. Representation of liberation movements and Governments**

118. In the course of the general debate, several speakers noted with satisfaction that representatives of national liberation movements had been invited and were present at the Conference. Speaking on a point of order, one representative expressed his total and categoric opposition to the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization which, he declared, was not a true movement of national liberation but an organization of terrorist groups whose declared purpose was to deprive a State Member of the United Nations of its national

existence. Inviting such an organization to participate in the Conference was a serious political and moral error and a travesty of the Charter of the United Nations and of the fundamental aims of the Conference. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, speaking in exercise of his right of reply, pointed out that his organization was participating in the Conference in accordance with the terms of Economic and Social Council resolution 1840 (LVI). Also, 105 Member States had voted in favour of its participation in the debate on the question of the Middle East in the United Nations General Assembly. In the past, all national liberation and resistance movements had at one time or another been labelled as terrorist groups by colonialist and occupying forces. In fact, the objective of the Palestine Liberation Organization was coexistence; and it was endeavouring to secure the just rights of the Palestinian people.

119. Some representatives expressed their regret that no invitation had been sent to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam. They said that failure to invite that Government was inconsistent with the spirit of the Paris Agreement of 1973. Two speakers stated that the Royal Government of the National Union of Cambodia was the sole legal Government representing the Cambodian people.



## Chapter VI

### SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS IN PLENARY ON THE REPORTS OF THE MAIN COMMITTEES AND OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

#### A. Report of the First Committee

MEASURES FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITHIN THE WIDER FRAMEWORK OF DEVELOPMENT; MEASURES FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES; POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR IMPROVING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS IN ALL COUNTRIES, AND AIMING AT ENSURING ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY OF FOOD IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY TO VULNERABLE GROUPS.

#### INTRODUCTION

120. The Conference at its 1st meeting, on 5 November 1974, allocated to the First Committee for its consideration the following agenda items:

9(a) Measures for increasing food production in developing countries within the wider framework of development;

9(b) Measures for increasing food production in developed countries;

9(c) Policies and programmes for improving consumption patterns in all countries, and aiming at ensuring adequate availability of food in developing countries, particularly to vulnerable groups.

121. At the same meeting, the Conference also decided that, in dealing with these agenda items, the Committee should keep in view item 9(f) "Arrangements for follow-up action, including appropriate operational machinery on recommendations or resolutions of the Conference".

122. With regard to specific proposals submitted by delegations, dealing with the question of the financing of agricultural development and with follow-up action, the Conference decided that the First Committee should consider such aspects of these proposals as related to the financing of agricultural development, and should transmit its findings and conclusions thereon to the Second Committee, which would embody them in its recommendations on follow-up action.

123. Finally, the First Committee was assigned the task of preparing a draft declaration of the Conference.

124. At its 1st meeting on 6 November 1974, the Committee discussed the organization of its work. It agreed in this connexion that the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur would be responsible for the preparation of the report of the Committee's discussion on items 9(a) and 9(b) and the Rapporteur for item 9(c) as well as the preparation of the draft Declaration of the Conference. The Committee adopted the present report at its 17th meeting on 16 November 1974.

I. MEASURES FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITHIN THE WIDER FRAMEWORK OF DEVELOPMENT (agenda item 9(a));

MEASURES FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (agenda item 9(b));

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR IMPROVING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS IN ALL COUNTRIES, AIMING AT ENSURING ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY OF FOOD IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY TO VULNERABLE GROUPS (agenda item 9(c))

125. The Committee considered agenda items 9(a), 9(b) and 9(c) at its 1st to 17th meetings from 6 to 16 November 1974.

126. For the consideration of these items, the Committee had before it the relevant parts of the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "The World Food Problem: proposals for national and international action" (E/CONF.65/4), the reports of the Preparatory Committee on its first, second and third sessions (E/5454, E/CONF.65/5 and 6).

127. The Committee also took into account, under item 8, the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Assessment of the world food situation, present and future" (E/CONF.65/3) and the relevant resolutions adopted by the World Population Conference in the areas of population change and economic and social development, population resources and the environment and population and the family.<sup>7</sup>

128. In accordance with the recommendations of the Conference, the Committee took as a basis for its discussion the first five draft resolutions, numbered, respectively, I to V, set forth in annex VII to the report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session (E/CONF.65/6). These draft resolutions dealt with:

- (a) Objectives for food production;
- (b) Priorities for agricultural and rural development;
- (c) Fertilizers;
- (d) Agricultural research and training;
- (e) Policies and programmes to improve nutrition.

#### (a) Objectives for food production

#### Discussion

129. The Committee discussed this question at its 1st and 3rd meetings on 6 and 7 November 1974.

<sup>7</sup> Report of the United Nations World Population Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 75. XIII. 3), part one, chapter II.



130. The need for producing more food in developing countries and the measures necessary for achieving this objective were in the forefront of the discussions. There was general agreement on the magnitude of the production objectives to be achieved, which needed to reflect not only the growth of population but also increased *per capita* supplies; and the debates concentrated mainly on the strategies and programmes which were necessary to achieve the production objectives.

131. The Committee agreed that there was a need for developing countries to become increasingly self-sufficient with respect to most of their major food items, and that, to this end, the developing countries themselves should make greater efforts to increase their food production. To achieve this, developing countries would need to give a high priority to agriculture in their development plans and programmes, and to devote more resources and educational efforts to the agricultural sector, including sufficient incentives, livestock and fisheries. At the same time there was a need for a substantial increase in external aid to agriculture and for improved export earnings.

132. Many speakers stressed the crucial role of the food production capacity of developed countries, above their own needs, in helping to overcome the serious short-run food scarcity. Serious concern was expressed in the above context, about the shortage of essential inputs, such as fertilizers. The Committee expressed the view that production in developed countries should be so programmed as not to hinder the supply of essential inputs to developing countries or to delay their production plans.

133. In discussing the strategy for achieving the objectives of higher food production in developing countries, the Committee concentrated mainly on four basic requirements: the transformation of economic and social structures, an increase in the resources available for agricultural development, the introduction of new technology and the adaptation of that already existing, and increased participation of rural people in development efforts.

134. As regards investments, a substantial share would need to be devoted to the development of agriculture by improving and developing new land for cultivation and establishing programmes for irrigation, drainage and flood control, and soil conservation. In this connexion many speakers emphasized the need to avoid possible damage to the environment and to preserve the productive capacity of land and water resources for future generations.

135. Many speakers also stressed that a pre-condition for the rational development and utilization of land and water resources was an improved knowledge of the individual countries' and of the world's potential for supporting future food production requirements.

#### *Summary of proceedings*

136. The Committee had before it draft resolution I, entitled "Objectives for food production". During the consideration of the draft, a number of suggestions and amendments were made for amending the text. At its 3rd meeting on 7 November 1974 the Committee decided to set up an informal working group under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, Mr. Abu Hakim (India), to prepare, on the basis of discussion in the Committee and in particular in the light of these suggestions and amendments, a revised draft for the Committee's consideration. The members were: China, Congo, Cuba, Dahomey, German Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Romania, Sri Lanka, Switzerland,

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela.

137. In accordance with this request the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur submitted to the Committee at its 14th meeting on 14 November 1974 a revised draft resolution. At its 17th meeting on 16 November 1974, the Committee approved this draft without a vote and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

138. For the text of the draft resolution see part one, chapter II, resolution I.

#### *(b) Priorities for agricultural and rural development*

##### *Discussion*

139. The Committee discussed this question at its 2nd and 3rd meetings on 7 November 1974.

140. While there was full agreement on the basic importance of accelerated growth of food production, it was generally recognized that this could not be achieved through application of capital and technology alone, but also called for increasing the participation of the rural population, especially small farmers and landless rural labourers and their families.

141. There was therefore general agreement that far-reaching socio-economic reforms were urgently required in many developing countries. This would entail agrarian reform in its widest sense, encompassing the establishment of farmers' co-operatives and associations, rural workers' unions, new production and tenure structures, the provision of supporting institutions and policies to ensure the availability of fertilizers and other inputs, marketing and processing services, and credit, as well as adequate administrative structures for planning and implementation. Many speakers also stressed the need for programmes for ensuring that all rural families were provided with a means of livelihood through agricultural or non-agricultural employment and had access to adequate education, training, extension services, information and communications, public health and other social services.

142. In this connexion there were several references to the special role of women in rural society as producers, processors or small traders of food and as consumers, in family nutrition, and in child care and education. Several speakers also stressed the need to equip youth for their prospective role in production and family life.

143. It was generally agreed that while no single pattern of rural, social, political, economic or institutional arrangements was applicable to all countries, there was much to be said for integrated rural development as a flexible concept which permitted countries to design their specific national strategies to achieve simultaneously production and social objectives.

144. Several speakers pointed out that the criteria and procedures for financial and other assistance applied by international and bilateral agencies were such as to discourage assistance being made available for comprehensive rural development programmes and called on these agencies to place greater emphasis on social, rather than purely economic benefits flowing from investment.

##### *Summary of proceedings*

145. The Committee had before it draft resolution II, entitled "Priorities for agricultural and rural development". During the consideration of the draft, a number of suggestions

were made for amending the text. At its 3rd meeting on 7 November 1974 the Committee requested the informal working group, set up under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, to prepare, on the basis of discussions in the Committee, and in particular in the light of these suggestions and amendments, a revised draft for the Committee's consideration.

146. At its 14th meeting on 14 November 1974 the Committee considered the draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur in accordance with this request. At its 17th meeting on 16 November 1974, the Committee approved this draft without a vote and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

147. For the text of the draft resolution, see part one, chapter II, resolution II.

### (c) Fertilizers

#### *Discussion*

148. The Committee considered this question at its 3rd, 6th and 7th meetings on 7 and 9 November 1974.

149. In discussing the role of modern technology in efforts to increase food production, the Committee recognized that a dynamic growth in food production required a full range of inputs, including fertilizers, quality seeds, pesticides, draft power and water. The efficient use of all these inputs would depend greatly on well-organized distribution, effective credit systems and training of farmers.

150. General concern was expressed about the current shortage, and the high prices, of fertilizers, which were jeopardizing many developing countries' efforts to increase their food production. The Committee referred to the various efforts of the United Nations system aimed at ensuring a fair share of the short fertilizer supplies to developing countries, and called for further strengthening of these efforts as a part of an over-all policy for fertilizer production and use. The Committee emphasized the need for increasing fertilizer production in developing countries, both by a better utilization of existing plant and by substantially enlarging their production capacity. For both purposes, strong support from countries having the necessary finances, raw materials, skills and know-how would be needed, and the Committee urged that arrangements be made to this effect.

151. The shortage and high price of chemical fertilizers had highlighted the need, and opportunities, for more efficient fertilizer use, and necessity to make better use of plant nutrients from other sources, such as organic wastes, as also through nitrogen fixation. Wide support was received for the idea of calling for voluntary restraint in the non-essential uses of fertilizers.

152. With reference to the other inputs, the Committee proposed specific draft resolutions\* for the Conference on pesticides and quality seeds. In addition many speakers considered agricultural machinery, including improved hand tools, animal- and tractor-drawn equipment and power units, as important inputs for increasing output and productivity. Prudent use of such inputs would increase employment potential by intensifying production, reducing seasonal labour peaks, and opening new lands. It was recognized, however, that the level of mechanization aimed at had to be consistent with the socio-economic conditions and objectives of the country concerned,

and that farmers needed to be more thoroughly trained in the operation and maintenance of mechanized equipment. A number of speakers drew attention to the need to ensure that post-harvest losses, which were a serious problem in many developing countries, were reduced through better transport, storage and processing, thereby increasing the availability of food to consumers.

#### *Summary of proceedings*

153. The Committee had before it draft resolution III, entitled "Fertilizers". During the consideration of the draft a number of suggestions were made for amending the text. After informal consultations, a revised draft was prepared. The Committee considered this draft at its 17th meeting on 16 November 1974, approved it without a vote and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

154. For the text of the draft resolution, see part one, chapter II, resolution III.

### (d) Agricultural research and training

#### *Discussion*

155. The Committee considered this question at its 5th meeting on 8 November 1974.

156. Apart from the specific contribution that modern inputs were already making to agricultural growth in developing countries, there was general recognition of the need to harness agricultural research as a whole to support the efforts to raise the levels of food production and consumption. The Committee supported the necessity for increased agricultural research activities, convinced that a strong integrated, global research effort was essential. Concern was expressed that insufficient attention had been devoted to the problems of management of the environment and resources in tropical, subtropical, arid and semi-arid areas. The Committee therefore called for increased research investment on the crops, livestock, and environmental and socio-economic problems of these areas.

157. Most speakers stressed that both developed and developing countries must play a part in this increased effort. The former, in addition to providing assistance to national, regional, and international centres and programmes in developing countries, should devote more resources to basic research oriented to the solution of problems impeding development. The latter should expand their resources being devoted to applied research, including the adaptation of existing knowledge, improved varieties and techniques, to local situations, and to formulating and bringing into force measures to accelerate their use by producers, within a framework of national priorities.

158. The Committee highlighted priority areas of research for special attention, including the need to increase yield and quality of staple foods (especially cereals and grain legumes), to stabilize production and increase productivity, to foster the development of biological sources of plant nutrients, the use of solar and other "free" energy sources, to study the impact of climate on production and to establish plant and animal genetic resources networks. It also recommended a study of the feasibility of an international programme on the use of remote sensing techniques in agriculture, including the use of data from earth resources satellites.

159. Recognizing that the impact of research efforts depended on the application of results at the production level, the Committee insisted that the further development of

\* See paragraphs 177, 191 and 197.

research services must be associated with concomitant strengthening of pre-vulgarization, extension, training, and advisory services for the producer, and called upon all countries to increase support to these services, at all levels and in all sectors of the rural community, and to institute measures to reduce the loss of trained personnel.

160. It was emphasized by the Committee that extension services and organizations had to be vastly expanded and strengthened not only for transfer of research results but also for the transmission of existing technology and training of farmers in improved practices and for the provision to them of all necessary services.

161. The Committee stressed the importance of the collaboration of international agencies, donor countries and organizations, particularly those constituting the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, in the co-ordinated mobilization of the resources needed to augment those of the developing countries themselves, and urged that the over-all investment devoted to agricultural research in national, regional and international programmes should be increased several-fold by 1985 in real terms.

#### *Summary of proceedings*

162. The Committee had before it draft resolution IV, entitled "Agricultural research and training". During the consideration of the draft, a number of suggestions were made for amending the text. At its 5th meeting on 8 November 1974, the Committee requested the informal working group set up under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, Mr. Abu Hakim (India) to prepare, on the basis of discussions in the committee, and in particular in the light of the discussions and the amendments, a revised draft for the Committee's consideration.

163. At its 14th meeting on 14 November 1974 the Committee considered the draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur in accordance with this request. At its 17th meeting on 16 November 1974, the Committee approved this draft without a vote and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

164. For the text of the draft resolution, see part one, chapter II, resolution IV.

#### *(e) Policies and programmes to improve nutrition*

#### *Discussion*

165. The Committee considered this question at its 2nd and 5th meetings on 7 and 8 November 1974.

166. The Committee stressed that the primary purpose of increasing agricultural production and availability of food to the developing countries was that of ensuring adequate nutritional status for all of their populations. There was general agreement that it was the common objective of all nations to confront the challenge of hunger and malnutrition. Many speakers pointed out that hunger and malnutrition were primarily the consequence of widespread poverty and emphasized the need to combat them through the implementation of national food and nutrition policies within the framework of general economic and social development. In this context the Committee stressed the importance of drastically improving economic and social structures, with a view to achieving a more equitable income distribution and higher levels of employment.

167. Improving knowledge of all the factors influencing the levels of food consumption and the nutritional status of populations should be a continuous process and linked to food and nutrition action programmes.

168. While there was a general endorsement of the idea that larger nutritional programmes, including supplementary feeding programmes geared to the most vulnerable groups of the population, were necessary to prevent and combat malnutrition, it was also felt that supplementary feeding programmes should whenever possible be implemented as a component of a wider range of far-reaching and long-lasting nutrition intervention programmes. Many speakers referred to the widespread misuse of food both in the affluent and the poor countries in the form of over-consumption, and to the losses caused by bad handling and processing, and therefore stressed the need for educating and protecting the consumer.

169. Many speakers drew attention to the aggravating role of parasitic and infectious diseases, lack of clean water supplies and poor environmental sanitation on the incidence of malnutrition, and to the interrelationship between the nutrition of the child and the mother. They pointed out that specific nutritional deficiencies constituted serious health problems.

170. The very important role of women in the fight against malnutrition was underlined by many speakers. It was important that mothers, especially those pregnant and lactating, were adequately fed, and received proper education to improve the nutritional situation of their families. The importance of breast-feeding and the economic and nutritional value of human milk was stressed.

171. The Committee stressed that special efforts, through appropriate legislation and food control measures, were required to educate consumers on better use of available food resources, to safeguard them against health hazards and to assist them against misleading advertising, ruthless marketing and commercial frauds, in particular with regard to mother's milk substitutes and other baby foods.

172. Several speakers stressed that it was necessary to generate a deep world-wide public concern for the problems of malnutrition in order to motivate the political will of Governments without which no far-reaching results could be achieved. One representative proposed that well-to-do adults might agree to go without one meal a week and contribute the amount saved to a voluntary fund for relief to the hungry children of the world.

173. Many speakers pointed out the useful function that could be performed by FAO, WHO and UNICEF, in co-operation with other international agencies and non-governmental organizations, in assisting Governments to develop intersectoral food and nutrition plans and programmes. These agencies and non-governmental organizations might be equally useful by helping in the establishment of a global nutrition surveillance system, a world-wide control programme to reduce various specific nutritional deficiencies, a food contamination monitoring programme and the strengthening of food legislation and food control programmes and, in order to implement activities in these areas, the development of co-ordinated programmes in applied nutritional research.

#### *Summary of proceedings*

174. The Committee had before it draft resolution V, entitled "Policies and programmes to improve nutrition". During the consideration of the draft, a number of suggestions were made for amending the text. At its 2nd meeting on 7

November, the Committee decided to set up under the chairmanship of the Rapporteur, Mr. Ulf Hjertonsso (Sweden), an informal working group to prepare, on the basis of these suggestions and amendments, a revised text for the Committee's consideration. The members were: Gabon, India, Nigeria, Norway, the United States of America and Venezuela.

175. At its 17th meeting on 16 November 1974, the Committee considered a revised draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur on the subject. The Committee approved this draft without a vote and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

176. For the text of the draft resolution, see part one, chapter II, resolution V.

177. During the course of its work, the Committee considered draft resolutions and proposals submitted by a number of delegations. Some of these proposals were, as far as possible, integrated into the resolutions referred to above. Others which were not directly related to the substance of the above-mentioned draft resolutions or were held to be sufficiently important to stand on their own were considered as separate draft resolutions. In their first revised form, these draft resolutions were:

- (f) World Soil Charter and Land Capability Assessment (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.2/Rev.1)
- (g) Scientific Water Management: Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.9/Rev.1)
- (h) Women and Food (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.13/Rev.1)
- (i) Achievement of a Desirable Balance Between Population and Food Supply (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.14/Rev.1)
- (j) Pesticides (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.15/Rev.1)
- (k) Programme for the control of African animal trypanosomiasis (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.16/Rev.1)
- (l) Seed Industry Development (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.17/Rev.1)

#### *(i) World Soil Charter and Land Capability Assessment*

##### *Discussion*

178. Many speakers stressed that the hitherto unused or under-utilized land resources of the world represented a major potential for increasing food production in many developing countries. They emphasized that the rational use of these resources called for a careful assessment of their productive capability, and that for this purpose a survey should be carried out, building on the FAO/UNESCO World Soil Resources Map. Many speakers also suggested that a World Soil Charter should be drawn up, to provide a guide for more rational land use and for the conservation of the world's soil resources for future generations.

##### *Summary of proceedings*

179. At its 2nd meeting on 7 November 1974, the Committee received a draft resolution submitted by France (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.2). Subsequently, following informal consultations the Committee considered a revised text at its 17th meeting on 16 November, approved it without a vote and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

180. For the text of the draft resolution, see part one, chapter II, resolution VI.

#### *(g) Scientific Water Management: Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control*

##### *Discussion*

181. The Committee stressed the importance of water as an input for agricultural production in developing countries, and drew attention to the large investments in programmes on irrigation, drainage and flood control which would be needed in order to achieve the required growth of food production in them. Parallel to this, there was need for Governments and multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance programmes to pay attention to the improvement of existing facilities, and to promote the optimal use of water resources by encouraging the observation of principles and practices of scientific water management.

##### *Summary of proceedings*

182. At its 7th meeting on 9 November 1974, the Committee received a draft resolution submitted by Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.9). Subsequently, following informal consultations the Committee considered a revised text at its 17th meeting on 16 November, approved it without a vote and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

183. For the text of the draft resolution, see part one, chapter II, resolution VII.

#### *(h) Women and food*

##### *Discussion*

184. The Committee recognized the important role played by women in all aspects of rural life, particularly in relation to the nutritional and health situation of their families, and in child care and education. Many speakers pointed out the very important contribution made by women to food production in developing countries. It was stressed that women needed to be provided with opportunities for a fuller participation in the formulation and implementation of plans and programmes for economic and social development and for improved nutrition, and that they needed to be assured full access to medical and social services and to nutrition education. Several speakers also stressed that women should be provided with means to space their children in order to allow maximum lactation and to protect their health.

##### *Summary of proceedings*

185. At its 7th meeting on 9 November 1974, the Committee received a draft resolution submitted by Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.13). Subsequently, following informal consultations the Committee considered a revised text at its 17th meeting on 16 November, approved it without a vote and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

186. For the text of the draft resolution, see part one, chapter II, resolution VIII.

(i) *Achievement of a Desirable Balance between Population and Food Supply*

*Discussion*

187. There was widespread agreement on the need to achieve a suitable balance between population and food supply, particularly in view of the fact that land and water resources were limited. Many speakers recalled the agreement<sup>9</sup> reached in Bucharest with regard to a World Population Plan of Action, and reaffirmed that sound population policies were required in the framework of national long-term development strategies.

*Summary of proceedings*

188. At its 7th meeting on 9 November 1974, the Committee received a draft resolution submitted by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Burma, Egypt, Ghana, India, Iran, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Turkey (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.14). Subsequently, following informal consultations the Committee considered a revised text at its 17th meeting on 16 November, approved it without a vote and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

189. For the text of the draft resolution, see part one, chapter II, resolution IX.

(j) *Pesticides*

*Discussion*

190. The Committee noted that high prices and widespread shortages of pesticides had become a severe obstacle to the rapid increase of agricultural production, particularly in developing countries, and many speakers stressed the need for increasing, wherever feasible, the production of pesticides in both developed and developing countries, and for mounting, as a matter of urgency, internationally co-ordinated programmes which would ensure the availability to developing countries at reasonable prices of pesticides and pest control equipment. Several speakers also called for the need to develop and promote methods of pest control which relied less on the use of pesticides.

*Summary of proceedings*

191. At its 7th meeting on 9 November 1974, the Committee received a draft resolution submitted by Pakistan (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.15). Subsequently, following informal consultations the Committee considered a revised text at its 17th meeting on 16 November, approved it without a vote and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

192. For the text of the draft resolution, see part one, chapter II, resolution X.

(k) *Programme for the control of African animal trypanosomiasis*

*Discussion*

193. The Committee drew attention to the importance of intensified measures in the African continent to control the tsetse fly, the principal vector of trypanosomiasis, and stated that this would open up vast new land resources and greatly increase the livestock and crop production capability of the continent. Special importance was therefore placed on the mounting of an urgent international programme to make an early impact on this major problem.

*Summary of proceedings*

194. At its 7th meeting on 9 November 1974, the Committee received a draft resolution submitted by Nigeria (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.16). Subsequently, following informal consultations the Committee considered a revised text at its 17th meeting on 16 November, approved it without a vote and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

195. For the text of the draft resolution, see part one, chapter II, resolution XI.

(l) *Seed industry development*

*Discussion*

196. Many speakers referred to the importance of having a secure supply of viable seeds of high-yielding and adapted varieties with a high genetic and physical purity in increasing crop production and productivity, and stressed the need for intensifying national and international efforts to establish efficient national seed production and utilization programmes. Stress was also laid on the need for national and regional seed reserve stocks for use in emergencies, and on the need for effective measures to guard against spread of seed-borne pests and diseases which might occur as international co-operation on crop research and the trade in seeds intensified.

*Summary of proceedings*

197. At its 10th meeting the Committee received a draft resolution submitted by Austria (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.17). Subsequently, following informal consultations the Committee considered a revised text at its 17th meeting on 16 November, approved it without a vote and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

198. For the text of the draft resolution, see part one, chapter II, resolution XII.

II. ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE OPERATIONAL MACHINERY ON RECOMMENDATIONS OR RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONFERENCE (agenda item 9(f))

*Discussion*

199. At its 15th meeting on 15 November 1974 the Committee discussed institutional arrangements, relating to follow-up action, expected to be recommended by the

<sup>9</sup> Report of the United Nations World Population Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 75. XIII. 3), part one, chapter I.

Conference for submission to the Second Committee, which was charged with the responsibility for this item of the Conference agenda.

200. The discussion covered two main levels of institutional arrangements. The first of these concerned the need to generate political will and to make decisions on major food and agricultural development issues of global significance. The second level concerned the need for institutional arrangements which would make for co-ordinated implementation of agricultural development programmes and projects, through the mobilization of resources and their effective utilization. At both levels, the urgency for early action was stressed as a critical consideration in determining the best forms of future institutional arrangements.

201. Several speakers believed that there was need for a new body at ministerial level to ensure that agricultural and rural development received the high priority which was essential and to co-ordinate the follow-up action. Many other speakers expressed the view that existing organizations and bodies could effectively implement the follow-up action if their resources were strengthened and if their organizational structures were reinforced or modified. In their views, the desired co-ordination at the political level could be achieved through the Economic and Social Council or through ministerial meetings of existing FAO bodies. They emphasized the need to make maximum effective use of existing institutions, especially FAO, with responsibilities for, and with proven experience in, agriculture and rural development and in the channelling of investment funds for agricultural development. Some of these speakers considered that the effectiveness of existing institutions had been constrained by the low priority and lack of funds accorded to agriculture in the past. Other speakers considered that the need existed to re-examine the existing international organizations with a view to improving their effectiveness and restructuring them in view of the substantial new tasks which would be envisaged for them in the future.

#### *Summary of proceedings*

202. At the same meeting, the Committee, following its discussion of the subject, decided to transmit to the Second Committee a summary of the views expressed by delegations during the debate so that the Second Committee could embody these views in its over-all package of recommendations on follow-up action to the Conference.

203. In addition to the resolutions referred to in paragraph 177, the Committee had before it three draft resolutions which it agreed to consider as separate texts.

These draft resolutions dealt with:

(m) International Fund for Agricultural Development (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.19/Rev.1)

(n) Reduction of military expenditure for the purpose of increasing food production (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.11/Rev.1)

(o) Food aid to victims of colonial wars in Africa (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.26)

(m) *International Fund for Agricultural Development*

#### *Discussion*

204. The Committee agreed that there was an urgent need for a substantial increase in the flow of assistance to agriculture in developing countries, to help them to bring about the required increase in food production and to speed up their

agricultural development. The Committee therefore welcomed warmly the proposal made by a number of countries to establish an International Fund for Agricultural Development.

205. The Committee stressed that the contributions to the Fund, which would be voluntary, should be additional to aid and investment funds already flowing to agriculture, and the resources so received should be substantial. Regarding the Governing Board, which would consist of representatives of contributing developed and developing countries, as well as recipient countries, the Committee stressed the need for regional balance among the latter.

206. The Committee welcomed the proposal that the Fund would operate through existing institutions. Some speakers suggested that disbursements, including loans, from the Fund should be carried out through national as well as international and/or regional institutions. As regards the type of projects and programmes which the Fund would finance, most speakers felt that the primary emphasis should be on projects aimed at increasing food production, including livestock and fisheries, and that the scope of the Fund should not be enlarged to cover rural development in general. Some other speakers, however, suggested that the Fund should also cover projects related to rural development and agricultural development in general, including forestry.

207. The Committee stressed the urgency of immediate action to establish the Fund and to bring it into action, and welcomed the suggestion that the Secretary-General of the United Nations convene urgently a meeting of all interested countries and agencies to work out the details for launching it. Several speakers expressed the hope that appropriate legal procedures for this purpose would be speedily defined.

#### *Summary of proceedings*

208. At its 15th meeting on 15 November 1974, the Committee received a draft resolution submitted by Bahrain, Gambia, India, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Viet-Nam, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.19). At its 16th meeting on the same date, the Committee received a revised draft resolution (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.19/Rev. 1) with the following co-sponsors: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Viet-Nam, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. The Committee considered this revised draft at its 17th meeting on 16 November 1974, approved it without a vote and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

209. For the text of the draft resolution, see part one, chapter II, resolution XIII.

(n) *Reduction of military expenditure for the purpose of increasing food production*

#### *Discussion*

210. The Committee considered this question at its 9th and 15th meetings on 11 and 15 November 1974.

211. Most speakers emphasized the need for reductions in military expenditure for the purpose of development. Pointing

to the enormous disproportion between military expenditure and the present goals of agriculture development aid, they called for the allocation of the sums so released to the financing of food production in developing countries and the establishment of emergency reserves. Some of these speakers emphasized that the initiative for such reductions in military expenditure would need to come from the developed countries since their military expenditures were much greater than those of the developing countries. One speaker pointed out that developing countries were faced with the threat of colonialism, zionism and imperialism. In this speaker's view, the developing countries should primarily strengthen their self-defence capabilities and safeguard State sovereignty and independence. To ask developing countries to reduce military expenditure not only could in no way solve the urgent food problem of the world today, but was even to the disadvantage of the security of the numerous small and medium-sized countries. Other speakers stressed that the objectives of urgently accelerating food production and agricultural development could not wait upon and should not be conditional upon reductions in military expenditures. In their view, the reduction of military expenditures needed to be sought, but through ways and means which were independent of food and agricultural considerations; it was further pointed out that these ways and means were already being pursued.

#### *Summary of proceedings*

212. At its 9th meeting on 11 November 1974, the Committee received a draft resolution submitted by Peru (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.11). Subsequently, following informal consultations, a revised draft was prepared (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.11/Rev.1). The Committee considered that text at its 17th meeting on 16 November 1974 and generally agreed to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

213. For the text of the draft resolution, see part one, chapter II, resolution XIV.

#### *(c) Food aid to victims of colonial wars in Africa*

#### *Discussion*

214. The Committee discussed this question at its 16th meeting on 15 November 1974. Although a very few delegations expressed doubts whether it was appropriate for the Committee to discuss the question, there was a large measure of support for assistance to the victims of colonial wars in Africa. Many speakers stressed the urgent need for international assistance to national liberation movements or governments of the countries concerned not only to meet their immediate food problems, but also to help them in their national reconstruction efforts. Some delegations referred in this connexion to their bilateral aid.

#### *Summary of proceedings*

215. At its 15th meeting on 15 November 1974, the Committee received a draft resolution submitted by Algeria (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.26). At its 17th meeting on 16 November 1974, the Committee considered this draft resolution, approved it without a vote, and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

216. For the text of the draft resolution, see part one, chapter II, resolution XV.

### *Draft Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition*

#### *Discussion*

217. At its 1st meeting on 6 November 1974, when the Committee was considering the organization of its work, it was felt that it would be desirable for work on the preparation of a draft Declaration of the Conference to be undertaken by an informal working party, simultaneously with the work of the Committee. Accordingly, an informal working party under the chairmanship of the Rapporteur, Mr. Ulf Hjertensson (Sweden), was established with the following membership: China, Congo, Dahomey, German Democratic Republic, Kenya, Peru, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yugoslavia.

#### *Summary of proceedings*

218. At its 16th meeting on 15 November 1974, the Rapporteur made an oral report on the progress of the work of the informal working party, and the Committee took note of his report. At its 17th meeting on 16 November 1974, the Rapporteur submitted a draft text (E/CONF.65/C.1/L.25 and Add.1-5) for consideration by the Committee. Following informal consultations, a revised text was prepared, the Committee approved this revised text and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption.

219. For the text of the draft Declaration, see part one, chapter I.

#### *Action by the Conference*

220. At its 16th meeting, on 16 November 1974, the Conference took note of the report of the First Committee.

221. The Conference took action on the recommendations of the first Committee as follows:

The draft *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter I.)

*Draft resolution I* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution I.)

*Draft resolution II* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted see part one, chapter II, resolution II.)

*Draft resolution III* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution III.)

*Draft resolution IV* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution IV.)

*Draft resolution V* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution V.)

*Draft resolution VI* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution VI.)

*Draft resolution VII* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution VII.)

*Draft resolution VIII* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution VIII.)

*Draft resolution IX* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution IX.)

*Draft resolution X* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution X.)



*Draft resolution XI* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution XI.)

*Draft resolution XII* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution XII.)

*Draft resolution XIII* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution XIII.)

*Draft resolution XIV* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution XIV.)

*Draft resolution XV* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution XV.)

222. At the same meeting, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, referring to resolution XIII entitled "International Fund for Agricultural Development", said that his Government preferred to channel its bilateral and multilateral aid in the agricultural sector and would substantially increase that assistance through existing institutions.

223. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of China, Albania and Iran expressed reservations concerning draft resolution XIV entitled "Reduction of military expenditures for the purpose of increasing food production". The following delegations stated that they would have abstained had the Conference voted on this resolution: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Denmark, Netherlands, Australia, France, Belgium, Ireland, the United States of America, Switzerland, Italy, Israel, Japan, Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden, Norway and Austria.

224. Representatives of the following delegations stated, in connexion with resolution XV entitled "Food aid to victims of colonial wars in Africa", that for lack of instruction they would have abstained had a vote been taken on this resolution: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Denmark and Switzerland.

225. The representative of the Holy See stated, with regard to resolution IX entitled "Achievement of a desirable balance between population and food supply", that he would have abstained had the Conference voted on this resolution.

## B. Report of the Second Committee

### MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN WORLD FOOD SECURITY: ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION

#### INTRODUCTION

226. The Conference at its 1st meeting on 5 November 1974 allocated to the Second Committee for its consideration agenda item 9 (d), entitled "The strengthening of world food security through measures including *inter alia* a better early warning and food information system, more effective national and international stock-holding policies and improved arrangements for emergency relief and food aid". The Conference also decided that, in dealing with this item, the Committee should take into account the reports of the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Preparatory Committee on the assessment of the world food situation (agenda item 8), and should keep in view agenda item 9 (f) entitled "Arrangements for follow-up action, including appropriate operational machinery on recommendations or resolutions of the Conference".

227. At the same meeting, the Conference decided that the Second Committee should deal with specific proposals concerning arrangements for follow-up action, taking into account any conclusions which the First Committee might transmit to it on arrangements for financing agricultural development.

228. The Committee held 12 meetings from 6 to 16 November 1974. The Committee discussed the organization of its work at its 1st meeting and adopted the present report at its 11th and 12th meetings.

#### I. MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN WORLD FOOD SECURITY

##### [agenda item 9 (d)]

229. The Committee considered agenda item 9 (d) at its 2nd to 10th meetings on 7, 8, 9, 12, 14 and 15 November 1974.

230. In connexion with its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the relevant parts of the report by the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "The world food problem: proposals for national and international action" (E/CONF.65/4, section III) and of the report of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference on its third session (E/CONF.65/6, paras. 79-85, annex II<sup>10</sup> and draft resolutions VI, VII and VIII in annex VII).

231. The Committee also took into account the following documents:

(a) The report by the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Assessment of the world food situation, present and future" (E/CONF.65/3), and the relevant parts of the reports of the Preparatory Committee on its second and third sessions (E/CONF.65/5, chapter II, and E/CONF.65/6, chapter III);

(b) Draft resolution X entitled "To overcome Food and Fertilizer Shortages" of the World Population Conference (E/CONF.65/9, annex 2);

(c) The note by the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "World food situation in mid-October 1974" (E/CONF.65/11);

(d) The Declaration of the Rome Forum on World Food Problems (E/CONF.65/14);

(e) An extract from the report of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems on its forty-ninth session, relating to the draft International Undertaking on World Food Security (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.2).

232. The Committee agreed that draft resolutions VI, VII and VIII (E/CONF.65/6, annex VII) should constitute the initial basis for its consideration of the specific questions under agenda item 9 (d).

##### (a) A better early warning and food information system

#### Discussion

233. The Committee discussed this question at its 2nd and 3rd meetings on 7 and 8 November 1974.

234. Most of the representatives agreed that a global information and early warning system on food and agriculture was a prerequisite for a proper assessment of the current situation and short-term outlook, and supported the setting up of such a system. In view of the growing interdependence among nations in meeting food requirements, the Committee stressed the vital importance for full and active participation in the proposed system of all countries, and especially of the major food producing, consuming and trading countries. Some representatives held the view that such a system involved national sovereignty and they expressed their reservations.

<sup>10</sup> Proposal by Japan, entitled "The establishment of a world-wide information system on food and agriculture situation".



235. Most of the representatives agreed that the system should assemble, analyse and disseminate information on, *inter alia*, the current situation and short-term outlook of basic food-stuffs, stocks, prices, export availabilities and import requirements, prices and supplies of main agricultural inputs, particularly fertilizers, and meteorological conditions, including, as far as possible, short-range and long-range forecasting. As regards commodity coverage, it was suggested that in the initial stage it would be necessary to give first priority to an in-depth coverage of main cereals, namely wheat, rice and coarse grains, and the system could then be gradually extended, in the light of experience, to other food-stuffs, e.g. oils, oil seeds (in particular ground-nuts), fats, sugar, pulses, tubers and livestock and fish products. It was further suggested that the available information on storage and transport facilities, nutrition levels, soil erosion and plant and livestock health should also be collected and disseminated. Some representatives, however, questioned the advisability of including too many subjects within the scope of the system because that might tend to diffuse its main purpose and thereby reduce its effectiveness.

236. The Committee emphasized that, in order to monitor the developments affecting the food supply-demand situation continuously and to provide early warning of imminent food shortages, it was essential that the information made available should be up-to-date, and should cover all the major food producing, consuming and trading countries. The Committee urged all Governments to co-operate fully in providing timely and regular information, but recognized that the supplying of information would be on a voluntary basis and that national sovereignty in this respect would have to be fully respected. Some representatives stated that the information provided would be published information or such information as was made public in some other way.

237. The Committee recognized that, for the smooth and effective functioning of the proposed system, it would be necessary to strengthen adequately the national and regional machinery responsible for collecting the necessary information. In many developing countries, and particularly in those that often faced food shortages, the required information either did not exist or was only made available after a considerable delay. It was recognized that this was due to the inadequacy of local institutions and reporting arrangements. The Committee, therefore, stressed the vital importance of, and need for, technical and financial assistance from international organizations concerned, including FAO and WMO, for creating and/or strengthening the necessary institutions and machinery in developing countries.

238. The Committee agreed that the information assembled through the system should be made available to all participating Governments. It recognized, however, that some of the information provided by Governments might be of a sensitive nature and, particularly, that its release could have unfavourable market repercussions. The Committee agreed that there should be adequate safeguards built into the system to ensure that such sensitive information would be used with care and discretion and would, where so requested, be presented in aggregate form and supplied to all participating Governments on an exclusive-view basis. Some representatives felt that the possibility of the use of such information for speculative gains by private trade would be greatly reduced if there was a price stabilization agreement among the major countries concerned. It was also pointed out that a more efficient survey of crops and crop prospects by means of space satellites should be carried out under international supervision, as proposed in discussions in the United Nations.

239. At the request of the Committee, the representative of FAO described the main elements and the functioning of the

existing food information activities of FAO and the lines along which these were being strengthened. The Committee noted that, for this purpose, FAO had established close working relationships with other international organizations and, in particular, with the International Wheat Council. The Committee was also informed by the representatives of WMO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) of the relevant activities and studies of their organizations and of their readiness to collaborate with and contribute to the proposed system. In this connexion, the Committee stressed the need for intensifying studies on weather/crop relationships, including the effect of soil moisture, and short-range and long-range weather forecasting. There was general support for building on these existing information arrangements, for strengthening interagency collaboration in providing the necessary information and for avoiding duplication. The Committee agreed that FAO, with its experience and activities in this field, would be the most appropriate organization to operate the proposed system in close collaboration with other concerned international organizations, in particular with the International Wheat Council and WMO.

240. As regards the financing of the system, several representatives felt that it should be covered by the regular programme budgets of FAO and other concerned international agencies. Some representatives felt that there was need to examine the proposal further and particularly its financial and administrative aspects. It was suggested that participating Governments, whether members or non-members of FAO, could contribute towards the costs and one representative informed the Committee that his Government was ready to make a substantial contribution to cover the additional expenses involved in establishing the proposed system.

#### *Summary of proceedings*

241. The Committee had before it draft resolution VI in annex VII to document E/CONF.65/6, entitled "Food Information System". In the course of the Committee's examination of the draft resolution, a number of suggestions were made for amending the text. At its 3rd meeting, the Committee decided that informal consultations should take place on the draft resolution and on the amendments suggested thereto, and that these consultations should be co-ordinated by Mr. Asoka Jayasinha (Sri Lanka), Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

242. As a result of these informal consultations, the Vice-Chairman submitted to the Committee, at its 9th meeting, a revised draft resolution (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.11). The paragraphs of the revised draft to which amendments were submitted in the course of the Committee's consideration are reproduced below:

#### *"Global information and early warning system on food and agriculture*

##### *"The World Food Conference,*

*"Recognizing that the capacity of Governments to take prompt and appropriate measures to deal with food shortages would be enhanced by the furnishing by all countries of timely and adequate information concerning the current and prospective crop and food situation, and further recognizing the interdependence of countries in this respect,*

*"...*

*"1. Decides to establish a Global Informa-*

[First  
preamble  
paragraph]

tion and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as the "System") and agrees that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is the most appropriate organization to operate and supervise the System [which will have to be part of the operative mechanism agreed to implement the decisions of the Conference];

3. *Requests* all Governments to participate in the System and extend full co-operation, on a voluntary and regular basis, by furnishing as much current information as possible, including current information obtained from the statistics and regular studies which are published, initially on basic food products, including in particular wheat, rice, coarse grains, soybeans, and livestock products and other relevant aspects of their food supply and demand situation affecting world food security, such as prices and production of inputs and equipment required for agricultural production and food industry, taking account of and respecting in full the sovereign rights of Governments in this regard;

4. *Requests* Governments to take steps, where necessary, to amplify and otherwise improve their data collection and dissemination services in these fields; and further requests the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization, the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics and other multilateral and bilateral agencies to urgently assist interested Governments with technical and financial assistance on particular aspects of strengthening existing arrangements for data collection and dissemination in the fields of food production, nutritional levels at various income levels, input supplies, meteorology, and crop/weather relationships, on a national or regional level as appropriate; [and to co-ordinate this action with that of the mechanism which is established to implement the decisions of the Conference];

243. In introducing the draft resolution, the Vice-Chairman proposed the following amendments to it, which were accepted by the Committee:

(a) In the first preambular paragraph, before "interdependence", to insert "growing";

(b) In operative paragraph 3, after "livestock products and", to insert, "to the extent practicable";

(c) In operative paragraph 3, after "industry", to insert "and livestock health".

244. After a discussion of the draft resolution, the Committee agreed to the following further amendments to the text:

(a) In operative paragraph 3, in both places where the words occur, after "current information", to insert "and forecasts";

(b) In operative paragraph 3, before "other relevant aspects", to insert "other important food products and";

(c) In operative paragraph 4, to replace "agencies" by "sources".

245. At its 9th meeting, the Committee approved draft

resolution E/CONF.65/C.2/L.11, as amended, without a vote, as its draft resolution I, on the understanding that the words in square brackets in operative paragraphs 1 and 4 would be dealt with in the light of whatever action the Conference might take with regard to arrangements for follow-up action.

246. The representative of China made a statement reserving his position on the draft resolution.

247. At its 10th meeting, the Committee decided to amend operative paragraph I of the draft resolution to read as follows:

"1. *Resolves* that a Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as the "System") should be established and agrees that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is the most appropriate organization to operate and supervise the System [which will have to be part of the operative mechanism agreed to implement the decisions of the Conference];"

248. At its 12th meeting, in consequence of its action with regard to arrangements for follow-up action<sup>11</sup> the Committee recommended that the words in square brackets in operative paragraphs 1 and 4 of the draft resolution should be dealt with as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 1: the square brackets and the words within them to be deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 4: the square brackets to be deleted and the phrase within them to be amended to read as follows: "and to co-ordinate this action with the World Food Council provided for in Conference resolution . . . on arrangements for follow-up action".

249. For the text of the draft resolution as recommended to the Conference for adoption, see part one, chapter II, resolution XVI.

#### (b) *More effective national and international stock-holding policies*

#### *Discussion*

250. The Committee discussed this question at its 3rd to 6th meetings on 8 and 9 November 1974, in the light of the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security being prepared under the auspices of FAO. This envisaged, *inter alia*, an internationally co-ordinated system of national stocks.

251. The Committee agreed that world food security was one of the most important issues before the Conference. The depletion of world food reserves, which were now at their lowest levels for two decades, was of global concern because it exposed many areas to the threat of famine in the event of crop failure or natural disaster. There was, therefore, wide support for the policies, objectives and guidelines embodied in the proposed Undertaking. Some representatives considered that some of the provisions of the proposed Undertaking, such as international food stocks, world food information system et cetera, involved national sovereignty and that some articles were not explicit enough; they expressed their reservation on the proposed Undertaking.

252. The Committee recognized that, in the longer run, world food security could only be assured through an accelerated rate of growth in food production, particularly in developing countries. In the short term, the serious difficulties faced by the developing countries in building up their national stocks would require an immediate increase in the food production of the developed countries, while the developing countries were simultaneously assisted to increase their food

<sup>11</sup> See paragraph 300 below, draft resolution IV.

production and build up their own stocks. In this connexion, a view was expressed that all countries should agree to reduce their expenditure on armaments, so that part of the savings achieved could be used to expand food production. Some representatives considered that such a proposal was beyond the scope of the World Food Conference. One representative considered that to advocate using funds saved by reducing military expenditure for the increase of food production was neither feasible nor realistic and was not conducive to the solution of the world food problem.

253. The Committee discussed a number of practical operational problems relating to the proposed Undertaking, including ways of protecting the legitimate national interests of individual countries as regards national stocks, the special difficulties faced by land-locked countries, the institutional machinery to implement the Undertaking, and other matters. As regards commodity coverage, it was felt that although this was concerned primarily with cereals, coverage should be extended as soon as possible to all storable food-stuffs of importance in diets. Some representatives reserved their position until such questions were clarified.

254. Many representatives suggested that the draft Undertaking should be strengthened so as to provide for internationally managed stocks, to be located at strategic points, to complement national reserves in meeting the emergency needs of developing countries. It should also provide explicitly for the review of international assistance to developing countries in respect of national stocks and storage facilities. Stress was also laid on the important role of regional stocks, that is, stocks held by a group of interested countries which agreed to hold stocks between themselves, as envisaged in the proposed Undertaking. Other representatives considered that the proposal for internationally managed stocks was not practical.

255. Several representatives considered that stock-holding arrangements should be a part of a wider international price stabilization system which would maintain equitable and remunerative price levels, and prevent an accumulation of stocks from having a discouraging effect on production, particularly in developing countries. The Committee agreed that adequate safeguards would be required to avoid adverse market and production repercussions as a result of the accumulation and release of stocks held in the context of world food security.

256. The Committee noted that the proposed Undertaking was envisaged as a voluntary pledge which respected national sovereignty. It was stressed that the proposed Undertaking, though not ideal, had been based on a compromise of many different viewpoints with the idea of achieving a text acceptable to all countries. Many representatives hoped that it would be endorsed by all Governments so that it could be speedily implemented, and the importance of the widest possible participation of Governments, especially of the major producing and consuming countries, was stressed. The Committee noted that a meeting of experts was being convened by FAO to examine practical problems in order to facilitate the implementation of the proposed Undertaking.

257. It was recommended that the Conference should invite all the major food, primarily cereals, producing, consuming and trading countries, to enter as soon as possible into discussions in appropriate international fora in order to accelerate the implementation of the principles contained in the Undertaking and to study the feasibility of establishing grain reserves to be located at strategic points. It was suggested that such a study should also examine the feasibility of creating international grain reserves. Some representatives stressed that countries participating in such discussions should bear in mind

the close relationship with the multilateral trade negotiations. They also stressed the desirability of ensuring that normal trading was sustained and that the interests of both exporting and importing countries were accommodated in an equitable manner. Other representatives suggested that, as a matter of principle, all Governments should be invited to such discussions.

#### *Summary of proceedings*

258. The Committee had before it draft resolution VII in annex VII to document E/CONF.65/6, entitled "International Undertaking on World Food Security".

259. At the 3rd meeting an amendment to draft resolution VII (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.3) was introduced by the Philippines. At the 6th meeting, the Chairman informed the Committee that the Philippines had requested that its amendment should not be considered in the context of the revision of draft resolution VII but in relation to the Committee's consideration of arrangements for follow-up action.<sup>12</sup>

260. In the course of the Committee's examination of draft resolution VII, a number of other amendments were suggested. At its 6th meeting, the Committee decided that informal consultations should take place on the draft resolution and on the amendments suggested thereto, and that these consultations should be co-ordinated by Mr. W. S. M. Ndow (Gambia), Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

261. As a result of these informal consultations, the Vice-Chairman submitted to the Committee at its 10th meeting a revised draft resolution (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.12). Operative paragraph 2 of the revised draft, to which amendments were submitted in the course of the Committee's consideration, is reproduced below:

#### *"International Undertaking on World Food Security*

##### *"The World Food Conference*

"...

"2. Calls for the early completion [by the appropriate intergovernmental bodies] of the operational and other practical arrangements required for the implementation of the proposed International Undertaking, including the examination of practical economic and administrative problems involved:".

262. At the same meeting, the Committee approved draft resolution E/CONF.65/C.2/L.12 without a vote, as its draft resolution II, on the understanding that the words in square brackets in operative paragraph 2 would be dealt with in the light of whatever action the Conference might take with regard to arrangements for follow-up action.

263. The representative of China made a statement reserving his position on the draft resolution.

264. At its 12th meeting, in consequence of its action with regard to arrangements for follow-up action,<sup>13</sup> the Committee recommended that the square brackets and the words within them in operative paragraph 2 should be deleted, and that the words "by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations" be inserted in their place.

<sup>12</sup> See paragraph 288 below.

<sup>13</sup> See paragraph 300 below, draft resolution IV.

265. For the text of the draft resolution as recommended to the Conference for adoption, see part one, chapter II, resolution XVII.

*(c) Improved arrangements for emergency relief and food aid*

*Discussion*

266. The Committee discussed this question at its 6th to 8th meetings on 9 and 12 November 1974.

267. The Committee stressed that the lasting solution to the food deficit problems of developing countries was to be found in increasing food production in those countries themselves. However, it recognized that food aid would be necessary for several years while the food production base in developing countries was being strengthened. The Committee emphasized the role of food aid in three important spheres, namely providing emergency relief, combating hunger and malnutrition among the neediest and most vulnerable groups, and promoting accelerated economic development.

268. In discussing the principles of food aid, the Committee stressed the primary importance of voluntary aid, as well as the importance of providing food aid in ways which would avoid disincentive effects on food production in recipient countries, and on trade in food products of interest to food exporting developing countries. The Committee agreed that food aid should not interfere with the development objectives of recipient countries and should conform with the sovereign rights of nations. It recommended that food aid should appropriately be dovetailed with the development programmes and priorities of the recipient countries, particularly with a view to stimulating food production and rural employment. In this connexion, the beneficial effects of development projects supported by food aid were underlined, and the need to increase the resources of the World Food Programme was highlighted. It was also felt that Governments should evolve effective arrangements for the co-ordination of bilateral and multilateral food aid programmes and that the cash resources made available for such programmes could be used, when possible, for commodity purchases from developing countries. Some representatives proposed that the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme (WFP) should formulate proposals to improve the co-ordination of multilateral and bilateral food aid programmes as well as of emergency food aid.

269. In order to avoid the disrupting effects of fluctuations in prices and availabilities on multilateral and bilateral food aid flows, the Committee agreed that forward planning and stabilization of food aid programmes in physical terms were necessary. In this connexion, the desirability of setting quantitative global targets for food aid was widely supported. Several representatives of aid-giving countries stated that their Governments had agreed to the concept of forward planning and that some of them had established national targets in physical terms for food aid. The need to obtain not only physical supplies but also the necessary finance in order to achieve such targets was also stressed. The Committee recognized the desirability of equitable sharing of the cost of food aid amongst all donors, both traditional donors and all those developed and developing countries in a position to contribute. There was wide support for increasing the grant component of food aid and for expanding the proportion of food aid flowing through multilateral channels, and in particular the World Food Programme. Many representatives agreed with the secretariat's recommendation that a minimum of 20 per cent of

total food aid should be provided multilaterally. Some other representatives expressed serious reservations on these points.

270. The Committee noted with concern that, contrary to earlier expectations, the year 1974 had failed to bring the good harvest needed for the replenishment of stocks and the re-establishment of a reasonable degree of security in world food supplies and that, despite the all-out efforts to expand production, there was no likelihood of stocks being replenished before 1976 at the earliest. Concern was also expressed that the developing countries would not be able to finance their increased food import bills in the immediate future. In this connexion the Committee recommended that interested cereals exporting and importing countries, as well as current and potential financial contributors, meet as soon as possible to take cognizance of the needs and to consider ways and means to increase food availability and financing facilities during 1975 and 1976 for those most seriously affected by the current food problem.

271. The need was recognized for holding stocks to meet emergency shortage situations which arose from time to time from unforeseen and uncontrollable events. It was suggested that Governments, where feasible, should earmark stocks or funds for meeting international emergency requirements as envisaged in the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security, it being understood that, in conformity with that Undertaking, the primary responsibility for earmarking stock or funds for meeting international emergency requirements should be that of developed countries and countries with a capability to do so. In addition, there was support for the setting up of an international grain reserve in order to strengthen multilateral arrangements for dealing with such emergencies. Several representatives pointed out the financial and administrative problems which would arise in maintaining such an international grain reserve and stated that, in their view, emergency requirements were being met reasonably well through existing bilateral arrangements. It was suggested that international guidelines for emergency stocks should be developed as a part of the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security to provide for an effective co-ordination of emergency stocks and ensure that food relief reached the neediest and most vulnerable groups in developing countries. Further, the Committee agreed that a part of the proposed emergency stocks should be placed at the disposal of the World Food Programme, on a voluntary basis, in order to increase its capacity to render speedy assistance in emergency situations. Referring to the voluntary nature of the contributions to the World Food Programme, some representatives urged that, in view of the need to take more effective steps to meet the emergency requirements of many developing countries suffering from food shortages, resources for emergency aid through multilateral channels should be considerably increased.

272. In order to improve advance planning for future emergencies, especially in areas most exposed to food disasters, it was suggested that Governments in such areas, in collaboration with potential donor countries and appropriate regional and international organizations, should prepare contingency plans for the organization of future emergency relief. These would take into account the practical aspects of transport and logistical support and would include measures appropriate at the area and country levels. The Committee took note with interest of the work of the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session on the subject of strengthening the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, in particular in relation to disaster preparedness and pre-disaster planning.

## Summary of proceedings

273. The Committee had before it draft resolution VIII in annex VII to document E/CONF.65/6, entitled "An improved policy for food aid".

274. At the 6th meeting, Brazil submitted orally a draft resolution, entitled "Short-term policy for food security" (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.4), envisaging the establishment of a food emergency fund. At the 7th meeting, Brazil informed the Committee that it wished its draft resolution to be dealt with in the context of the Committee's consideration of arrangements for follow-up action.<sup>14</sup>

275. At the 6th meeting, France submitted a draft resolution entitled "Organization of emergency relief and food aid" (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.1). At the 7th meeting, amendments to the French draft resolution were submitted by Switzerland (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.9).

276. Also at the 6th meeting a draft resolution entitled "Principles for food aid" (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.5) was submitted orally by Sweden, on behalf of Cuba, Denmark, Finland, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Sri Lanka and Sweden.

277. At the 7th meeting India, on behalf of Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Improving food security during 1975 and 1976" (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.6).

278. In the course of the Committee's examination of the proposals before it on the subject of improved arrangements for emergency relief and food aid, a number of amendments were suggested to the various texts. At its 8th meeting, the Committee decided that informal consultations should take place on these proposals, namely, draft resolution VIII; the draft resolution submitted by France (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.1), together with the amendments submitted thereto by Switzerland (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.9); the draft resolution submitted by Sweden on behalf of eight States (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.5); and the draft resolution submitted by India on behalf of five States (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.6)—together with the amendments suggested to these proposals. It further decided that these informal consultations should be co-ordinated by Mr. W. S. M. Ndow (Gambia), Vice Chairman of the Committee.

279. As a result of these informal consultations, the Vice-Chairman submitted to the Committee at its 10th meeting a revised draft resolution (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.13). The paragraphs of the revised draft resolution to which amendments were submitted in the course of the Committee's consideration are reproduced below:

### *"An improved policy for food aid"*

#### *"The World Food Conference,*

"...

"Taking note of [the draft resolution adopted by the Second Committee of the General Assembly on the subject of strengthening the Office of the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator]<sup>15</sup> and in particular those parts of that resolution which relate to disaster preparedness and pre-disaster planning,

[Penultimate preambular paragraph]

[Last Preambular paragraph]

"1. Recognizing the need to increase the resources of the World Food Programme, so as to enable it to play a greater and more effective role in rendering development assistance to developing countries in promoting food security and in emergency operations,

"...  
"2. Recommends that all donor countries accept and implement the concept of forward planning of "food aid", make all efforts to provide commodities and/or financial assistance that will ensure in physical terms at least 10 million tons of grains as food aid a year, starting from 1975, and also to provide adequate quantities of other food commodities, such as oils, oil seeds, fish and dairy products;

"3. Recommends that interested cereals exporting and importing countries as well as current and potential financial contributors meet as soon as possible to take cognizance of the needs and to consider ways and means to increase food availability and financing facilities during 1975 and 1976 for those most seriously affected by the current food problem;

"4. Requests all donor countries to (a) channel a more significant proportion of food aid through the World Food Programme, (b) consider increasing progressively the grant component in their bilateral food aid programmes, (c) consider contributing part of any food aid repayments for supplementary nutrition programmes and emergency relief and (d) provide additional cash resources to food aid programmes for commodity purchases from developing countries to the maximum extent possible;

"5. Recommends that [appropriate intergovernmental bodies] be entrusted with the task of formulating proposals for more effective co-ordination of multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental food aid programmes and of co-ordinating emergency food aid;

"...".

280. After a discussion of the revised draft resolution, the Committee agreed to the following amendments to the text:

(a) To substitute the following for the penultimate preambular paragraph:

"Taking note with interest of the work of the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session on the subject of strengthening the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, in particular in relation to disaster preparedness and pre-disaster planning,";

(b) To add the following to the end of the last preambular paragraph:

"and also recognizing the need to increase the resources of the United Nations Children's Fund, to enable it to play a greater role in meeting the food needs of children in emergency operations,";

(c) At the end of operative paragraph 2, to delete the words "such as oils, oil seeds, fish and dairy products";

<sup>14</sup> See paragraph 288 below.

<sup>15</sup> General Assembly resolution 3243 (XXIX).

(d) In operative paragraph 3, to substitute "Requests" for "Recommends" at the beginning of the paragraph; and in the same paragraph, after "1976", to insert "for the affected developing countries and, in particular,";

(e) In operative paragraph 4, at the beginning of the paragraph, to substitute "Urges" for "Requests"; and in the same paragraph after "provide" to insert, "as appropriate,".

281. Also at the 10th meeting, the representative of France withdrew the draft resolution contained in document E/CONF.65/C.2/L.1; the representative of Sweden, on behalf of the sponsors, withdrew the draft resolution contained in document E/CONF.65/C.2/L.5; and the representative of Bangladesh, on behalf of the sponsors, withdrew the draft resolution contained in document E/CONF.65/C.2/L.6.

282. At the same meeting, the Committee approved draft resolution E/CONF.65/C.2/L.13, as amended, without a vote, as its draft resolution III, on the understanding that the words in square brackets in operative paragraph 5 would be dealt with in the light of whatever action the Conference might take with regard to arrangements for follow-up action.

283. The representative of Thailand expressed a reservation with regard to the draft resolution.

284. At its 12th meeting, in consequence of its action with regard to arrangements for follow-up action, "the Committee recommended that the square brackets and the words within them in operative paragraph 5 should be deleted and the words "the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme, reconstituted as recommended in Conference resolution ... on arrangements for follow-up action" be inserted in their place.

285. For the text of the draft resolution as recommended to the Conference for adoption, see part one, chapter II, resolution XVIII.

## II. ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION [agenda item 9 (f)]

286. The Second Committee considered the question of arrangements for follow-up action at its 12th meeting on 16 November 1974.

287. The Conference at its 1st meeting had allocated to the Second Committee for its consideration the following proposals:<sup>16</sup>

(a) "World Fertilizer Fund"—proposal by Sri Lanka and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). (E/CONF.65/4, paras. 668-671);

(b) "Agricultural Development Fund"—proposal by Sierra Leone on behalf of the African Group. (E/CONF.65/4, para. 673);

(c) "World Food Security Council, World Food Bank and International Agricultural Development Fund of Bank"—proposal by Bangladesh. (E/CONF.65/4, paras. 675-677);

(d) "Establishment of a World Bank of Food, Agricultural Inputs Supply and Research"—proposal by Mexico. (E/CONF.65/6, annex I);

(e) "High-level Co-ordinating Committee for Agricultural Development"—proposal by the Federal Republic of Germany. (E/CONF.65/6, annex III);

(f) "Agricultural Development Fund"—proposal by the Philippines. (E/CONF.65/6, annex IV);

(g) "World Agricultural Development Service"—proposal by India. (E/CONF.65/6, annex V);

(h) "Institutional arrangements for consultation and co-ordination"—proposal by the Netherlands. (E/CONF.65/6, annex VI);

(i) The secretariat's proposals for a World Food Authority. (E/CONF.65/4, chapter 20).

228. The Committee also had before it, in connexion with this agenda item, a proposal by the Philippines (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.3), envisaging the establishment of a world food security commission, and a draft resolution by Brazil (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.4), concerning a food emergency fund. These texts had initially been submitted under agenda item 9 (d), at the Committee's 3rd and 6th meetings respectively.<sup>18</sup>

289. At its 6th meeting, the Committee established a Contact Group to consider proposals on follow-up action. This Group met on 11 November, under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Committee. It set up a small Drafting Group to examine the proposals and prepare a text for consideration by the Committee.

290. At the 7th meeting of the Committee, Cuba submitted a draft resolution entitled "Financing agricultural development" (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.8), envisaging the establishment of an international fund for agricultural development.

291. Also at its 7th meeting, the Committee received a proposal by the Philippines (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.7) concerning the mechanism for implementation of an agricultural development fund.

292. At the 12th meeting of the Committee, the Chairman of the Drafting Group, Mr. Layashi Yaker (Algeria), reported on the work of the Group and introduced a new draft resolution on arrangements for follow-up action (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.16), which had been prepared as the result of informal consultations. The draft resolution read as follows:

*"Arrangements for follow-up action, including appropriate operational machinery on recommendations or resolutions of the Conference: draft resolution*

*"The World Food Conference,*

*"Recognizing that an assurance of adequate world food supplies is a matter of life and death for millions of human beings.*

*"Appreciating the complex nature of the world food problem, which can only be solved through an integrated multidisciplinary approach within the framework of economic and social development as a whole,*

*"Considering that collective world food security within the framework of a world food policy should be promoted and its concept further defined and elaborated, so that it should foster the acceleration of the process of rural development in developing countries as well as ensure the improvement of international co-operation,*

*"Appreciating the need to co-ordinate and strengthen the work of the international agencies concerned, and to ensure that their operational activities are co-ordinated in an effective and integrated world food policy,*

*"Recognizing in particular the need for improved institutional arrangements to increase world food production, to*

<sup>16</sup> See paragraph 300 below, draft resolution IV.

<sup>17</sup> The proposal by Japan, entitled "The establishment of a world-wide information system on food and agriculture situation" (E/CONF.65/6, annex II), was considered by the Committee in the context of agenda item 9 (d) (see paragraph 230 above).

<sup>18</sup> See paragraphs 259 and 274 above.

safeguard world food security, to improve world food trade, and to ensure that timely action is taken to meet the threat of acute food shortages or famines in the different developing regions,

"1. *Calls upon* the General Assembly to establish a World Food Council, at the ministerial or plenipotentiary level, to function as an organ of the United Nations reporting to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, to serve as a co-ordinating mechanism to provide over-all, integrated and continuing attention for the successful co-ordination and follow-up of policies concerning food production, nutrition, food security, food trade and food aid, as well as other related matters, by all the agencies of the United Nations system;

"2. *Welcomes* the fact that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has convened meetings of heads of the agencies concerned to consider necessary constitutional amendments and other arrangements to improve the functioning of the United Nations system, and requests that the recommendations herein be taken into account in this work, with a view to the early implementation of the present resolution;

"3. *Recommends* that:

"(a) The membership of the Council should consist of States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, nominated by the Economic and Social Council and elected by the General Assembly, taking into consideration balanced geographical representation. The Council should invite the heads of United Nations agencies concerned to attend its sessions;

"(b) The Council should elect its President on the basis of geographical rotation and approve its rules of procedure. It should be serviced within the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with headquarters at Rome;

"(c) The Council should review periodically major problems and policy issues affecting the world food situation, and the steps being proposed or taken to resolve them by Governments, by the United Nations system and its regional organizations, and should further recommend remedial action as appropriate. The scope of the Council's review should extend to all aspects of world food problems in order to adopt an integrated approach towards their solution;

"(d) The council should establish its own programme of action for co-ordination of relevant United Nations bodies and agencies. While doing so, it should give special attention to the problems of the least-developed countries and the countries most seriously affected;

"(e) The Council should maintain contacts with, receive reports from, give advice to, and make recommendations to United Nations bodies and agencies with regard to the formulation and follow-up of world food policies;

"(f) The Council should work in full co-operation with regional bodies to formulate and follow up policies approved by the Council. Committees to be established by these regional bodies should be serviced by existing United Nations or FAO bodies in the region concerned;

"4. *Recommends further* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations establish a Committee on World Food Security as a standing committee of the FAO Council. The Committee should submit periodic and special reports to the World Food Council. The functions of the Committee on World Food Security should include the following:

"(a) To keep the current and prospective demand, supply and stock position for basic food-stuffs under continuous review, in the context of world food security, and to disseminate timely information on developments;

"(b) To make periodic evaluations of the adequacy of current and prospective stock levels, in aggregate, in exporting and importing countries, in order to assure a regular flow of supplies of basic food-stuffs to meet requirements in domestic and world markets, including food aid requirements, in time of short crops and serious crop failure;

"(c) To review the steps taken by Governments to implement the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security;

"(d) To recommend such short-term and long-term policy action as may be considered necessary to remedy any difficulty foreseen in assuring adequate cereal supplies for minimum world food security;

"5. *Recommends further* that the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme be reconstituted so as to enable it to help evolve and co-ordinate short-term and longer-term food aid policies recommended by the Conference, in addition to discharging its existing functions. The reconstituted Committee should be called, and function as, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. The Committee should submit periodical and special reports to the World Food Council. The functions of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes should include the following:

"(a) To provide a forum for intergovernmental consultations on national and international food aid programmes and policies, with particular reference to possibilities of securing improved co-ordination between bilateral and multilateral food aid;

"(b) To review periodically general trends in food aid requirements and food aid availabilities;

"(c) To recommend to Governments, through the World Food Council, improvements in food aid policies and programmes on such matters as programme priorities, composition of food aid commodities and other related subjects;

"6. *Recommends further* that the Governing Board of the proposed International Fund for Agricultural Development should submit information periodically to the World Food Council on the programmes approved by the Board. The Board should take into consideration the advice and recommendations of the Council;

"7. *Recommends* that the World Food Council should receive periodic reports from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, through the Economic and Social Council, on the world food trade situation, as well as on the effective progress to increase trade liberalization and access to international markets for food products exported by developing countries. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should take into consideration the advice and recommendations of the Council on these matters. The Council should also seek to arrange for the receipt of relevant information from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. In its recommendations on food trade matters, the Council should pay particular attention to the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference;

"8. *Requests* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to initiate urgent steps, through its Commission on Fertilizers, for following up on conference



resolution . . . on Fertilizers, and to take appropriate initiatives with respect to fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides, working in close co-operation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other agencies. The FAO Commission on Fertilizers should submit periodic reports to the World Food Council, and should be guided by the advice and recommendations of the Council;

"9. *Requests* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to examine its ability to follow up on Conference resolution XVI on the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture, with a view to recommending to the FAO Council at its sixty-fifth session in 1975, any new arrangements which may be necessary with respect to its activities in this field, and to initiate whatever other arrangements may be necessary to facilitate global coverage as called for by the above-mentioned resolution, drawing upon the help in this regard of the Economic and Social Council, if necessary, as well as that of the International Wheat Council and other organizations. Periodic reports on progress should be submitted to the World Food Council;

"10. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to consider on an urgent basis, and make recommendations, whether or not rearrangements in the United Nations system or new institutional bodies may be justified in order to ensure effective follow-up on conference resolution V on nutrition, examining nutritional activities within bodies such as the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the World Food Programme, and also giving appropriate attention to nutritional programmes being conducted on a bilateral basis;

"11. *Requests* the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Technical Advisory Committee to assume leadership in following up on the research aspect of Conference resolution IV on research;

"12. *Requests* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant international organizations and interested Governments to investigate the desirability of introducing an organizational approach, along the lines of the Consultative Group—Technical Advisory Committee for Agricultural Research, for other sectors such as extension, agricultural credit and rural development;

"13. *Requests* the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme to organize a Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in Developing Countries (CGFPI), to be composed of bilateral and multilateral donors and representatives of developing countries, chosen as in the case of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, to be staffed jointly by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, and invites this Consultative Group to keep the World Food Council informed of its activities to increase, co-ordinate, and improve the efficiency of financial and technical assistance to agricultural production in developing countries;

"14. *Recommends that* the main functions of the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in Developing Countries should be (a) to encourage a larger

flow of external resources for food production, (b) to improve the co-ordination of activities of different multilateral and bilateral donors providing financial and technical assistance for food production and (c) to ensure a more effective use of available resources;

"15. Anticipating the possibility that such measures as may be agreed to provide financial assistance to developing countries for procurement of food and necessary food production inputs, particularly fertilizers and pesticides and for investment in food production and distribution systems, may not fulfill all needs, requests the Development Committee established by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund to keep under constant review the adequacy of the external resources available for these purposes, especially to the less advantaged countries, and to consider in association with the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in Developing Countries, new measures which may be necessary to achieve the required volume of resources transfers."

293. In introducing the draft resolution, the Chairman of the Drafting Group proposed the following amendments thereto, which were approved by the Committee:

(a) Operative paragraph 2 to be replaced by the following two operative paragraphs, and the subsequent paragraphs renumbered:

"2. *Takes note* of the fact that interagency meetings between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the heads of the specialized agencies provide an opportunity for considering necessary constitutional amendments to improve the functioning of the United Nations system;

"3. *Requests* that the present resolution be taken into account in such consultations with a view to facilitating its early implementation;"

(b) Operative paragraph 3 (a) to read as follows:

"The World Food Council should consist of . . . members, nominated by the Economic and Social Council and elected by the General Assembly, taking into consideration balanced geographical representation. The Council should invite the heads of United Nations agencies concerned to attend its sessions."

294. In the course of the Committee's discussion of the draft resolution, the following additional amendment was proposed and was approved by the Committee: in operative paragraph 10, to insert, after "the specialized agencies", the words "in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization".

295. At the same meeting the Committee noted that two draft resolutions on the subject of arrangements for follow-up action (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.14 and L.15), which had been circulated previously by the Western European and other States and by the Group of 77, would not be introduced in the Committee, and that the proposals for follow-up action referred to the Conference by the Preparatory Committee at its third session<sup>19</sup> could be considered as having been withdrawn. Furthermore, the Philippines withdrew its proposals in documents E/CONF.65/C.2/L.3 and L.7 and Cuba withdrew the draft resolution it had submitted in document E/CONF.65/C.2/L.8.

296. Also at its 12th meeting, the Committee approved without a vote draft resolution E/CONF.65/C.2/L.16, as amended, as its draft resolution IV.

<sup>19</sup> See paragraph 287 above.



297. For the text of the draft resolution as recommended to the Conference for adoption, see part one, chapter II, resolution XXII.

298. The representatives of Cuba and Argentina reserved their position with regard to paragraphs 8 to 15 of the draft resolution. The representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the German Democratic Republic said that there was need for more time to examine the need for a World Food Council but they associated themselves with the consensus of the Committee. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reserved its right to define, at a later stage, its attitude to the World Food Council and its Committees. The representative of France expressed the hope that the Economic and Social Council would examine closely the text adopted by the Committee, especially with regard to such procedural questions as the term of office of members of the proposed World Food Council.

299. With regard to a revised draft resolution submitted by the Group of 77, on short-term policy for food security (E/CONF.65/C.2/L.4/Rev.2),<sup>20</sup> the Committee recommended that it be brought to the attention of the proposed World Food Council for its consideration.

### *Recommendations to the World Food Conference*

300. The Committee recommended to the World Food Conference that it adopt the following draft resolutions:

- (a) Draft resolution I on a global information and early warning system on food and agriculture;
- (b) Draft resolution II on an international undertaking on world food security;
- (c) Draft resolution III on an improved policy for food aid;
- (d) Draft resolution IV on arrangements for follow-up action, including appropriate operational machinery on recommendations or resolutions of the Conference.

### *Action by the Conference*

301. At its 14th and 16th meetings on 15 and 16 November 1974, the Conference took note of the report of the Second Committee.

302. The Conference took action on the recommendations of the Second Committee as follows:

*Draft resolution I* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution XVI.)

*Draft resolution II* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution XVII.)

*Draft resolution III* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution XVIII.)

*Draft resolution IV* was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution XXII.)

303. At the 14th meeting the representative of Thailand expressed reservations concerning draft resolutions II and III. In connexion with the latter, this representative stated that, while Thailand was in favour of food aid provided on a grant basis, it did not approve of food aid on concessional terms as this could have an adverse effect on the trade of exporting developing countries.

<sup>20</sup> This was the second revision of the draft resolution E/CONF.65/C.2/L.4 submitted by Brazil at the 6th meeting of the Committee. The first revision, circulated by the Latin-American Group, was not submitted to the Committee.

304. At the same meeting the representative of China expressed reservations concerning draft resolutions I and II on the grounds that they involved national sovereignty and, in the case of draft resolution II, because some articles of the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security were not explicit enough. The representative of Albania expressed similar reservations on those two draft resolutions.

305. At the 16th meeting, the representative of Cuba withdrew the reservation with respect to paragraphs 8 to 15 of draft resolution IV which his delegation had expressed at the time of its adoption by the Second Committee. The representative of France, referring to the inevitable haste with which draft resolution IV had been prepared, said that it was indispensable that the Economic and Social Council should examine the draft resolution closely.

### **C. Report of the Third Committee**

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ADJUSTMENT WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO THE FOOD PROBLEM, INCLUDING MEASURES TOWARDS STABILIZATION, AND EXPANSION OF MARKETS FOR EXPORTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

306. The Conference at its 1st meeting on 5 November 1974 allocated to the Third Committee for its consideration agenda item 9 (e) entitled: "Specific objectives and measures in the areas of international trade and adjustment which are relevant to the food problem, including measures towards stabilization, and expansion of markets for exports from developing countries".

307. The Committee considered this agenda item at its 1st to 9th meetings from 7 to 15 November 1974. The Committee adopted the present report at its 9th meeting on 15 November 1974.

308. For the consideration of the item the Committee had before it the report by the Secretary-General of the World Food Conference entitled "The world food problem: proposals for national and international action" (E/CONF.65/4, section IV) and the report of the Preparatory Committee for the World Food Conference on its third session (E/CONF.65/6, paras. 86-90). The Committee agreed to take as a basis for discussion the following proposals contained in the report of the Preparatory Committee: (a) draft resolutions IX and X, contained in annex VII of the report and (b) a draft resolution submitted by Yugoslavia, contained in annex VIII of the same report.

309. At its 2nd meeting on 9 November 1974 the Committee received a draft resolution submitted by Liberia (E/CONF.65/C.3/L.1).

310. At the 4th meeting, on 11 November, Mexico, on behalf of the Group of 77, submitted a draft resolution (E/CONF.65/C.3/L.2 and Corr.1), as a result of which Yugoslavia and Liberia withdrew their draft resolutions.

311. Amendments to the draft resolution introduced by Mexico were submitted by Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/CONF.65/C.3/L.3).

312. At the 5th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee decided to set up an informal Contact Group with the following membership: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, China, Cuba, France, India, Japan, Nigeria, Poland, Sweden, Union of

Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and Yugoslavia. However, all members of the Third Committee were invited to participate in the Contact Group, if they wished.

313. The Contact Group considered the formal proposals before the committee, namely, draft resolutions IX and X, set forth in annex VII to the report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session (E/CONF.65/6), the draft resolution submitted by Mexico (E/CONF.65/C.3/L.2 and Corr. 1) and the amendments to that draft resolution submitted by Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/CONF.65/C.3/L.3).

314. The paragraphs of the Mexican draft resolution to which the amendments in document E/CONF.65/C.3/L.3 refer are reproduced below, as are the amendments themselves:

*Draft resolution submitted by Mexico on behalf of the Group of 77<sup>21</sup>*

**"INTERNATIONAL FOOD TRADE, ACCESS TO MARKETS, PRICES STABILIZATION AND ADJUSTMENT**

*"The World Food Conference,*

[First  
preambular  
paragraph]

*"Recognizing the interdependence between the world food problem and international trade, and the role which trade can play in solving the food problem, including its development aspects,*

[Twelfth  
preambular  
paragraph]

*"... Noting the view expressed by the FAO Conference that increasing interdependence of the economies of individual countries necessitates a global and regional concept of agricultural adjustment,*

*"... 3. Requests the Governments of the developed countries to conserve, during the periods of shortages, the use of food-stuffs for human consumption through a system of rational utilization of available supplies, and by avoiding wastage;*

*"... 6. Requests the Governments of developed countries immediately to decrease substantially with a view to their ultimate elimination of all tariff and non-tariff barriers as well as other restrictive practices affecting the exports of developing countries particularly of food and agricultural products on a preferential, non-discriminatory and non-reciprocal basis;*

*"..."*

*Amendments proposed by Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the draft resolution submitted by Mexico<sup>22</sup>*

*"Substitute the following for the first preambular paragraph:*

<sup>21</sup> E/CONF. 65/C. 3/L. 2 and Corr.1.

<sup>22</sup> E/CONF. 65/C. 3/L. 3.

*"Recognizing the role which international trade based on equality of rights and mutual benefit can play in solving the world food problem."*

*"Substitute the following for the twelfth preambular paragraph:*

*"Bearing in mind that the growing interdependence between the economies of individual countries makes it necessary to work out a global concept of agricultural adjustment that will safeguard the economic independence of the developing countries,"*

*"Insert the following new paragraph after operative paragraph 3:*

*"Calls on the Governments to devise effective steps, particularly by concluding international commodity agreements aimed at increasing agricultural production and making it more effective primarily in countries and regions suffering from food shortages, by establishing and supporting agricultural prices at levels equitable for both producers and consumers;"*

*"Substitute the following for operative paragraph 6:*

*"Requests the Governments immediately to reduce substantially and later gradually to abolish all tariff and non-tariff barriers as well as other restrictive practices affecting food and agricultural products on a most-favoured-nation basis, taking full account of general non-discriminatory and non-reciprocal preferences in favour of developing countries;"*

*Discussion*

*Trade and adjustment*

315. The Committee noted the close interrelationship between the world food situation and international trade, particularly in food and production requisities. Thus, while the central concern of the Conference was that of food production, trading conditions and opportunities frequently exerted a strong influence on production. The food problem had therefore to be tackled from all sides, including that of trade. While acknowledging the importance of a general expansion of trade in food and agricultural products to the benefit of all countries, the Committee stressed that it was particularly urgent to expand market opportunities and to promote food and agricultural exports from developing countries irrespective of their socio-economic systems and the geographical region to which they belonged.

316. Similarly, conditions on world commodity markets were of vital concern to a large number of food-deficit countries, particularly developing countries, which had been faced with steep and frequently unsustainable increases in their import bills.

317. For these reasons, many delegations maintained that the question of international trade was an item which was not only appropriate but was essential for the successful discharge of the responsibilities of the Food Conference. Other delegations felt that excessive emphasis on these aspects diverted attention from the main themes of the Conference. A number of representatives drew attention to the unsatisfactory performance of trade in food, pointing, *inter alia*, to the great price fluctuations and supply uncertainties in recent years and to the declining trend in the share of the developing countries in world food and agricultural exports. These representatives

considered that fundamental adjustments must be made to the structure and functioning of international trade in food, giving special attention to the needs of developing countries. They also emphasized that while food aid would still be necessary, developing countries gave greater importance to the creation of conditions to enable them to earn the foreign exchange required to pay for food imports where these were needed. Other delegations pointed out that mutually beneficial international trade, based on equality, could play a role in the solution of the food problem, contributing first of all to the growth of food and agricultural production; for this it was indispensable to remove all obstacles and discriminatory practices, while respecting the principle of most-favoured-nation treatment, not only in regard to food trade but also in respect of trade of all other goods. The Committee agreed that the Conference could not become a negotiating forum for the problems of trade in agricultural products, for which appropriate fora existed elsewhere. However, some delegations stated that the Conference should provide policy guidelines or recommendations which reflected a broad political consensus on fruitful approaches to trade issues. These guidelines would also help to orient better the on-going work on trade in GATT, UNCTAD and FAO. Since the World Food Conference was a special meeting of the United Nations, it should set the context within which the specialized agencies would assist countries to carry out the recommendations of the Conference.

318. Some delegations recalled the Declaration on and the Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixth special session, under resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI), and emphasized its relevance to the world food problem. They considered that the Declaration and the Programme provided a comprehensive framework for the consideration of world trade, particularly in food products. They further stated that the stabilization of agricultural commodity markets and prices and production inputs, access to markets, and improvement in the terms of trade of the developing countries were major international trade problems which impinged on the world food situation and prosperity. Other representatives expressed the view that increases in export earnings of developing countries were equally necessary.

#### *Stabilization*

319. The instability of world food and agricultural raw material commodity markets in recent years was a grave problem for all countries. It bore particularly heavily on developing, importing countries. Some delegations expressed grave doubts about the efficiency of commodity agreements as a means of stabilizing markets or increasing food supplies. Many others were of the view that more attention to commodity agreements was required in the interests of stability. Although their past performance was not very satisfactory, the possibilities for improving commodity agreements were far from exhausted. These should be instruments for stabilizing prices and for co-ordinating commodity aspects of national policies, and should be aimed at increasing agricultural production, primarily in countries and regions suffering from lack of food. Prices in such agreements should be established and maintained at levels which would be fair both to producers and consumers. They should also lead to a more rational basis for the forward planning of programmes for the expansion of farm output.

#### *Access to markets*

320. Some delegations stated that improved access to markets of developed countries was a fundamental prerequisite for trade to contribute more fully to the amelioration of world food problems. They stressed that urgent action was required in UNCTAD for the elimination of barriers to the exports of the developing countries through measures such as the implementation, improvement and enlargement of the Generalized System of Preferences, liberalization of non-tariff barriers, and an early elaboration of an over-all integrated programme for commodities. In the GATT, priority attention should be given in the multilateral trade negotiations to the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers to the exports of the developing countries. Some delegations favoured the introduction of a time-table for the reduction or abolition of specified barriers to trade. While there was general support for greater liberalization of trade in agricultural commodities, it was recognized that in all countries a certain degree of self-sufficiency in food production was a legitimate policy objective for security and other reasons and that, accordingly, some degree of protection might continue to be necessary. In this context, some delegations stressed that countries had the right to such self-sufficiency in food as a policy objective. However, the potential contributions from exporting countries to world food supplies must be realized. In this connexion, a number of delegations drew attention to the scope for expanded trade in food amongst developing countries if assistance could be given to the solution of payment problems.

#### *Terms of trade*

321. Many representatives stressed that the deterioration of the terms of trade of the developing countries could not be allowed to continue. It was generally recognized that although the commodity boom had temporarily improved the situation, longer-term measures were essential. Some delegations felt that indexation was one possible innovation but most delegations recognized that until the UNCTAD study on the subject was completed no firm assessment of the feasibility of this approach could be made. Many delegations suggested that other approaches should in any event be followed, such as, for example, single or multi-commodity agreements under which remunerative prices for exports of developing countries could be negotiated.

#### *International agricultural adjustment*

322. Some delegations pointed to the need to place in a broad context the efforts devoted to improving the trading situation of individual commodities or to solving particular trade problems. They noted also that international agricultural adjustment implied on adaptation of global supplies of food and other agricultural commodities to global demand or needs. Measures leading to the future improvement of trade required to meet these global food needs must take fuller account than in the past of the diversity, amongst countries, of conditions bearing on trade in food products.

#### *Summary of proceedings*

323. At the 9th meeting, on 15 November 1974, the Chairman of the Contact Group, A. Ismet Hakim (Indonesia) made an oral report to the Committee on the work of the Group. He noted, *inter alia*, that the Contact Group, after discussing the formal proposals before it, at three meetings, had established a Drafting Committee composed of Algeria, Argentina, Aus-

tralia, France, India, Poland, Sweden and the United States of America. He presented and orally revised a draft resolution which had emerged from the work of the Contact Group and the Drafting Committee (E/CONF.65/C.3/L.4/Add.1 and Corr.1).

324. The representative of Argentina orally proposed the amendment of the draft resolution by inserting, in paragraph 9, the words "as far as possible" before the words "the interests of the food-exporting developing countries" so that the paragraph would read:

"9. *Calls upon* Governments of developed countries, in the determination of attitudes towards farm support programmes for domestic food production, to take into account as far as possible the interests of the food-exporting developing countries, in order to avoid detrimental effects to their exports;"

325. At the same meeting, the Committee approved without a vote the draft resolution presented by the Drafting Committee, as orally revised by the Chairman of the Contact Group and the representative of Argentina.

326. For the text of the draft resolution as recommended to the Conference for adoption, see part one, chapter II, resolution XIX.

327. The following representatives stated that they were not completely satisfied with the draft resolution, or with various provisions thereof, but had supported it in the spirit of co-operation: Poland (also on behalf of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary), Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Argentina (on behalf of the Latin American States), Spain, Sudan, Cuba, and China.

328. Also at the 9th meeting, the Committee decided to transmit<sup>23</sup> to the appropriate Committee of the Conference the following three paragraphs originally appended to the draft resolution submitted by the Contact Group and the Drafting Committee:

"A. *Requests* the Governments of the developed countries, and other countries able to do so and international organizations concerned, to ensure the supply of cereals and other important food-stuffs to developing countries in need *inter alia* through purchases at mutually agreed prices from food-exporting developing countries through a system of allocation, at reasonable prices and under favourable financial terms taking into account the interests of food exporting and importing developing countries;

"B. *Requests* the Governments of all countries to maximize, during the periods of shortages, the use of food-stuffs for human consumption through rational utilization of available supplies, and by avoiding wastage;

"C. *Suggests* the creation of a technical committee which shall have to make a list of principal inputs for agriculture of which the prices shall be related to the prices of agricultural products and to find formulas to ensure a fair margin to farmers in developing countries;"

#### *Recommendation to the World Food Conference*

329. At its 9th meeting the Committee recommended to the World Food Conference that it adopt the draft resolution entitled:

*"International trade, stabilization and agricultural adjustment"*

#### *Action by the Conference*

330. At the 15th meeting on 16 November 1974 the Conference took note of the report of the Third Committee.

331. The Conference took action on the recommendation of the Third Committee as follows:

332. The draft resolution on international trade, stabilization and agricultural adjustment was adopted without a vote. (For the text, as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution XIX.)

333. The representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany, China, Venezuela, Spain, Cuba, the Philippines, India and Uruguay made statements explaining their position on the resolution.

#### **D. Report of the Credentials Committee**

##### **CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE**

334. At its 1st plenary meeting, held on 5 November 1974, the Conference, in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee composed of the following States: Belgium, Costa Rica, Philippines, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela and Zambia.

335. The Credentials Committee met on 9, 12, 13 and 14 November 1974. In connexion with the election of its Chairman, the Committee noted that rule 4 of the rules of procedure provided that its composition "shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session". At the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the Philippines had been elected Chairman of the Credentials Committee and the question arose whether the chairmanship of the Credentials Committee of the World Food Conference should be the same as that of the General Assembly, or whether that was a matter to be decided at the Conference itself. In that connexion the representative of Senegal regretted that rule 4 was open to different interpretations and expressed the view that at future United Nations conferences the corresponding rule should be more clearly drafted.

336. The representatives of Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania stressed that the election of a chairman different from the chairman of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly could under no circumstances, as far as the African group was concerned, be interpreted as reflecting dissatisfaction with the way in which the Philippines chaired the Credentials Committee of the current General Assembly. On the contrary, the African States deeply appreciated the efforts of the Philippines in the struggle against colonialism and *apartheid*.

337. The representative of the Philippines stated that the principal reason for which he had not withdrawn the availability of the Philippines as a possible chairman of the Credentials Committee of the Conference was that he feared that to do so might reflect adversely on the chairmanship of the Philippines at the General Assembly. However, the statements made by the representatives of Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania had dispelled his fears, and his support of the chairmanship of Zambia was motivated by his country's solidarity with the African countries in their efforts to combat colonialism and *apartheid*.

<sup>23</sup> The paragraphs were transmitted to the Second Committee, which took them into consideration in its programme of work.

338. Having been nominated by the representative of the Philippines, the Hon. P. J. F. Lusaka M.P., Minister for Rural Development of the Republic of Zambia, was unanimously elected chairman.

339. The representative of Zambia expressed his appreciation of the understanding shown by the representative of the Philippines and associated himself with the statements made by the representatives of Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania.

340. The Committee was informed that, as of 14 November 1974, credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs had been submitted, as provided for in rule 3 of the rules of procedure, by all participating States except 16. Of those 16 States:

(a) The representatives of 1 State were designated in a note verbale from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs;

(b) The representatives of 3 States were designated by their Government authorities other than the authorities specified in rule 3 of the rules of procedure;

(c) The representatives of 5 States were designated in letters or notes verbales from their embassies in Rome;

(d) The names of the representatives of 2 States were communicated by cable;

(e) The credentials of representatives of 5 States present at the Conference had not been submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference.

341. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics expressed the view that the unilateral invitation to the representative of the Saigon administration to participate in the Conference was inconsistent with the Paris Agreements, demonstrated discrimination against the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam and was contrary to the spirit of the Conference. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics emphasized that the fact that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam had not been invited to the Conference had prevented the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam from participating in the Conference, thereby inflicting damage on the universal character of that important forum.

342. The Committee was informed that the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam had been invited to participate in the Conference.

343. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania noted that the Khmer people were represented by the government of Lon Nol. He considered that it was the Royal Government of Prince Sihanouk which should speak on behalf of the Khmer people. In that connexion the Committee was informed that the question of the representation of the Khmer people was before the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly which was the competent United Nations organ to consider such matters.

344. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania also noted with regret that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea did not appear to be represented at the Conference. He was informed that that Government had been invited to participate in the Conference but had not sent representatives.

345. The representatives of Senegal and Zambia stated that, in view of its humanitarian objectives, political consideration should not come into play when determining who should be invited to participate in the Conference. They regretted that many people who were struggling for their independence were inadequately represented at the Conference.

346. The representative of the United States of America stated that political considerations had not been taken into account when the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations had adopted resolution 1840 (LVI) specifying who was to be invited to the Conference. In fact that resolution contained the "all States" clause which was to be interpreted in the light of General Assembly practice regarding representation and if any doubts arose the Secretary-General of the United Nations had been instructed to seek guidance from the General Assembly.

347. The Committee noted that all but 16 States participating in the Conference had submitted credentials that were in conformity with rule 3 of the rules of procedure. In view of the short duration of the Conference and the difficulties which some delegations had had in communicating with their Governments, the Committee decided to recommend that the Conference accept provisionally the communications referred to in paragraph 340, subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) on the understanding that the States concerned would submit credentials in the proper form as soon as possible. As to the representatives of the States referred to in paragraph 340, subparagraph (e), the Committee proposed that they participate provisionally in the Conference in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure. The Committee noted that in most instances assurances had been given that full credentials would be transmitted as soon as possible.

348. In the light of its discussions the Committee adopted the following resolution, it being understood that the views expressed during the Committee's debate would be included in the report of the Conference:

*"The Credentials Committee,*

*"Having examined the credentials of the representatives of all States participating in the World Food Conference,*

*"Noting the views expressed during its debate,*

*"Recommends that the Conference:*

*"(a) Accept the credentials of representatives submitted in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure;*

*"(b) Accept provisionally the credentials of representatives which are not in the form prescribed in rule 3 of the rules of procedure on the understanding that credentials in due form will be submitted as soon as possible by the State concerned."*

349. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reserved his Government's position with respect to the resolution.

350. The Conference may wish to consider the recommendations submitted to it by the Committee in the resolution which appears in paragraph 348 above.

#### *Action by the Conference*

351. At its 13th meeting, on 15 November 1974, the Conference took note of the report of the Credentials Committee. The Conference adopted the recommendations in paragraph 348 of the report.

352. Following the adoption of these recommendations, statements were made by the representatives of the following States expressing reservations or observations on the report of the Credentials Committee: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, China, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Guinea, Iraq, Khmer Republic, Madagascar, Morocco, Peru, Poland, Republic of

Viet-Nam, Romania, Somalia, Sudan, Sweden, Togo, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and Yugoslavia.

353. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reiterated the views of his Government contained in paragraph 341 of the report of the Credentials Committee to the effect that the unilateral invitation to the representatives of the Saigon Administration to participate in the Conference was flagrantly inconsistent with the Paris Agreement which clearly established that there were two Governments in South Viet-Nam. The fact that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam had not been invited constituted discrimination against that Government; was contrary to the spirit of the Conference and had also prevented the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam from participating. As a result, the universal character of the Conference had been seriously prejudiced.

354. The representative of Sweden pointed out that the provision of the Paris Agreement pursuant to which there should be a single Government for South Viet-Nam had not yet been implemented. Therefore, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam and the Saigon Government both had an equal right to participate in the Conference and it was inappropriate, under present circumstances, to have invited the Saigon Government only.

355. The representative of Romania deplored the fact that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam had not been invited to the Conference. He further considered that the legitimate Government of Cambodia, which was the Royal Government of Prince Sihanouk, should have been invited, and he regretted that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was absent. The presence of representatives of these Governments would have contributed to the universal character of the Conference.

356. The representative of Cuba stated that the only legitimate representatives of the people of South Viet-Nam were the representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam. He further considered that the representatives of the Khmer Republic participating in the Conference did not represent the Khmer people. He also regretted the absence of representatives from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

357. The representative of China stated that the Lon Nol clique represented nobody but themselves. The Royal Government of Prince Sihanouk had effective control over 82 per cent of Cambodia and about 5 million people. It had the warm support of the Cambodian people and had diplomatic relations with an ever-increasing number of Governments. On the other hand, the Lon Nol clique had been imposed by a foreign Power and had long been disavowed by the Khmer people. Its presence at the Conference was therefore illegal. The representative of China also emphasized that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam had effective control over a vast territory and that the Paris Agreement had not been complied with. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam was fully entitled to participate in the Conference and it was impossible to justify the unilateral invitation of the Saigon Administration.

358. The representative of Albania stated that the credentials of the Lon Nol clique were invalid since Lon Nol had lost the confidence of the Cambodian people and was merely in the service of the United States of America. The only legitimate representatives were those of the Royal Government of Prince Sihanouk. The same representative also objected to the credentials of the Saigon Administration which was likewise a tool of the aggressive policies of the United States of America.

359. The representative of Egypt stated that the only legitimate representatives of Cambodia were those of Prince Sihanouk's Government and that the Provisional Revolutionary Government was the only Government which could represent the people of South Viet-Nam.

360. The representative of Madagascar regretted that the Provisional Revolutionary Government, which the Government of Madagascar recognized as the legitimate representative of the South Viet-Nameese people, had not been invited to the Conference. That discriminatory measure, which was contrary to the principle of the universality of the Conference, had deprived the Conference also of the presence of representatives of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam. The representative of Madagascar further regretted the absence of representatives of the Royal Government of Prince Sihanouk, the sole legitimate and authentic Government representing the Khmer people, and also regretted that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was not represented.

361. The representative of Peru regretted that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam had not been invited to the Conference.

362. The representative of Iraq associated himself with previous speakers in deploring the fact that the Royal Government of Prince Sihanouk had not been invited to represent the Khmer people and also that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam had not been invited.

363. The representative of the Republic of Viet-Nam said that it was incorrect to state that there were two Governments in South Viet-Nam. The Paris Agreement referred to a single Government. The only Government which had been elected by the people of South Viet-Nam was the Government in Saigon which he represented. He stated that the Peking régime, on account of its policy of interference in the internal affairs of South Viet-Nam, appeared to be unwilling to recognize existing facts. That régime should return the Paracel Islands and leave the Viet-Nameese people to settle their own affairs. It was only in that way that the riparian States of the Mekong could implement the United Nations project which, in five years, could multiply rice production in the region fourfold.

364. The representative of Somalia associated himself with previous speakers who thought that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam and the Government of Prince Sihanouk should have been invited.

365. The representative of Sudan supported the statement of the representative of China and regretted the absence of representatives of the Royal Government of Prince Sihanouk and of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

366. The representative of Yugoslavia protested against the fact that only the Saigon Government had been invited to represent South Viet-Nam and that no invitation had been sent to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam. He also wished to register his protest that the Royal Government of Prince Sihanouk had not been invited, and he regretted that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was not represented.

367. The representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen regretted the absence of representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam, the Royal Government of Prince Sihanouk and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

368. The representative of Guinea stated that the only legitimate representatives of Cambodia were those of the Royal Government of Prince Sihanouk which had been recognized by the non-aligned States in Algiers. He also deplored the fact that South Viet-Nam was represented by the

puppet Government in Saigon rather than the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam. The absence of representatives from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was also to be regretted.

369. The representative of the Khmer Republic stated that he had so far refrained from replying to the attacks levelled against his Government at the Conference, in view of the humanitarian objectives of the Conference and on account of his Government's wish to seek adequate solutions to the problems which it was discussing. The Khmer Republic had been the victim of a war which had been imposed on it for four years and he wished to take the opportunity of thanking friendly Governments and international organizations for the assistance his Government had received. That war could only be ended through national reconciliation which his government sincerely hoped could be achieved.

370. The representative of Poland stated that the interpretation of the Paris Agreement according to which there was only one government in South Viet-Nam was untenable. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam was a signatory to the Agreement. It was therefore a fact that there were two governments in South Viet-Nam and he deplored the failure to invite the Provisional Revolutionary Government to the Conference. In addition, for this reason, the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam had not been able to participate, thus prejudicing the universality of the Conference.

371. The representative of Afghanistan stated that the Royal Government of Prince Sihanouk was the only legitimate representative of the Khmer people and that the Provisional

Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam should have been invited.

372. The representative of China stated that the presence of the Lon Nol clique was illegal and that there was no justification for not inviting the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam. China pursued a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, and the Saigon authorities could not change facts which were known to all. The Saigon administration was guilty of armed provocation against China but had still not learnt its lesson and admitted defeat.

373. The representative of Algeria stated that, as one of the non-aligned States, Algeria could only condemn the fact that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam had not been invited. In addition, as a consequence, the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam could not be represented. He also deplored the fact that the Royal Government of Prince Sihanouk had not been invited and regretted that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was not represented.

374. The representative of Togo associated himself with speakers from other non-aligned States in regretting that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam had not been invited and that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was not present.

375. The representative of Morocco regretted that the Royal Government of Prince Sihanouk had not been invited to the Conference at which most States of the third world were present. He associated himself with other representatives who had expressed that view.

## ***Chapter VII***

### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE**

376. The draft report of the Conference was introduced by the Rapporteur-General at the 12th meeting on 13 November 1974. It was considered by the Conference at its 12th, 13th and 16th meetings on 13, 15 and 16 November 1974 respectively.

377. The report was adopted on 16 November 1974.



## Chapter VIII

### CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

378. Following the adoption of the report of the Conference, the United States of America proposed a draft resolution expressing the Conference's deep appreciation to the President and the people of the Republic of Italy for hosting the World Food Conference at Rome, and for their generous hospitality and great contribution to the successful completion of the work of the Conference.

379. The Conference adopted the draft resolution by acclamation. (For the text of the resolution as adopted, see part one, chapter II, resolution XXI.)

380. The representatives of Somalia, Indonesia, Poland, Argentina, Denmark and Sudan, speaking on behalf of the States of their respective regional groups, and the representative of Algeria, speaking on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of 77, paid tribute to the President of the Conference for the manner in which he had guided its work and thanked the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Conference, and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and their respective staffs for their contribution to the work of the Conference.

381. The Secretary-General of the Conference said that the Conference had opened under the shadow of a world food crisis, and that the attention of all mankind had been focused on its outcome. Some had expected dramatic new decisions which would resolve the world food problem overnight; others had been more sceptical and had taken the view that such world conferences seldom resolved any basic problems. He thought therefore that the Conference owed it to itself to make an objective and dispassionate assessment of the outcome of its work.

382. The first accomplishment, in his view, was the widespread interest and concern which the Conference had generated regarding the problems of hunger and malnutrition. Even the chronic problem of malnutrition with which somehow the world had regrettably begun to reconcile itself had come into sharper focus. Whatever differences of opinion there were within groups, everyone recognized that there was at hand a humanitarian problem which must be solved. It was in that spirit that all participants had shown their recognition that the world was living in an age of interdependence, and that no country, big or small, rich or poor, could live in isolation.

383. Secondly, the Conference had accepted the over-all assessment of the food problem and had recognized the seriousness of the food situation. It had risen to the occasion by displaying a heightened sense of urgency for agreeing on a broad strategy and on a minimum package of national and international action.

384. Thirdly, the Conference had accepted the basic conclusion of the Preparatory Committee - namely, that the solution of the food problem required co-ordinated action on three important fronts: (a) to increase food production especially in the developing countries; (b) to improve consumption and distribution of food; and (c) to build a system of food security.

385. Fourthly, regarding the objective of increasing food production, the decision of the Conference to set up an International Fund for Agricultural Development must be regarded as a notable achievement of the Conference. The implementation of many of the specific programmes and policies recommended by the Conference to increase food production would require a substantial increase in the flow of resources for agricultural development. Although it was only a start and the full potential of such a fund had yet to be developed, the co-operation of many countries with potential resources, particularly the response of the oil-producing countries, had been most encouraging.

386. Fifthly, the decisions of the Conference on food information and food security represented another landmark. For the first time, the international community was laying the foundations of a food security system which could ensure in future the availability of adequate food to all at reasonable prices.

387. Sixthly, the recommendation of the Conference that all donor countries should accept and implement the concept of forward planning of food aid, and should make all efforts to provide at least 10 million tons of grain as food aid every year, was another significant step which would not only insulate food aid programmes from the effects of excessive fluctuations in production and prices, but would also provide a more positive policy framework for food aid programmes in the future.

388. Those actions, taken together with the Conference resolutions on fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, land and water, research, nutrition, trade, and some other important topics, constituted an impressive package of national and international action to come out of the Conference. Particularly encouraging, also, was the emphasis the Conference had placed on the importance of mobilizing people, especially the small farmer, for rural development, and on the balance between political, social and technical factors in determining priorities for agricultural development.

389. The main challenge for the national governments and the international community as a whole would now be the effective implementation of those resolutions. From the very outset, he had been emphasizing the need for effective follow-up action. During the past 20 years, there had been many conferences and congresses which had adopted very good resolutions and reports; but their implementation had been totally inadequate. The attention that the Conference had devoted to follow-up arrangements reflected the importance which it had attached to that subject. Nevertheless, the conclusion of the Conference in that respect was a compromise, which was perhaps understandable in a gathering of some 130 nations. He hoped that the co-ordinating mechanism recommended by the Conference would have the political authority and support that would be necessary to implement the various resolutions. That requirement was particularly relevant in view of the fact that the demands on the world community for co-operation and mutual assistance were growing in intensity from day to day.

390. The primary responsibility for the implementation of many of those resolutions lay, of course, with the developing countries themselves. The Governments of those countries must take, on a priority basis, all the political, economic, and financial decisions necessary for the attainment of those objectives, particularly objectives pertaining to increasing food production. Without such actions, international support would not make the desired impact. A resolution on fertilizers, for example, would mean nothing unless the oil-producing countries took the initiative for setting up fertilizer plants, along with the developed countries which should co-operate by supplying the technology. Steps to set up such enterprises must be taken immediately.

391. At the same time, he hoped that the implementation of the decision to establish an International Fund for Agricultural Development would not be delayed by procedural difficulties or organization problems, and that the countries concerned would quickly hold informal consultations in the next few weeks so that the Fund could come into operation early in 1975. The implementation of other resolutions would also require not only vigorous action on the part of international agencies concerned, but sincere co-operation on the part of all Governments. Above all, it was essential to begin to tackle all facets of the food problem as a basic human problem rather than as a purely political and economic consideration. As the non-governmental organizations participating in the Conference had stated in their declaration:<sup>24</sup> "Hunger or food must not be used by any group, nation or group of nations as a political tool or weapon."

392. One area where the action of the Conference had fallen short of his expectations had been the short-term food problem. In the current situation of food shortage and high prices, the most seriously affected countries needed at least 7 to 8 million tons of additional food grain in the next 8 to 9 months. Unless that amount of grain was provided quickly, a large number of people would face starvation despite all the resolutions and decisions of the Conference. He therefore hoped that urgent action would be taken in response to the recommendations of the Conference to the effect that interested exporting and importing countries, as well as current and potential financial contributors, should meet as soon as possible to resolve that problem.

393. He was convinced that, all in all, the Conference would be an important milestone in man's perennial fight against hunger, and he only hoped that the system whose foundations it had laid would secure the world against a

recurrence of the kind of crises that had occurred in the last two decades.

394. How long would it take to reach the goals which the Conference had set? The answer would depend on the actions of Governments. Participants in the Conference should remember that the resolve they had taken that "within a decade no child will go to bed hungry, that no family will fear for its next day's bread, and that no human being's future and capacities will be stunted by malnutrition" was a solemn pledge of the entire international community. History would take that pledge as a yardstick for judging the adequacy of the policies framed and the action taken.

395. The President of the Conference expressed his thanks to all the participants who had exhibited so much patience and devotion to their work. The Conference also owed a debt of gratitude to the Secretary-General of the United Nations who spared no effort to ensure its success, and to the Secretary-General of the Conference who had provided the motive force and inspiration to all concerned with the Conference.

396. The documentation prepared under the direction of the Secretary-General of the Conference had brought together contributions from a wide range of international organizations. Special mention should be made of the contributions by the Director-General and the staff of FAO. Without the long-standing work of FAO on the matters the Conference had been discussing, it would have been impossible to begin the Conference with such a wide measure of agreement on the nature and dimensions of the world food problem.

397. At the opening of the Conference, all participants had fervently hoped that the Conference could at least begin the action that would finally put an end to the scourge of hunger and malnutrition in the world. He thought that, in the two weeks of its work, the Conference had indeed sketched the beginning of a world food policy, though all participants must be aware that it was only the beginning. The resolutions adopted would be void of meaning unless they were followed up with urgent action to implement them in the next few weeks and months.

398. There were many indications that the world was entering a new phase in its history. Above all, it was necessary to find a common policy which would make it possible to implement a new type of development scheme for people the world over. The Conference had demonstrated that all people were seriously engaged in the common search for a lasting peace, that peace could be guaranteed only by a mutual effort towards the achievement of a higher degree of economic and social justice, and that it was possible to protect the independence and the sovereignty of countries and, at the same time, to reinforce co-operation within the framework of the international community.