

ARC/02/REP

**REPORT OF THE
TWENTY-SECOND FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA**

Cairo, Egypt, 4-8 February 2002

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FAO Member Nations in the Africa Region

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Algeria | Gabon | Nigeria |
| Angola | Gambia | Rwanda |
| Benin | Ghana | Sao Tome and Principe |
| Botswana | Guinea | Senegal |
| Burkina Faso | Guinea-Bissau | Seychelles |
| Burundi | Kenya | Sierra Leone |
| Cameroon | Lesotho | South Africa |
| Cape Verde | Liberia | Sudan |
| Central African Republic | Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | Swaziland |
| Chad | Madagascar | Tanzania |
| Comoros | Malawi | Togo |
| Congo | Mali | Tunisia |
| Congo, DR | Mauritania | Uganda |
| Cote d'Ivoire | Mauritius | Zambia |
| Djibouti | Morocco | Zimbabwe |
| Egypt | Mozambique | |
| Equatorial Guinea | Namibia | |
| Eritrea | Niger | |
| Ethiopia | | |

Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Africa

| | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| First | - | Lagos, Nigeria, 3 – 12 November 1960 |
| Second | - | Tunis, Tunisia, 1 – 10 November 1962 |
| Third | - | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3 – 15 September 1964 |
| Fourth | - | Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 9 – 19 November 1966 |
| Fifth | - | Kampala, Uganda, 18 – 29 November 1968 |
| Sixth | - | Algiers, Algeria, 17 September – 3 October 1970 |
| Seventh | - | Libreville, Gabon, 14 – 30 September 1972 |
| Eighth | - | Rose Hill, Mauritius, 1 – 17 August 1974 |
| Ninth | - | Freetown, Sierra Leone, 2 – 12 November 1976 |
| Tenth | - | Arusha, Tanzania, 18 – 28 September 1978 |
| Eleventh | - | Lomé, Togo, 16 – 27 June 1980 |
| Twelfth | - | Algiers, Algeria, 22 September – 2 October 1982 |
| Thirteenth | - | Harare, Zimbabwe, 16 – 25 July 1984 |
| Fourteenth | - | Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, 2 – 11 September 1986 |
| Fifteenth | - | Moka, Mauritius, 26 April – 4 May 1988 |
| Sixteenth | - | Marrakech, Morocco, 11 – 15 June 1990 |
| Seventeenth | - | Accra, Ghana, 20 – 24 July 1992 |
| Eighteenth | - | Gaborone, Botswana, 24 – 28 October 1994 |
| Nineteenth | - | Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 16 – 20 April 1996 |
| Twentieth | - | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16 – 20 February 1998 |
| Twenty-first | - | Yaoundé, Cameroon, 21 – 25 February 2000 |
| Twenty-second | - | Cairo, Egypt, 4-8 February 2002 |

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SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2000-2001 (ARC/02/2)

For the Attention of Governments

The Conference:

1. reiterated its support for NEPAD, noting the excellent opportunities afforded through this initiative, emphasizing commitments made during the 1996 World Food Summit by world leaders and their political will to assume responsibility for their national agricultural development; (paragraph 16d)
2. commended the initiative and suggested that NEPAD must move urgently to develop programmes and activities involving grassroots communities which should be the engine that would drive and sustain the desired increase in agricultural productivity; (paragraph 16e)
3. emphasized the role of women in eradicating hunger and poverty along with the need to promote and integrate women in the processes of development, noting that other social and cultural norms such as those relating to land tenure also have a significant impact on the achievement of agricultural potential; (paragraph 16i)
4. highlighted the importance of furthering the identification and promotion of measures to deal with the issue of Trans-boundary diseases and other matters related to the intra-regional movement and trade in plants and animals, including promotion of sub-regional commissions on the use of pesticides and similar agro-chemicals; (paragraph 16j)
5. stressed that drought must be considered as one of the natural phenomena to be dealt with in agricultural policies, emphasizing that desertification; land and water use; and soil fertility were critical related topics requiring urgent attention; (paragraph 16k)
6. noted the importance of training, extension, research as well as access to credit for establishing sustainable systems for increased agricultural production; (paragraph 16l) and
7. underscored the importance of intra-regional exchanges, communication, technology transfer and sharing of experiences which would be further facilitated through partnerships that have the capacity to translate agricultural potential into agricultural production. (paragraph 16o)

For the Attention of FAO

The Conference:

8. expressed its satisfaction to the Director-General for the expansion and continued benefits being achieved through the implementation of the Special Programme for Food Security and the positive impact of South-South Co-operation; several delegates underscored the excellent results obtained from South-South Agreements with the host country, Egypt, urging Member Countries to take full advantage of this programme; (paragraph 16a)
9. stressed the need for solidarity with rural people and urged FAO to further expand the Special Programme for Food Security; (paragraph 16b)

10. commended FAO for its related interventions in the Region such as Telefood and the Technical Co-operation Programme, which provided invaluable assistance to communities in meeting their food security goals; (paragraph 16c)

11. applauded efforts by the FAO to address the critical and pressing effects of HIV/AIDS on the Region's agricultural production, noting that vulnerability should be a key criterion when prioritizing assistance; (paragraph 16h) and

12. expressed their satisfaction with FAO assistance to fisheries and aquaculture, including the promotion of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and urged that increased assistance be provided to strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance to combat illegal fishing in the coastal waters of Member Countries. (paragraph 16n)

Discussion Item: Preparations for the World Food Summit: five years later – Regional Dimensions (ARC/02/3)

For the Attention of Governments:

The Conference:

13. urged Member Countries to attend the “*World Food Summit: five years later*” with the highest level representation; (paragraph 23d)

14. recommended that Member Countries join the “global coalition against hunger” to combine forces in order to achieve the basic pre-conditions for sustainable development; (paragraph 23e)

15. recommended that a meeting of African Ministers for Agriculture and Trade be planned to launch the establishment of an African Common Market for Agricultural Products and suggested such a meeting takes place during the World Food Summit: *five years later* scheduled for June 2002 in Rome; (paragraph 24a) and

16. urged the pragmatic ratification and implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as adopted by the 31st Session of the FAO Conference for the benefit of food security in Member Countries. (paragraph 26)

For the Attention of FAO

17. commended the Director-General for initiating the *WFS:fyl*, providing an opportune occasion to reinforce political commitment and facilitate resource mobilization towards the fight against hunger; (paragraph 23a)

18. urged FAO to join forces with Member Countries to reduce trade barriers and enhance intra-regional trade opportunities for agricultural produce in view of increasing returns, especially for small farmers; (paragraph 23c) and

19. urged FAO to provide logistic support for the organization of this meeting; (paragraph 24b)

**Discussion Item: FAO Support to “The New Partnership for Africa’s Development”:
Quantitative Estimates of Investment Potential for Land and Water Development in Africa
(ARC/02/4)**

For the Attention of Governments

The Conference:

19. unanimously adopted the Resolution **ARC/02/RES**; (paragraph 31)
20. recommended the adoption of the FAO-supported Special Programme for Food Security as a NEPAD programme; (paragraph 31iii)
21. invited each country to establish a National Focal Group for NEPAD responsible for various aspects of the agricultural sector; (paragraph 31v) and
22. recommended that NEPAD initiative be disseminated at national and sub-regional levels so that its main strategic thrust would be understood at the grassroots level. (paragraph 31x)

For the Attention of Donors and Financial Institution

The Conference:

23. encouraged Donors and Financing Institutions to provide funding support for the NEPAD agricultural programmes; (paragraph 31iv)

For the Attention of FAO

The Conference:

24. recommended the use of the expertise available in the Regional and Sub-Regional Offices of FAO to provide technical support to the NEPAD Secretariat; (paragraph 31vi) and
25. recommended that FAO should provide support and advise to NEPAD with the view to maximize the use of African experts and expertise, with financial support of donor countries, in the preparation and execution of NEPAD projects and programmes. (paragraph 31 vii)

Report of the Technical Committee: The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Food Security in Mainland and Small Island Countries of Africa (ARC/02/5)

For the Attention of Governments

The Conference:

- 26 recommended that Governments, particularly Ministries in charge of Agriculture and Rural Development, should make political commitment to initiate agricultural policies and multi-sectoral actions that will link HIV/AIDS with food security initiatives through a people-centred, gender and culturally- sensitive community-based approach to rural development. (Appendix F, paragraph 21a).

For the Attention of Governments and FAO

27. recommended that FAO, Ministries of Agriculture and private employers should adopt the AIDS workplace policies developed by WHO and UNAIDS in order to reduce stigma, protect their workforce and enable those infected to continue to contribute productively. (Appendix F, paragraph 21d)

For the Attention of FAO

The Conference:

28. recommended that FAO should continue to support its member countries in their fight against the effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in order to mitigate the impact on food security and rural development. This should be done with technical advice and adequate resources from the regular budget and extra-budgetary sources for the formulation of programmes and projects for both the prevention and treatment of AIDS; (Appendix F, paragraph 21b) and

29. recommended that FAO should recognize HIV/AIDS as one of the core causes of food insecurity and to make it prominent in all its statutory and technical meetings. (Appendix F, paragraph 21e)

Report of the Technical Committee: Fisheries Development in the Third Millennium: Challenges and Opportunities (ARC/02/INF/5)

For the Attention of Governments

The Conference:

30. urged that, given the critical role inland and marine fisheries play in the Region's nutrition and socio-economic well-being, their development and management should be given high priority by Member Countries; (Appendix F, paragraph 24a)

31. underscored the pivotal role of fish handling, processing and marketing, noting that reduction of high post-harvest losses could produce a significant increase in fish supply; (Appendix F, paragraph 24c)

32. agreed that significant additional investment and private sector participation were necessary in the fisheries sector in order to achieve optimum advantage from aquatic systems; (Appendix F, paragraph 24f) and

33. noted the necessity for increased information exchange, networking and sharing of experiences and technologies among Member Countries of the Region and with others outside the Region. (Appendix F, paragraph 24h)

For the Attention of FAO

The Conference:

34. requested FAO to assist the Member Countries in their efforts to develop fisheries sectors. (Appendix F, paragraph 24j)

Report of the Technical Committee: FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action: Regional Priorities (ARC/02/INF/6)

For the Attention of Governments

The Conference:

35. recommended that Governments, and particularly Ministries of Agriculture, should translate the recognition of women's contributions to agricultural production into concrete policy actions and a more equitable distribution of resources, notably access to land and credit, in the overall framework for enhancing food security and promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development. (Appendix F, paragraph 28a)

For the Attention of FAO

The Conference:

36. recommended that FAO should reinforce its support to Ministries of Agriculture's efforts to mainstream gender concerns into their planning and implementation of agricultural programmes, while promoting the production and use of up-to-date gender-disaggregated data; (Appendix F, paragraph 28b) and

37. recommended that FAO should ensure regular reporting on the implementation of its Gender and Development Plan of Action, and report back to the next Africa Regional Conference on the progress made towards achieving the regional priorities. (Appendix F, paragraph 28e)

Report of the Technical Committee: Sustainable Rural Development and Food Security: The Role of Mountain Development in Africa (ARC/02/INF/7)

For the Attention of Governments

The Conference:

38. recommended that Member Countries, which possess information and knowledge on suitable resources use on mountain areas, should share such information with other countries. (Appendix F, paragraph 31c)

For the Attention of FAO

The Conference:

39. recommended that FAO should assist Member Countries with mountain areas to develop appropriate and workable technologies to arrest soil erosion and environmental degradation on mountain slopes; (Appendix F, paragraph 31b) and

40. recommended that FAO should intensify and focus its efforts on research and information exchange pertaining to sustainable development and management of watershed areas. (Appendix F, paragraph 31d)

Report of the Technical Committee: Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis (PAAT) (ARC/02/INF/8)

For the Attention of Governments

The Conference:

41. recommended that the programme of tsetse and trypanosomiasis control should be driven by African stakeholders, (Appendix F, paragraph 33a)

42. recommended that the programme should encompass the control of both human and animal trypanosomiasis; (Appendix F, paragraph 33c) and

43. recommended that the alliance in the tsetse and trypanosomiasis eradication campaign should involve the scientific community and other stakeholders at national, regional and international levels. (Appendix F, paragraph 33e)

For the Attention of FAO

The Conference:

44. recommended that the technical approaches adopted should adhere to international scientific standards and principles; (Appendix F, paragraph 33d) and

45. recommended that the alliance in the tsetse and trypanosomiasis eradication campaign should involve the scientific community and other stakeholders at national, regional and international levels. (Appendix F, paragraph 33)

Report of the Technical Committee: WAICENT Presentation

For the Attention of Governments

The Conference:

46. noted that FAO would be developing an “Information Management Resource Kit” to support and strengthen the capabilities of Member States in this crucial area; (Appendix F, paragraph 35a)

47. noted that the Second Consultation on Agricultural Information Management (COAIM) would be held in Rome from 25-27 September 2002 and urged Member Countries to endeavour to participate fully in both the preparatory process and the main event. Information about the COAIM could be found at <http://www.fao.org/coaim>; (Appendix F, paragraph 35b)

Report of the Technical Committee: Other Matters

For the Attention of FAO

The Conference:

48 recommended that FAO elaborates and disseminates to Member Countries a synthesis of simple techniques that have given positive results within the framework of the Special Programme for Food Security. (Appendix F, paragraph 36)

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Organization of the Conference

1. The Twenty-second Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, from 4 to 8 February 2002.
2. The Conference was attended by 152 delegates from 45 Member Countries of the Region, of which 20 were represented at Ministerial level; two observers from Member Nations outside the Region, two observers from the Holy See, nine representatives of the United Nations Specialized Agencies and 29 observers from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. The list of delegates is given in Appendix B.

Inaugural Ceremony

3. The inaugural ceremony was held at the Sheraton Cairo Hotel, Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt. His Excellency Dr. Youssef Wally, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of the Arab Republic of Egypt, formally opened the Conference. Opening Statements were also made by the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf and the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council, Mr Aziz Mekouar.
4. In opening the Conference, the Deputy Prime Minister welcomed the delegates to Egypt and expressed his Government's deep gratitude to the Director-General for offering his country the opportunity to host the 22nd FAO Regional Conference for Africa. He further expressed his appreciation for the excellent co-operation existing between Egypt and FAO and extended warm greetings from His Excellency, Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, who has a keen interest in the development of the continent of Africa.
5. The Deputy Prime Minister emphasized that the Conference was being convened to outline the path for agricultural development to meet the challenges of hunger and malnutrition and agree on feasible agricultural development strategies that fit into the prevailing socio-cultural environment in the context of available resources. He referred to recent efforts aimed at providing alternative development initiatives through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and to the need for effective policies for water and land resources use and agricultural production along with technology and information exchange. He confirmed the important role of the forthcoming *World Food Summit: five years later* to mobilize political will and energize policy-makers facing the challenges of chronic food insecurity. He further encouraged more trade between African countries to support agricultural production and foster agricultural development by promoting economic stimuli to producers and consumers alike. The Deputy Prime Minister's Statement is contained in Appendix D.
6. In his statement, Mr Aziz Mekouar, the Independent Chairman of the Council, expressed satisfaction and gratitude to FAO for convening the Conference. He commended the Secretariat for the report of the Technical Committee. Mr Mekouar reminded the Conference that the meeting would be dealing with very important issues relating to partnership, which will spearhead a new approach to agricultural development in African countries. He particularly praised the World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT) programme as an excellent means of information dissemination. He went on to thank the Director-General for his tireless efforts in promoting the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), which is a crucial

programme aimed at enhancing agricultural development on the continent. He concluded his remarks by wishing the meeting a fruitful session.

Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of Rapporteur

7. The Conference considered the recommendations made by the Africa Group of Permanent Representatives to FAO in Rome regarding the officers to service this session of the Conference and approved by acclamation the composition of the bureau as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Chairperson: | Hon. Dr Youssef Wally, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Arab Republic of Egypt |
| First Vice-Chairperson: | Hon. Dr Bonaya Godana, Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Kenya |
| Second Vice-Chairperson: | Hon. Mme (Dr) Maria Madalena Brito Neves, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Republic of Cape Verde |
| Rapporteur: | Hon. Dr André-Philippe Futa, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, Democratic Republic of Congo |
| Assistant Rapporteur: | Hon. Joseph M. Made, Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement, Republic of Zimbabwe |

8. It was also decided to constitute a 'Friends of the Rapporteur Group' comprising: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania to assist the Rapporteur with the review of the Draft Report to be presented to the Plenary Session.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

9. The Conference then considered and adopted the Agenda and Timetable. (Appendix A)

II. STATEMENTS

Statement of the Director-General of FAO

10. In his Statement, the FAO Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, thanked the leadership and authorities of the Arabic Republic of Egypt for their warm welcome and hospitality. He expressed his pleasure at being once again among the leaders of African agriculture on the occasion of the biennial FAO Regional Conference for Africa. He recalled that the Conference was taking place at a time of dynamic social, economic and political change. In this light, and with reference to the recent meeting in Doha, he stated that it was essential for the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations to provide less developed countries with increased opportunities to participate in international trade. He gave the assurance that FAO would continue to support Member Countries to reinforce their negotiation capacities for agricultural trade. He emphasized that in the coming years the globalization and liberalization of trade for agricultural products, the movement of capital and the transfer of technology should take place in such a way that both developed and developing countries will be able to enhance the livelihoods of their people.

11. He went on to state that, as a result of adverse changes in the political climate during the last 15 years, the number of Member Countries in an emergency food situation had increased noticeably, thereby negatively affecting food security for millions of persons in the Africa Region. In addition to conflicts and natural disasters such as drought and floods, the rapid expansion of the HIV/AIDS epidemic was posing a serious threat to agricultural development and food security. Regarding the state of agriculture in Africa, he stressed that this was the only region in the developing world where per capita food production had been declining during the last 40 years, exposing large segments of the population to food insecurity and malnutrition. Variable production levels were cited as major problems for many African countries whose crops were rainfed and therefore vulnerable to the vagaries of the weather. Nevertheless, it was expected that future increases in production would come from 25% expansion of arable land and 75% from enhanced crop productivity. These increases are made all the more difficult because of problems related to deforestation, over-fishing and shortages in rural infrastructure such as those needed for water control and land improvement.

12. The Director-General mentioned that the Organization had continued its reforms with further decentralization of the field programme from the regional offices to the country level. He made specific mention of FAO's support to the establishment of the African Common Market for Agricultural Products, to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and to the Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC).

13. Dr Diouf also outlined progress made in the implementation of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) and reported that it was presently operational in 38 countries in Africa, with South-South Cooperation providing essential technical expertise. With regard to the forthcoming *World Food Summit: five years later*, the Director-General reiterated that the progress made towards achieving the objectives established in 1996 was insufficient and that world leaders would be requested to redouble their political will and provide the necessary financial support to ensure that the programme meets its established targets on time. He further urged Member Countries to augment their pledges to the Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety to further enhance the success already achieved. The full text of the Director-General's Statement is contained in Appendix E.

Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2000-2001 (ARC/02/2)

14. The Conference congratulated FAO for the clear and succinct report on its activities during the 2000/2001 biennium, presented in Document ARC/02/2. It decided to accept written Country Statements under this Item and expressed profound appreciation for the important work being undertaken by the Director-General and his staff in implementing and overseeing FAO programmes in Africa. It noted with concern the report that agricultural production in Africa had again failed to keep pace with population growth. However, with an optimistic look to the future, it reiterated its support for the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* (NEPAD) and expressed its confidence that this visionary Pan-African initiative would accomplish its goals of poverty eradication and sustainable growth and development in the Region.

15. The plenary commended FAO for implementing the recommendations of the Twenty-first Regional Conference for Africa held in Yaoundé in 2000 that emphasized the following issues: drought and its consequences for the livelihoods of African populations; water resources management; development and management of forest genetic resources; management of dry-land ecosystems; and increased agricultural production. It noted with appreciation the contributions made by the Regional and Sub-regional Offices and FAO Special Programmes, including the *Emergency Preventions System* (EMPRES) and the *Special Programme for Food Security* (SPFS). It urged FAO, in collaboration with Member States and international development partners, to continue to implement its activities with a focus on natural resources management; forestry; soil and water resources management; fisheries and aquaculture; marketing and credit policies; and food quality control and nutrition.

16. In particular the Conference:

- a. expressed its satisfaction to the Director-General for the expansion and continued benefits being achieved through the implementation of the Special Programme for Food Security and the positive impact of South-South Co-operation. Several delegates underscored the excellent results obtained from South-South Cooperation Agreements with the host country, Egypt, urging Member Countries to take full advantage of the Programme;
- b. stressed the need for solidarity with rural people and urged FAO to further expand the Special Programme for Food Security;
- c. commended FAO for its related interventions in the Region such as Telefood and the Technical Co-operation Programme, which have provided invaluable assistance to communities in meeting their food security goals;
- d. reiterated its support for NEPAD, noting the excellent opportunities available through this initiative, emphasizing commitments made during the 1996 World Food Summit and pledged their political will to assume full responsibility for their national agricultural development;
- e. with regard to NEPAD, the Conference commended the initiative and suggested that NEPAD must move urgently to develop programmes and activities embracing/involving grassroots communities, which should be the engine that would drive and sustain the desired increase in agricultural productivity;

- f. noted that agricultural production was affected by several macro-economic factors, including but not limited to globalization, external debt and difficulties in sourcing and mobilizing resources;
 - g. appreciated assistance provided by FAO in elaborating national policies and strategies which had targeted local problems and obstacles;
 - h. applauded efforts by the FAO to address the critical and pressing effects of HIV/AIDS on the Region's agricultural production, noting that vulnerability should be a key criterion when prioritizing assistance;
 - i. emphasized the role of women in eradicating hunger and poverty along with the need to promote and integrate women in the processes of development, noting that other social and cultural norms, such as those relating to land tenure, also have a significant impact on the achievement of agricultural potential;
 - j. highlighted the importance of furthering the identification and promotion of measures to deal with the issue of trans-boundary diseases and other matters related to the intra-regional movement and trade in plants and animals, including promotion of sub-regional commissions on the use of pesticides and similar agrochemicals;
 - k. stressed that drought must be considered as one of the natural phenomena to be dealt with in agricultural policies, emphasizing that desertification; land and water use; and soil fertility were critical related topics requiring urgent attention;
 - l. noted the importance of training, extension, research as well as access to credit to the establishment of sustainable systems for increased agricultural production;
 - m. supported the provision by FAO of technical assistance to countries coming out of conflicts and emphasized the need for conflict resolution through sub-regional collaboration;
 - n. expressed its satisfaction with FAO assistance to fisheries and aquaculture, including the promotion of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and urged that increased assistance be provided to strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance to combat illegal fishing in the coastal waters of Member Countries; and
 - o. underscored the importance of intra-regional exchanges, communication, technology transfer and sharing of experiences, which would be further facilitated through partnerships that have the capacity to turn agricultural potential into agricultural production.
17. The Conference acknowledged the significant contribution made by the activities undertaken through FAO and agreed with the orientation and strategic thrusts of the future programme of work for the Africa Region, based on the Strategic Framework of FAO and endorsed the objectives of increased food production and food security through:
- (i) reviewing the reform and harmonisation of their economic policies, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks in order to create a stimulating environment to accelerate sustainable growth of the agricultural sector, promote the integration of African economies through trade and investments and to enable them participate actively in world trade;

- (ii) reappraisal of current public assistance policies towards the food and agricultural sector in terms of policy and institutional reforms and public resource allocation; and
- (iii) development of gender disaggregated agricultural statistics for effective programming and planning.

18. At the field programme level, assistance to Member Countries should focus on helping them to:

- (i) improve water resource development and use, animal health and production, and crop production and protection;
- (ii) address issues related to degradation and improvement of land and other natural resources;
- (iii) promote rural-based small-scale agro-processing industries;
- (iv) strengthen formal and informal rural credit systems and financial markets;
- (v) mobilize support from development partners for the implementation of national and regional food security and forestry programmes;
- (vi) promote greater participation in the fishing industry and develop environmentally-sound aquaculture; and
- (vii) establish better monitoring and surveillance systems to control food and nutritional vulnerability, ensure better planning and food aid targeting, adopt a food-based programme approach that addresses overall malnutrition and develop information systems for the prevention and management of food crises.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Preparations for the World Food Summit: five years later – Regional Dimensions (ARC/02/3)

19. The Conference examined the Agenda Item as presented in Document ARC/02/3. The goal set by the World Food Summit in 1996 was to reduce the number of undernourished people by half by 2015. To reach this target, the number of undernourished people would need to be reduced by 20 million per year; annual reduction, however, did not exceed eight million to date. Considering this shortfall, the FAO Council endorsed the Director-General's proposal to convene the global meeting *World Food Summit: five years later (WFS:fyl)*, to accelerate the process.

20. A large part of FAO's efforts to strengthen political commitment since the original Summit had focused on governments, particularly those of Low Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs). This process included documenting the extent, causes, location and impact of hunger in 67 countries through the FAO Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System (FIVIMS). These efforts were further reinforced by the launching of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in over 60 countries, of which 38 are in Sub-Saharan Africa. This calls attention to the practical opportunities for improving agricultural productivity and rural incomes through the introduction of simple changes in farming systems within a supportive enabling policy environment.

21. The Conference was briefed on preparations for the *WFS:fyl* and appreciated the fact that it was planned to be convened in conjunction with the 28th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which would consider two main items related to the Summit itself – the *Assessment of the World Food Security Situation* and the *Report on Progress in Implementing the World Food Summit Plan of Action*. Within the timeframe, the high level event would include not only the Plenary debate, but also three Round Table discussions and a Multi-stakeholder Dialogue. All Regional Conferences had been scheduled to take place during the first half of 2002, so as to ensure fullest possible contributions to the CFS, and thereby provide substantial analyses of the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and provide regional perspectives in the run up to the event.

22. The Conference welcomed the remarks from the floor and the assurances of deep commitment to the objective of ending world poverty and hunger, and to the goals of the World Food Summit. The Director-General was further commended for his leadership role and dedication to these goals. In particular, it noted that there was hope that follow-up to the Conference leading to the *WFS:fyl* would include: commitment to NEPAD; recognition of the impact of HIV/AIDS on agricultural production; the importance of gender mainstreaming; and unity in the cause of PAAT and PATTEC.

23. Within this context, the Conference:

- a. commended the Director-General for initiating the *WFS:fyl*, providing an opportune occasion to reinforce political commitment and facilitate resource mobilization towards the fight against hunger;
- b. appreciated FAO's guidance in addressing issues like sustainable management of land and water resources; promoting the use of agricultural systems based on rational utilization of scarce natural resources; finding avenues for low cost input supply; and combating the effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the interest of food security;
- c. urged FAO to join forces with Member Countries to reduce trade barriers and enhance intra-regional trade opportunities for agricultural produce in view of increasing returns, especially for small farmers;
- d. urged Member Countries to attend the “*World Food Summit: five years later*” at the highest level of representation; and
- e. recommended that Member Countries join the “Global Coalition Against Hunger” to combine forces in order to achieve the basic pre-conditions for sustainable development.

24. Recalling the recommendations of the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of OAU Ministers of Agriculture held in Lomé, Togo, in April 2001, the resolutions of the 37th OAU Summit in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001 and the Statement of the Director-General of FAO at this 22nd FAO Regional Conference for Africa, the Conference

- a. recommended that a meeting of African Ministers for Agriculture and Trade be planned to launch the establishment of an African Common Market for Agricultural Products and suggested that such a meeting should take place during the *World Food Summit: five years later* scheduled for June 2002 in Rome; and
- b. urged FAO to provide logistic support for the organization of this meeting.

25. In addition, the Conference considered Document ARC/02/3 Sup.1, regarding the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources as it pertains to the food- and agriculture-related content of the Treaty as well as its legal implications and relevance to food security. The World Food Summit attributed great importance to the conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources for achieving food security and sustainable agriculture. The treaty establishes a Multilateral System of Facilitated Access and Benefit-sharing for key crops and makes provision for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization.

26. Accordingly, the Conference recognized the importance of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as adopted by the 31st Session of the FAO Conference and urged its pragmatic ratification and implementation for the benefit of food security in Member Countries.

FAO Support to “The New Partnership for Africa’s Development”: Quantitative Estimates of Investment Potential for Land and Water Development in Africa (ARC/02/4)

27. The Conference noted that its Technical Committee had deliberated upon the main Document ARC/02/4 on *FAO support to “The New Partnership for Africa’s Development: Land and Water Resources Issues and Agricultural Development*. It therefore welcomed the presentation of the complementary document on NEPAD which outlined strategic and related private investment in water management and land improvement that would be essential to achieve the goals for the intensification of agricultural production to meet the targets for poverty alleviation, food production and economic recovery by 2015. The document elaborated on the estimates of the potential for investment in small-scale irrigation (including water harvesting), upgrading and rehabilitating existing viable large-scale irrigation schemes and investment in new large-scale schemes when economically feasible and socially acceptable. Due to the wide spectrum of settings among and within the countries considered, these estimates should be viewed as indicative and would require site-specific verification.

28. Under this Agenda Item, the Conference also reviewed a contribution by the World Bank Observer entitled *Increasing Agricultural Productivity, Enhancing Exports and Trade and Reducing Poverty Through Community-Driven Development (CDD)*. The paper assessed actions to be undertaken on the NEPAD by national governments and donors to increase agricultural productivity. It was stressed that there was a need to double the current level of funding in ten years if goals were to be met. As a contribution to the required resources, a World Bank-led Africa-wide Financial Facility for Sustainable Technology Systems was announced.

29. The Conference, in the ensuing discussions, expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by FAO to the Secretariat of NEPAD and commended the Organization for its support. It also requested FAO to assist Member Countries to derive maximum benefits from the CGIAR Centres located in the Region. The Conference took note of the request for more information on the investment requirements for land and water development under NEPAD.

30. The Conference then examined the draft Resolution submitted by delegates representing the Implementation Committee of the Heads of State and Government on NEPAD and presented by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Nigeria, in his capacity as Chairman of that Committee.

31. The Conference considered all the recommendations submitted to it on this subject matter and unanimously adopted the following Resolution: (ARC/02/RES)

RESOLUTION ON “THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT”
(NEPAD)

The Conference:

Welcoming the decision of the OAU Summit, at the 37th Ordinary Session, held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 9 to 11 July 2001, to request FAO to provide technical assistance to the OAU Secretariat, its Member States and the Regional Economic Communities in the implementation of strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security in Africa;

Recalling the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), at its 37th Ordinary Session to adopt the New African Initiative, thereafter renamed the *New Partnership for Africa’s Development* (NEPAD) at the inaugural meeting of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee in Abuja, Nigeria, on 23 October 2001;

Recognizing the importance of agriculture for the economic development of Africa, and noting that agriculture is among the six sectoral priorities of NEPAD;

Noting the recommendation by the NEPAD Steering Committee at its meeting in January 2002 to establish appropriate institutional arrangements to facilitate dialogue, planning and strategic implementation support to NEPAD’s Agricultural strategy;

Aware of the declaration by African Heads of State and Government that economic development on the continent must centre on African ownership and management;

Recognizing the need for African Ministers to have regular formal meetings at the regional level to discuss African agriculture;

Reaffirming the NEPAD principle of building on existing frameworks and initiatives;

Taking note of the request by the NEPAD Secretariat for FAO cooperation with respect to the agricultural aspects of the initiative;

Noting that most Regional Economic Groupings in Africa, with the support of FAO, have elaborated Regional Strategies and Programmes for Agricultural Development and Food Security, most of which have subsequently been endorsed or approved at the level of Heads of State and Government, or Council of Ministers, of Member States of the respective Regional Economic Groupings;

- i) **Supports** the formation of a Forum of African Ministers of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, that will utilize the sessions of existing frameworks, in particular the FAO Regional Conference, FAO Biennial Conference and OAU relevant organs, and at the instance of the Chair, to hold forum level meetings;

- ii) **Endorses** the Sub-Regional and Regional Strategies and Programmes for Agricultural Development and Food Security as input for NEPAD agricultural strategies and programmes;
- iii) **Recommends** the adoption of the FAO-supported Special Programme for Food Security as a NEPAD programme;
- iv) **Encourages** Donors and Financing Institutions to provide funding support for the NEPAD agricultural programmes;
- v) **Invites** each country to establish a National Focal Group for NEPAD responsible for various aspects of agricultural sector;
- vi) **Recommends** the use of the expertise available in the Regional and Sub-Regional Offices of FAO to provide technical support to the NEPAD Secretariat;
- vii) **Strongly recommends** that FAO should provide support and advise to NEPAD with the view to maximize the use of African experts and expertise, with financial support of donor countries, in the preparation and execution of NEPAD projects and programmes;
- viii) **Invites** the NEPAD Secretariat to transmit the above resolution to the Implementation Committee of the Heads of State and Government on NEPAD for information and endorsement;
- ix) **Further invites** FAO to work with the NEPAD Secretariat to give effect to this resolution and report through the relevant channels to the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity; and
- x) **Finally recommends** that NEPAD initiative be disseminated at national and sub-regional levels so that its main strategic thrust be understood at grassroots level.

Cairo, Egypt
8 February 2002

Report of the Technical Committee

32. The Report of the Technical Committee, ARC /02/TC, was presented by the Committee Chairperon for consideration and adoption by the Conference, viz:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| ARC/02/4 (Agenda Item 4) | FAO support to “ <i>The New Partnership for Africa’s Development</i> ”: Land and Water Resources Issues and Agricultural Development |
| ARC/02/5 (Agenda Item 5) | HIV/AIDS, Agriculture and Food Security in Mainland and Small Island Countries of Africa |
| ARC/02/INF/5 (Agenda Item 6) | Fisheries Development in the Third Millennium: Challenges and Opportunities |
| ARC/02/INF/6 (Agenda Item 7) | FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action (2002-2007): Regional Implementation |
| ARC/02/INF/7 (Agenda Item 8) | Sustainable Rural Development and Food Security: The Role of Mountain Development in Africa |
| ARC/02/INF/8 (Agenda Item 9) | Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis (PAAT) |
| (Agenda Item 11) | WAICENT Presentation |

33. After detailed examination and subsequent discussions, the Conference amended and adopted the Report of the Technical Committee. This Report is contained in Appendix F.

Regional FAO/NGO/CSO Consultation for Africa

34. The Conference heard a presentation on the Regional FAO/NGO/CSO Consultation for Africa, which was held from 2-3 February in conjunction with the 22nd Regional Conference for Africa and in preparation for the *World Food Summit:five years later*, scheduled to take place in Rome, Italy, from 10-13 June 2002.

35. Thirty participants attended the Consultation from national and regional apex bodies of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) across the Africa Region. The participants addressed, among others, issues pertaining to food sovereignty; the right to adequate and quality food; models of agricultural production; conflict resolution and peace; democracy and good governance; HIV/AIDS; gender and food security; and the financing of agricultural activities.

36. The Consultation acknowledged that new challenges have emerged as a result of the rapidly evolving world economy, exemplified by recent agreements reached at the World Trade Organization (WTO) on agricultural commodities as well as the continued negative impact of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP) on the agricultural sector in Africa. The participants stressed the fact that food security is a shared responsibility among civil society, governments, the private sector, development partners and the international donor community. To emphasize this partnership, the Consultation adopted a *Cairo Declaration on Food Security in Africa* and an Action Plan. The Plan prioritised issues that should receive attention, with special reference to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). It recommended the establishment of a

task force at national and regional levels comprising FAO, Government and NGO/CSO to study and understand the implications of the document. The Cairo Declaration is in Appendix G

IV. OTHER MATTERS

Any Other Business

37. There was none.

V. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Date and Place of the Twenty-third FAO Regional Conference for Africa

38. The Conference was reminded of the usual practice of rotating among different sub-regions in the selection of the venue for its next session; and in this regard, the Chairperson of the Africa Group of Permanent Representatives to FAO in Rome, announced the outcome of their consultation with the delegates of the Southern Africa Sub-region, during which the Republic of South Africa had been proposed to host the 23rd FAO Regional Conference, with the Republic of Zambia proposed as an alternate.

39. In response, the delegation of South Africa confirmed their willingness to host the 23rd FAO Regional Conference for Africa subject to confirmation. The outcome of these deliberations would be communicated to FAO at a later date.

40. The Conference accepted by acclamation this offer, which would be conveyed to the Director-General of FAO who would decide on the date and place of the Conference, in consultation with Member Governments.

41. The Secretariat provided the delegation of South Africa with a copy of “The Standard Memorandum of Responsibilities” for Member Nations expressing the wish to host the Regional Conference.

Adoption of the Report of the Conference (including the Report of the Technical Committee)

42. The Conference then considered and, after some amendments, adopted its Report by acclamation.

Closure of the Conference

43. In a brief statement, the Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Africa, Mr Bamidele F. Dada, on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf, congratulated the participants for a very successful and rewarding Conference. He recalled that during the discussions, the Conference concurred that the situation of food security in the region was still critical. The session had therefore welcomed the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) to stimulate national and continent-level discussions on the policies and priority actions needed to ensure food security in the Africa Region within the context of the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

44. Recalling the endeavours of the Conference, Mr Dada expressed appreciation to the delegates and observers for their active participation and the high quality of the debate. He underlined the major outcomes of the Conference which included the adoption of the Resolution

on the “New Partnership for Africa’s Development” (NEPAD) and the endorsement of the priorities of the future Programme of Work for the Region, based on the Strategic Framework of FAO as well as approval of the policy objectives of increased food production and security. He assured Member Countries that FAO and its Regional and Sub-regional Offices were committed, within available resources, to assist the region in achieving food security.

45. Finally, Mr Dada once again expressed the sincere appreciation of FAO and all distinguished delegates and observers, to the Government and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt for their kind hospitality and the excellent facilities provided for the Twenty-second FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

46. In moving the Vote of Thanks, the Honourable delegate and Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, H.E. Gregorio Boho Camo, on behalf of all delegates and observers, read out the motion reproduced below:-

“We the delegates of Member States to the Twenty-second Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa held in Cairo, on 4th – 8th February 2002, do hereby express our sincere and profound gratitude to His Excellency President Hosni Mubarak, Head of State of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and to the Government and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded us on arrival and during our stay in Cairo, the beautiful capital city situated along River Nile, full of history and symbols.

We also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for all the efforts to make this Regional Conference a success.”

47. In his closing remarks, the Chairperson of the Conference, Hon. Dr Youssef Wally, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of the Arab Republic of Egypt, said that he was grateful for the many expressions of appreciation presented to the President, Government and People of Egypt for the successful organization of the Conference. He affirmed that it had been a privilege for his country to host the Conference and he felt highly honoured to chair the Session.

48. Referring to FAO’s untiring efforts to improve the agricultural production and food security situation as well as alleviate poverty in Africa, the Chairperson commended the organizers, including the National Organizing Committee and the Conference Secretariat, for the efficient organization of the Conference. He expressed the hope and confidence that from the statements made during the debate by Ministers and other participants, delegates would return to their countries determined to redouble their efforts to tackle the problems of poverty and hunger in the Region.

49. The Chairperson thanked all those who had in various ways helped to make the Twenty-second FAO Regional Conference for Africa successful and wished delegates, other participants and observers safe journey back to their countries.

50. The Conference was then declared closed by the Chairperson.

APPENDIX A**AGENDA****Technical Committee Meeting**

4-6 February 2002

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

II. SELECTED ISSUES IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

4. FAO Support to “The New Partnership for Africa’s Development”: Land and Water Resources Issues and Agricultural Development
5. The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Food Security in Mainland and Small Island Countries of Africa
6. Fisheries Development in the Third Millennium: Challenges and Opportunities
7. FAO Gender Development Plan of Action: Regional Priorities
8. Sustainable Rural Development and Food Security: The Role of Mountain Development in Africa
9. Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis (PAAT)
10. WAICENT Presentation

III. OTHER MATTERS

11. Elaboration and Dissemination of Simple Techniques on the SPFS to Member Countries

IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS

12. Adoption of the Report of the Technical Committee
13. Closure of the Technical Committee Meeting

Plenary Session

7-8 February 2002

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Organization of the Conference
2. Inaugural Ceremony
3. Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

II. STATEMENTS

5. Statement of the Director-General of FAO
6. Report on FAO Activities in the Region (2000-2001)

III. DISCUSSIONS

7. Preparation for the World Food Summit:*five years later* – Regional Dimensions
8. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
9. FAO Support to “The New Partnership for Africa’s Development”: Quantitative Estimates of Investment Potential for Land and Water Development in Africa
- 10(a). Report of the Technical Committee
- 10(b). Regional FAO/NGO/CSO Consultation for Africa

IV. OTHER MATTERS

V. CONCLUDING ITEMS

11. Date and Place of the Twenty-third FAO Regional Conference for Africa
12. Adoption of the Report (including the Report of the Technical Committee)
13. Closure of the Conference

APPENDIX B**TWENTY-SECOND REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA
Cairo, Egypt, 4-8 February 2002****LIST OF DELEGATES****TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Chairperson: | Dr Fawzy N. Mahrous President of the Agriculture Research Centre, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt |
| First Vice-Chairperson: | Mr Bruce M. Madete Permanent Representative of Kenya to FAO, Rome, Italy |
| Second Vice-Chairperson: | Mr J. Fonseca Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Praia, Republic of Cape Verde |
| Rapporteur : | Mr Baudouin Mayola Ma Lulendo Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt |
| Assistant Rapporteur: | Ms M.M. Muchada, Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to FAO, Rome, Italy |

PLENARY SESSION

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Chairperson: | Hon. Dr Youssef Wally, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt |
| Firs Vice-Chairperson: | Hon. Dr Bonaya A. Godana, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nairobi, Republic of Kenya |
| Second Vice-Chairperson: | Hon. Maria Madalena Brito Neves, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Praia, Republic of Cape Verde |
| Rapporteur: | Hon. André Philipe Futa, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo |
| Assistant Rapporteur: | Hon. Joseph M. Made, Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement, Harare, Zimbabwe |

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APPENDIX C**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ARC/02/1 | Provisional Annotated Agenda |
| ARC/02/2 | Report on FAO Activities in the Region (2000-01) |
| ARC/02/3 | World Food Summit: <i>Five Years Later</i> |
| ARC/02/3 Sup.1 | The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture |
| ARC/02/4 | FAO support to “ <i>The New Partnership for Africa’s Development</i> ”: Land and Water Resources Issues and Agricultural Development |
| ARC/02/4(b) | FAO support to “ <i>The New Partnership for Africa’s Development</i> ”: Quantitative Estimates of Investment Potential for Land and Water Development in Africa |
| ARC/02/5 | HIV/AIDS, Agriculture and Food Security in Mainland and Small Island Countries of Africa |
| <u>INF SERIES</u> | |
| ARC/02/INF/1 | Provisional List of Documents |
| ARC/02/INF/2 | Provisional Timetable |
| ARC/02/INF/3 | Information Note |
| ARC/02/INF/4 | Statement of the Director-General |
| ARC/02/INF/5 | Fisheries Development in the Third Millennium: Challenges and Opportunities |
| ARC/02/INF/6 | FAO Gender Development Plan of Action (2002-2007): Regional Implementation |
| ARC/02/INF/7 | Sustainable Rural Development and Food Security: The Role of Mountain Development in Africa |
| ARC/02/INF/8 | Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis (PAAT) |

APPENDIX D**STATEMENT OF H.E. DR YOUSSEF WALLY, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND RECLAMATION OF THE ARAB
REPUBLIC OF EGYPT ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURAL
CEREMONY OF THE TWENTY-SECOND FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR AFRICA****Cairo, Egypt, 7 February 2002**

In the name of God.

Honourable Ministers of Agriculture in the African Continent,
Dear Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization,
Distinguished African delegates and guests to the Twenty-second FAO Regional
Conference for Africa,

I have the honour to convey to you the greetings of President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and his best wishes to you in your great job. His Excellency the President has always been keen to confirm that Egypt is an integral part of Africa, and confirms its legitimate aspirations for an overall development all over Africa. This has been his commitment, especially during his two terms of leadership of the Organization of African Unity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our Conference convenes today in such critical and dangerous circumstances which we all know about. These circumstances bring back to our minds the historical changes which mankind had gone through. Although we may feel that the present options on the international arena are difficult, or feel a need for changing their positions or orientations, our vision for the African continent has always been very clear. We are now looking forward to achieving an overall development in all parts of our continent and solving the disputes between others and us by peaceful means, and through civilized and constructive dialogue. If what we aspire to has not been achieved as we would like, yet we have not lost our clear vision, and our conviction in the soundness of our goals.

We convene today to outline our path for agricultural development, in order to be able to face the challenges facing our African continent, especially the challenge of hunger and malnutrition and to agree on agricultural development plans stemming from our societies and our available resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are not beginning from nowhere, since the last months have witnessed a series of African initiatives and efforts aimed at making applicable development alternatives which culminated in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). This partnership

provides an in-depth diagnosis of African problems especially in agriculture, and confirms the need for developing effective policies for water resources and the intensification of agricultural production as well as technology and information. This partnership explained the state of investments in the African continent in the field of agriculture, and the need to provide financial resources for agricultural projects. This valuable initiative, which we made and in which Egypt shared, is an indication to the world community of Africa's active efficiency. We have to prove to the world community that we are committed to the partnership in order to ensure the success of our development initiative.

All this adds to the importance of the World Food Summit which will convene next June, to confirm the commitments and to mobilize the political will of policy-makers in the face of the problems of poverty and undernutrition, particularly in the rural parts of Africa where 70% of the population lives.

In this context, we praise the leading role of FAO and its continued efforts towards overcoming the problems of poverty, undernutrition, as well as updating and modernizing the work to be done.

The convening of the World Food Summit: five years later next June constitutes one of the leading achievements of FAO.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Expert Consultations during their meetings in the last few days focused on very important issues related to launching sustainable agricultural development projects in our continent. Today, we look forward to mobilizing a clear political support to our programme of agricultural development, as this is the main path towards eradicating poverty and undernutrition in Africa. This clear political will should be associated with the finance necessary for the implementation of these schemes and programmes. Herein lies the responsibility of the world community, who should support our continued efforts to achieve this goal.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The overall strategy for achieving agricultural development is not separated from the development of the volume of trade between our countries. Since it provides direct support to agricultural producers at this time of world stagnation, which is not expected to end in the near future. It also constitutes a response to the desire of consumers to obtain their goods at moderate prices. These are considered very important issues that are associated closely with promoting agricultural projects in our continent.

Support is also needed for the various economic groupings like SADC and COMESA and others, until we reach African Common Market, which could be achieved upon fulfilling the necessary qualifying elements for this major economic grouping, and by virtue of strong political economic cultural links between Africa and all parts of the world, especially the Arab world as well as Europe, Asia and the Americas.

Africa has been and shall continue to be a place of wealth and growth and a model for the values of conciliation and co-existence between ethnic and religious groups.

I ask God to help you in your sincere efforts.

Peace be unto you.

APPENDIX E**STATEMENT OF THE FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO THE TWENTY-
SECOND FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA****Cairo, Egypt, 7 February 2002**

Mr Chairman,
Distinguished Ministers,
Honourable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

(Introduction)

It is an honour and great pleasure to find myself again among the leaders of African agriculture to participate in this 22nd Regional Conference for Africa. As I extend a heartfelt welcome and wish you a pleasant stay in this city charged with history and living testimony to Egypt's vitality, allow me to express my gratitude to His Excellency President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak and to his Government for their warm welcome and generous hospitality.

This Regional Conference is taking place in a global economic, social and political context that is under rapid change. One of its tasks will be to prepare the *World Food Summit: five years later*, which will be held in Rome from 10 to 13 June this year to accelerate implementation of the decisions taken in 1996 and make it possible to halve the number of people suffering from hunger by 2015.

(State of food and agriculture in the world)

The Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) that was held in Doha last November has established the framework for more equitable terms of international trade of agricultural products.

During the next years, the globalization and liberalization of trade, for agricultural products, the movement of capital and the transfer of technology should take place in such a way that both the developed and the developing countries will be able to enhance the living conditions of their people.

For agriculture in particular, it is essential that the new negotiations under the WTO should provide the developing countries with greater opportunities to participate in international trade.

FAO will continue to make available to its Member Nations the analyses and information needed to reinforce the technical skills of negotiators in agricultural trade.

The last two years have seen a relatively modest performance of the agricultural sector, the economic mainstay of the poorer regions that employs more than 70 percent of the economically active population in the least developed countries (LDCs). The annual rate of growth of world agricultural production fell to 1.2 percent in 2000 and to 0.6 percent in 2001, the lowest level since 1993 and a sharp drop from the 2.6 percent of 1999. This slowdown has been due to a general levelling-off of growth in the developing and developed countries alike.

World cereal production fell in 2001 to 1 850 million tonnes, 1.2 percent down from the previous year. A number of factors have contributed to this reduction: the natural disasters and low prices of recent years and government policies to reduce surplus supply.

The projections are that world utilization of cereals in 2001/02 should exceed output for the second consecutive year, amounting to 1 935 million tonnes, up 1.7 percent from the previous crop-year.

Importantly, however, Australia, the European Union and North America have sizeable food surpluses for export (with a total value of 36 000 million US dollars) and are probably in a position to significantly increase their food production.

On the other hand, food production in the low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCs) is not enough to satisfy the needs of their populations, and these countries have neither the means nor the funds to offset the shortfall through imports.

The world still has some 815 million people suffering from chronic malnutrition, including 777 million in the developing countries, 27 million in the countries in transition and 11 million in the industrialized countries. The improvement recorded in some countries and parts of the developing world, notably in East Asia, is thus neutralized by the worsening situation in other regions, especially sub-Saharan Africa and Central America and the Caribbean.

The gap between outputs and needs in the food deficit regions will continue to widen unless there is an increase in rural investment to generate higher employment, income, productivity and production. Until there is an abatement in hunger and malnutrition, it will be difficult, indeed impossible, to achieve appreciable and sustainable results in other vital domains of the fight against poverty, such as health and education.

(Emergency situations)

Emergency relief operations have escalated in the last 15 years. In Africa, economic losses from situations of conflict represent almost 30 percent of the agricultural production of the countries concerned since 1979. These conflicts and their aftermath, especially prolonged civil war, continue to inflict suffering on millions of people in the region. The displacement of millions of rural inhabitants continues in Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone, and the constant interruption of agricultural and food

production activities obliges the affected populations to become heavily dependent on international food aid.

Natural disasters also hamper efforts to improve food security in many African countries. The serious drought that began in 1999 and then continued in 2000 has devastated crops and decimated herds throughout the eastern region.

In the southern region, unprecedented floods struck Mozambique in February and March 2000, damaging or destroying infrastructure and causing loss of crops and livestock. Two cyclones and a tropical storm hit Madagascar in early 2000 and Mauritius last month, causing heavy flooding, loss of human life and serious damage to infrastructure.

(Other crises)

The long-term viability of intensive agriculture in the developed countries raises concerns and poses problems. The epidemics of BSE and foot-and-mouth disease, salmonella linked to eggs and chicken, and mutant drug-resistant *E.coli* infection from contaminated meat and water have changed consumer perception of the consequences of unbridled efforts to intensify, to maximize yields and to cut costs.

Elsewhere, the genetic modification of food crops and animals has sparked fierce controversy. While they are not required today to achieve the objectives of the Summit of 1996, their development and application need to be studied and monitored scientifically and in an international framework. This will make it possible to benefit from the positive aspects while avoiding any detrimental effects on plant and animal health or in terms of quality.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic also constitutes a real threat to agricultural development and food security in Africa. Of the 36 million people infected worldwide, sub-Saharan Africa is the region hardest hit with an affected population of 24.5 million.

The absence of water control, environmental degradation, climatic changes, transboundary plant and animal pests and diseases are major challenges.

Mr Chairman,
Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Africa is the only region in the developing world where per capita food supply has fallen for the last four years, exposing vast sectors of the population to food insecurity and malnutrition. The incidence of undernutrition in sub-Saharan Africa has dropped slightly over the past 20 years, from 38 percent in 1979-81 to 34 percent in 1997-99. The level in North Africa is 4 percent and has halved since 1979-81, despite the serious environmental constraints that restrict agricultural production in the sub-region.

Yet, if we compare cereal production in 1990 with that of 2000, Africa's share of world production improved, rising from 4.7 percent to slightly over 5.5 percent, but per capita production fell from 150 kg to 142 kg - well below the world average of 338 kg per capita.

Variable production levels are a major problem for many African countries, whose crops are rainfed and therefore vulnerable to the vagaries of the weather.

Agricultural production in sub-Saharan Africa increased by about 2.3 percent from 1971 to 2000, but this figure conceals fluctuations in rate of growth from one ten-year period to another.

Agricultural growth was generally higher, at about 3 percent, in the 1990s than in the 1970s. Agricultural growth in North Africa in the same period was slightly higher than in sub-Saharan Africa.

Future growth in production will originate for 25 percent from an expansion of arable land but for 75 percent from enhanced productivity. Irrigation of arable land will therefore have to be raised from 7 to 14 percent, high-yield varieties introduced, and use made of integrated plant nutrition systems, biological control and appropriate veterinary products together with enhanced animal feed. Concrete measures will need to be adopted and the economic environment changed through better agricultural policies. Farmers will need to have easier access to storage and transport facilities, to markets and credit; they should also have an assured provision of inputs and technical options.

Deforestation continues to be a serious problem in many African countries. More than 52 million hectares of forest are estimated to have been lost on the continent during the period 1999-2000. This represents 56 percent of total forest loss for this period. Almost 44 percent of forests have been lost in only three countries: Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia.

Marine and inland fisheries posted an annual growth of about 6 percent during the period 1950-60, but only 2 percent in 1970-80. There has been a steady reduction in catch since the 1990s, with the deficit offset by aquaculture.

The marine fishing effort in the Southeast Atlantic has remained stationary since its peak of ten years ago, while catches in the Central Atlantic have begun to pick up again, but the best overall prospects for marine fisheries lie in the western part of the Indian Ocean.

Africa has some 200 million people affected by malnutrition. This is largely due to the limited possibilities of food production for domestic consumption and to the poor organization of distribution networks and markets. The situation is very worrying for the small farmers, who make up 70 to 80 percent of the agricultural workforce. Indeed, 42 percent of the rural population live below the poverty line.

Major upstream and downstream investment is needed for rural infrastructure, small-scale irrigation and harnessing of rainwater, rehabilitation and conservation of soils, storage and processing facilities, rural roads and markets. An estimated 37 000 million US dollars are needed for water control and land improvement infrastructure alone. Research, experimentation and extension directed towards the agricultural communities are also essential in order to create productive, competitive and sustainable agricultural holdings.

(FAO activities in the region)

The Organization has pursued its policy of reform and decentralization. In this regard, the day-to-day management of its field programme is being transferred from the Regional Office to the Country Representations.

Programmes of normative and operational activities have been formulated and implemented in the spheres of the Organization's mandate, and detailed reports have been submitted to the Regional Conference.

(African common market for agricultural products)

At the OAU Ministerial Conference held in April 2001 in Lomé, with technical support from FAO, the Ministers of Agriculture and Trade of 32 African countries agreed on the urgent need to promote a common market for agricultural products in order to improve food security on the continent. At the Summit of Lusaka in July 2001, the African Heads of State asked FAO to provide technical assistance to the OAU Secretariat in its fight against food insecurity in Africa, in particular for the establishment of a common market for agricultural products.

Technical studies have been prepared by FAO and submitted for review by the OAU Secretariat and the Ministers of Agriculture, Trade and African Integration for presentation at the July Summit in South Africa.

(NEPAD)

Last July, at the OAU Summit in Lusaka, the African Heads of State established the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). This initiative attaches high importance to food security and African agriculture. FAO provided the NEPAD Secretariat with an expert to help define the main agricultural issues. The Organization was also actively involved in the recent meeting held in Bonino, in South Africa, to review progress. Your deliberations on this matter should provide FAO with guidelines and help it enhance and reinforce its support to the NEPAD.

(Regional strategies and programmes for food security and agricultural development)

FAO has also been working closely with the African regional organizations for the preparation and implementation of regional strategies and programmes for food security and agricultural development. These complement the national strategies for agricultural

development towards 2010 and the activities undertaken by countries, with FAO support, under the Special Programme for Food Security.

This cooperation has involved nine major regional economic organizations: AMU, CEMAC, CEN-SAD, COMESA, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC and WAEMU.

The objective of these strategies is to coordinate agricultural policy, harmonize quality standards and plant and animal health regulations, and to reduce technical and tariff barriers. Financing packages have been prepared for presentation under the 9th European Development Fund (EDF), in collaboration with the Secretariat and the Ambassadors of the ACP countries.

(Special Programme for Food Security)

The Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), the centrepiece of FAO's action in the field, is currently operational in 38 African countries. Its aim is to help the low-income food-deficit countries to rapidly increase their food production and their productivity in a sustainable manner, to reduce year-to-year variability in output and to improve access to food.

The results of the pilot phase have for the most part been highly successful. In some cases, the financial engagement of the government and the concerted support of FAO, the regional financial institutions and several bilateral donors have made it possible to start expanding the programme to different parts of the country.

It is also most encouraging to note that a number of countries in Africa and elsewhere have asked to establish national programmes based on the SPFS concept and have earmarked large sums of their own money for this purpose.

Equally noteworthy is the progress of the South-South Cooperation initiative, whereby developing countries provide countries engaged in the SPFS with field experts and technical staff to live and work directly with local farmers. At present, Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Morocco and Viet Nam are working with African countries, a total of 22 Agreements have been signed, and a further 17 are in the pipeline.

(Animal production - EMPRES - Trypanosomiasis)

Following the decision at the African Summit of Lomé in July 2000 to eradicate the tsetse fly and trypanosomiasis, which cause an annual loss of 4 500 million US dollars on the continent, FAO has collaborated closely in the preparation of the OAU's Pan-African Eradication Programme (PATTEC). This work has been conducted under the framework of other initiatives such as FAO's priority programme, the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES) and the OAU's Pan-African Programme for the Control of Epizootics. EMPRES has built close links with this programme in 32 countries and provides assistance, especially in the field of vaccines and control of rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, swine fever and Newcastle disease.

(World Food Summit: five years later)

The *World Food Summit: five years later* will take place from 10 to 13 June in Rome. This important meeting, which was postponed because of tragic international circumstances, should help revitalize the fight against hunger.

Progress made towards the objective set in 1996 of halving the number of undernourished people in the world by 2015 has been inadequate. At the present rate, this would only be achievable towards 2050. The Summit this June will be called upon to identify and adopt concrete measures to correct this delay. It is imperative to reinforce the political will at the highest level and to mobilize the necessary financial resources.

(Round tables)

Besides their statements at plenary sessions, the Heads of State and Government will be able to exchange views at round tables.

(Alliance)

On the occasion of World Food Day, last October, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Mr Johannes Rau, called for a Global Alliance against hunger and poverty. This concept of international Alliance was subsequently widely supported at the FAO Conference in November 2001. Such an Alliance could be the tangible expression of reinforced political will and an important step towards removing the despair and anger that are so favourable to extremism.

(Funds)

The Organization has set up a Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety. Its Member Nations and development partners have been invited to provide voluntary contributions. The success to date, with 20 percent of the initial sum of 500 million US dollars already secured, would be even greater if further pledges could be made before the Summit.

The participation of the African Heads of State and Government at the World Food Summit is essential for its success. I am confident that they will attend in full force as they did in 1996 and I thank them for their appeal in Lusaka for the OAU Member States to attend the *World Food Summit: five years later* at the highest level. They also appealed to the G-8 countries to contribute generously to the Trust Fund initially set at 500 million US dollars.

Mr Chairman,
Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I eagerly await the results of your deliberations. I am sure that your discussions will provide the Organization with considerations and recommendations that will enable it to better contribute to agricultural development and food security in Africa. The great moral but also economic challenge is to ensure that the men and women of Africa enjoy that most basic of human rights: the right to eat so as to live.

Thank you for your kind attention.

REPORT OF THE
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE
TWENTY-SECOND FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Cairo, Egypt, 4-8 February 2002

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Organization

1. The Technical Committee of the Twenty-second FAO Regional Conference for Africa met from 4 to 6 February 2002, at the Sheraton Hotel, Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt.
2. The meeting was attended by 123 delegates (including 11 at Ministerial level) from 39 Member Nations of the Region, two observers from Member Nations outside the Region, two observers from the Holy See, seven representatives of the United Nations Specialized Agencies and 37 observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Opening Ceremony (Agenda Item 1)

3. The meeting was formally opened by Dr. Fawzy N. Mahrous, President of the Agricultural Research Centre, on behalf of H.E. Dr Youssef Wali, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Land Reclamation of the Arab Republic of Egypt.
4. The Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Africa, Mr Bamidele F. Dada, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf, and expressed FAO's appreciation to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for accepting to host this Conference and for putting at its disposal the excellent facilities at the Sheraton Cairo Hotel. He also thanked the National Organizing Committee for their hard work.
5. He referred to the Yaoundé Declaration, which was unanimously adopted at the last Conference in Cameroon in February 2000. The Declaration eloquently captured the Conclusions and Recommendations of the 21st Regional Conference. He recalled the determination of the delegates to maximize individual and collective efforts and to mobilize and optimize the allocation and utilization of human, technical and financial resources to achieve the ultimate goal of national, sub-regional and regional food security and poverty alleviation. Mr Dada observed that two years had passed since the Yaoundé Declaration, but the performance of the agricultural sector in many countries in the region had been disappointing. Indeed, several countries recorded sharp declines in the annual

growth rate in almost all sectors of agricultural production, while their population continued to grow at about 2.6 percent per year.

6. Referring to the “State of Food Insecurity in the World 2001 edition”, he further noted that while six countries in Sub-Saharan Africa had made significant progress towards achieving food security, the majority remained worse off than at any time during the last three decades. The civil strife that continued in several countries had caused untold suffering to millions of people, disrupted agricultural production, while natural disasters, including serious drought, heavy floods and tropical hurricanes, have also had their toll on food production in the region during the recent past.

7. He concluded by stressing that the FAO had not relented in collaborating with Member Countries in the region during the biennium to find new ways to speed up the realization of the goal set by the World Food Summit of halving the number of hungry people by the year 2015. He therefore urged the delegates to study and seriously discuss the major policy papers on the agenda and come up with recommendations, which could bring improvements in agricultural production as well as in the food security situation in the Region.

8. In his opening address the President of the Agricultural Research Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Dr Fawzy N. Mahrous, welcomed the delegates and observers and expressed the appreciation of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the honour to host the 22nd Regional Conference for Africa and wished all delegates productive and illuminating deliberations. He further stressed that such deliberations are necessary to effectively engage in the fight against hunger and poverty and achieve the goals of improved food security and optimal use of natural resources.

9. Dr Mahrous noted that food is one of the fundamental priorities of man as elaborated by the Global Declaration of Human Rights and the World Food Summit. He pointed out that hunger and poverty constitute major cultural, economic and political problems in the world with 1.3 billion people living on less than one dollar a day, and the Africa Region being particularly affected by this pandemic.

10. He further emphasized the importance Egypt places on agriculture, summarizing current efforts to increase agricultural production and achieve food security in the country through horizontal and vertical expansion, enlarging cropping areas, augmenting exports, increasing investments, streamlining water use and promoting human development with a focus on women and the youth. Through this strategy for agricultural development, Dr Mahrous stated that Egypt aims at achieving an annual growth rate in agricultural production of 4 percent, thereby increasing incomes and improving the standard of living of rural populations. He concluded by stressing the value Egypt places on cooperation and collaboration with fellow Member Countries in the Region and the desire that these relationships will be strengthened to the mutual benefit of all in achieving the common goal of food security.

Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of the Rapporteur

11. The meeting unanimously elected Dr Fawzy N. Mahrous, President of the Agriculture Research Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of the Arab Republic of Egypt, by acclamation as its Chairperson.

12. The meeting then elected, also by acclamation, the rest of the bureau members as follows:

First Vice-Chairperson: Mr Bruce M. Madete, Permanent Representative of Kenya to FAO

Second Vice-Chairperson: Mr J. Fonseca, Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Cape Verde

Rapporteur: Mr Wabenga Kalebo Theo, Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo to Egypt, assisted by Ms M. M. Muchada, Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to FAO

It was also decided to constitute an Informal Working Group to support the Rapporteur comprising: Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

13. The Meeting considered and adopted the Agenda and Timetable after some amendments. The Agenda is given as Appendix A, while the list of documents is shown in Appendix C.

II. SELECTED ISSUES IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

FAO Support to “the New Partnership for Africa’s Development”: Land and Water Resources Issues and Agricultural Development (ARC/02/4)

14. The Committee welcomed the presentation of this Agenda Item and the introduction by the *New Partnership for Africa’s Development* (NEPAD) Secretariat which elaborated upon the agricultural strategy of NEPAD, providing background and key processes to date.

15. NEPAD resulted from the merger of the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme (MAP) developed by Presidents Mbeki of South Africa, Obasanjo of Nigeria, Bouteflika of Algeria and Mubarak of Egypt, and the Omega Plan proposed by President Wade of Senegal. The NEPAD is spearheaded by five countries namely, South Africa, Nigeria, Senegal, Algeria and Egypt, and an Implementation Committee of 15 Heads of State. The President of Nigeria chairs the Implementation Committee with those of Senegal and Algeria serving as Vice-Chairs.

16. It was stressed that the challenge was to increase agricultural productivity and profitability through increased market access and public investment; central issues to this objective being natural resources management, household food security and institutional effectiveness. The meeting noted that one of the projects chosen for initial implementation was entitled *Investing in Land and Water Management*.

17. The Committee then reviewed document ARC/02/4 on the subject of Land and Water Resources issues, including the need for intensification of crop production. The document outlined the apparent contradiction between the imperative of increasing investment in land and water improvement for development, as envisaged in the NEPAD, and declining or stagnating investment in these areas. As a means to deal with this paradox, a procedure was outlined for use by governments to develop scenarios for country-specific investment in land and water improvement and production intensification. By placing agriculture in the context of the rural economy, the procedure also took into consideration investment needs in processing, marketing and elements of rural infrastructure. In this way it provided a country-driven instrument to quantify the costs and benefits of investment in the sector, and one that helped to understand how such investment influences development and sustainable growth, thereby strengthening the case, at national level, for increased financial allocations to agriculture.

18. The meeting, in endorsing the paper, expressed appreciation for the FAO readiness to support the NEPAD. In particular the meeting:

- a. noted the relevance and importance of NEPAD in addressing the issues facing food security in Africa, particularly with regard to land and water development for agricultural production. It further welcomed FAO's initiative to support the implementation of this programme;
- b. recognized the bleak situation of stagnating agricultural productivity and declining per capita production as well as the need for increased investment in land and water to reverse the trend;
- c. stressed the need to mobilize national resources along with external funds from both public and private sectors to meet investment needs;
- d. noted the important role the private sector plays in irrigation development since more than half of the total investment worldwide comes from non-public sources;
- e. acknowledged the potential of rainfed areas that continue to account for the bulk of agricultural production and the necessity to improve technology in these areas through research, extension and human resource development;
- f. insisted on the need for clear policies and the enabling conditions for boosting investment in the agricultural sector in general and land and water in particular;
- g. solicited continued support from FAO for addressing land and water degradation issues through participatory and integrated natural resources management;

- h. emphasized the relevance of small and medium-scale irrigation schemes while not ruling out large-scale schemes when economically feasible and socially acceptable;
- i. recognized the need to reactivate traditional and large-scale schemes through rehabilitation, in addition to expansion of the irrigated areas and crop intensification;
- j. recommended the application of appropriate design and management guidelines to prevent health hazards and environmental degradation that may be associated with irrigation;
- k. endorsed the demand driven approach proposed by FAO for assessing investment needs and urged Member States to refine these needs;
- l. invited FAO to continue its support to African countries in the assessment of investment needs and resources mobilization;
- m. stressed the importance of sharing information and reinforcing the political will required to drive this process; and
- n. recommended that the Ministers consider the adoption of resolutions on the New Partnership for Africa's Development with respect to governance and agricultural programmes.

The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Food Security in Mainland and Small Island Countries of Africa (ARC/02/5)

19. The meeting considered this agenda item on the basis of document ARC/02/5 and recognized that HIV/AIDS had moved from being just a worrisome health issue 20 years ago to posing a serious threat to development including rural development in Africa. The epidemic particularly jeopardized sustainable food production and food security through a severe loss of agricultural labour and through a dramatic increase in poverty. It affected agricultural service delivery and contributed to loss of indigenous agricultural knowledge and bio-diversity. Given that it provided livelihoods to up to 80% of the people, the agricultural sector had an important role to play both in the mitigation of the consequences of the epidemic and in the reduction of people's vulnerability to contracting the virus.

20. The meeting noted delegates' pledges to fully support FAO's efforts to assist member countries to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on food security and commended the Organization for its efforts to analyze and document the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on agricultural and rural development.

21. The meeting commended efforts to develop a strategic approach for agricultural programmes to mitigate the effects of the epidemic, as initiated by FAO. In particular, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a. Governments, and particularly Ministries in charge of Agriculture and Rural Development, were to make political commitment to agricultural policy and multi-sectoral actions linking HIV/AIDS with food security initiatives through a people-centred, gender and culturally sensitive community-based approach to rural development;
- b. FAO should continue to support its member countries in their fight against the effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in order to mitigate the impact on food security and rural development, with technical advice and adequate resources from the regular budget and extra-budgetary sources for the formulation of programmes and projects for both prevention and treatment of AIDS;
- c. FAO should promote a science based approach in order to explore the benefits of traditional knowledge systems to enhance AIDS treatment opportunities;
- d. FAO, Ministries of Agriculture and private employers should adopt the AIDS workplace policies developed by WHO and UNAIDS in order to reduce stigma, protect their workforce and enable those infected to continue to contribute productively; and
- e. most importantly, FAO was to recognize HIV/AIDS as one of the core causes of food insecurity and to make it prominent in all its statutory and technical meetings.

Fisheries Development in the Third Millennium: Challenges and Opportunities (ARC/02/INF/5)

22. The Committee commended the presentation of document ARC/02/INF/5 that briefly reviewed different aquatic systems in the Africa Region and their importance to food security and economic growth. An overview of marine and inland capture fisheries as well as aquaculture was provided, including the growing dilemma of declining regional supply and the subsequent decrease in per capita fish consumption. This was followed by a synthesis of the status of the Region's aquatic resources, underlining the developing supply gap aggravated by prevailing political-economic difficulties in many areas. The issues were addressed in terms of challenges now confronting decision-makers with regard to the development and management of these resources.

23. The meeting supported the establishment and operation of Sub-regional and Regional Commissions in the development and management of marine and inland fisheries as well as their role in harmonizing policies and fishing agreements to the mutual benefit of member countries. It also welcomed the contribution by the observer from *the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)* and the Secretariat of *the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO)*, who mainly depicted the important contributions made by artisanal fish processors and traders, especially women, but whose contributions are affected by several constraints, including difficulties in trans-boundary trade, unavailability of transport, absence of reliable market information, and the need for more training along with improved

facilities. It was further emphasized that the dwindling resource base and aforementioned declines in fish supply were of central concern to all in the Region.

24. The meeting reaffirmed support for the proposal for a new introspective and analytical vision that would take holistic approaches to aquatic resource development and management. It further reiterated the critical importance of these resources to the Region's food security. Specifically, the meeting:

- a. urged that, given their critical place in the Region's nutrition and socio-economic well-being, development and management of inland and marine fisheries should be given high priority by Members Countries;
- b. stressed the need for balanced management as regards industrial and artisanal fishers, and recommended the strengthening of fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance systems to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing;
- c. underscored the pivotal role of fish handling, processing and marketing, noting that reduction of high post-harvest losses could make a significant increase in fish supply;
- d. stressed the need to establish, at the national level, an institutional structure to cater for the interests of the small- to medium-scale artisanal fishermen and fish workers;
- e. supported the need for expanded use of existing regional and sub-regional bodies as well as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related management tools for sustainable management of aquatic systems;
- f. agreed that significant additional investment and private sector participation were necessary in the fisheries sector in order to achieve optimum advantage from aquatic systems;
- g. noted that aquaculture should be considered as one of the many agricultural enterprises which competes for land and water resources; competition which can be minimized through adoption of practices of integrating aquaculture into diversified farming systems with an emphasis on co-management and other participatory methodologies;
- h. noted the necessity for increased information exchange, networking and sharing of experiences and technologies among Member Countries of the Region and with others outside the Region;
- i. agreed that the socio-economic aspects of aquatic systems development and management are essential to the adoption of sustainable and improved management practices; and
- j. requested FAO to assist the Member Countries in their efforts to develop the fisheries sectors.

FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action: Regional Priorities (ARC/02/6)

25. The meeting welcomed the presentation of document ARC/02/6, the *FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action for 2002-2007*, adopted by the 31st Session of the FAO Conference. It recognized the Plan as a strategic framework for the Organization's efforts to promote gender equality in: (a) access to food; (b) control and management of natural resources and agricultural support services; (c) gender equality in policy- and decision-making concerning agricultural and rural development; and (d) equal opportunities for on- and off-farm employment in rural areas. In addition, it appreciated the Organization's response to relevant recommendations of the recent *World Conference on Women* and commitments made during the 1996 *World Food Summit Plan of Action*.

26. The Committee noted with appreciation the efforts being made by Member Countries in mainstreaming gender issues in their development process.

27. The Committee commended FAO for its support to Member Countries regarding gender mainstreaming and noted that integrating gender considerations into planning and implementation efforts is paramount for achieving food security and agricultural development.

28. The Committee made the following recommendations:

- a. Governments, and particularly Ministries of Agriculture, should translate the recognition of women's contributions to the agricultural production into concrete policy actions and a more equitable distribution of resources, notably access to land and credit, in the overall framework for enhancing food security and promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development;
- b. FAO should reinforce its support to Ministries of Agriculture's efforts to mainstream gender concerns into their planning and implementation of agricultural plans, while promoting the production and use of up-to-date gender disaggregated data;
- c. FAO should continue to support Member Countries' efforts to implement legal provisions for equal access to resources through culturally acceptable interventions;
- d. FAO should continue to build national capacity on the use of gender-relevant planning tools, including socio-economic and gender analysis (SEAGA); and
- e. FAO should ensure regular reporting on the implementation of its Gender and Development Plan of Action, and specifically report back to the next Africa Regional Conference on the progress made towards the regional priorities.

Sustainable Rural Development and Food Security: The Role of Mountain Development in Africa (ARC/02/INF/7)

29. The meeting commended the quality and content of the document (ARC/02/INF/7). The meeting also appreciated the lead role of FAO in coordinating the observance of the International Year of Mountains (IYM).

30. The Committee noted that the most salient challenge for optimizing resource and sustainable development of mountain areas, in many of the Region's countries, were soil erosion, environmental degradation and the lack of appropriate workable technologies for remedial action. The meeting observed that the root cause of this situation was the lack of appropriate development policies for mountain areas in Africa.

31. The meeting recommended that:

- a. FAO assist Member Countries to design and implement appropriate development policies for mountain areas;
- b. FAO assist Member Countries with mountain areas, develop appropriate and workable technologies to arrest soil erosion and environmental degradation on mountain slopes;
- c. Member Countries, which possess information and knowledge on suitable resources use on mountain areas, should share such information with other countries; and
- d. FAO should intensify and focus its efforts on research and information exchange pertaining to sustainable development and management of watershed areas.

Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis (PAAT) (ARC/02/INF/8)

32. The Committee commended the presentation of document ARC/02/INF/8 that gave an overview of the magnitude of the problem and impact of African Trypanosomiasis on agriculture, rural development and human health. The influence of Trypanosomiasis on where people live, keep their livestock and grow crops and the present epidemic of sleeping sickness were appreciated by the meeting. The meeting further lauded the efforts of FAO in fostering collaboration and co-operation among UN agencies through PAAT. The Committee also listened to a presentation on the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) initiative by OAU and commended the African Heads of State and Government for this initiative. The Committee noted with satisfaction the eradication of tsetse in Zanzibar Island of Tanzania by the Government with donor support and hoped that this success story could be replicated in other areas of Africa. The Committee requested FAO to continue assisting Member Countries in capacity strengthening, project formulation and exchange of information and experts.

33. The meeting recommended that PAAT and other initiatives related to tsetse and Trypanosomiasis be harmonized to ensure that:

- a. the programme of tsetse and Trypanosomiasis control becomes driven by African stakeholders;
- b. the principles of integrated pest management are closely adhered to;
- c. the programme encompasses the control of both human and animal Trypanosomiasis;
- d. the technical approaches adopted adhere to international scientific standards and principles; and
- e. the alliance in the tsetse and Trypanosomiasis eradication campaign should involve the scientific community and other stakeholders at national, regional and international levels.

World Agricultural Information Centre Presentation

34. The meeting welcomed the World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT) Presentation, describing the range of information resources available on the FAO website (<http://www.fao.org>), and commended the efforts being made by FAO to increase their accessibility. It noted the relatively low proportion of WAICENT users from Africa (approximately 2%), and the strong potential for access to improve in the region. The goals of WAICENT Outreach were recognized in terms of enhancing the ability of individuals and organizations to exchange information and knowledge about agricultural development and food security, together with the potential benefits to Member Countries in methods and tools for information management that are being developed.

35. The Committee noted the following observations:

- a. FAO would be developing an “Information Management Resource Kit” to support and strengthen the capabilities of Member States in this crucial area; and
- b. the Second Consultation on Agricultural Information Management (COAIM) would be held in Rome from 25-27 September 2002, and Member Countries should endeavour to participate actively in the preparatory process and in the main event. Information about the COAIM could be found at <http://www.fao.org/coaim>

III. OTHER MATTERS

36. The Committee recommended that FAO elaborates and disseminates to Member Countries a synthesis of simple techniques that have given positive results within the framework of the Special Programme for Food Security.

IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Adoption of the Report of the Technical Committee

37. The meeting considered its report and adopted it after some amendments.

Closure of the Technical Committee Meeting

38. In his concluding remarks, Mr Bamidele F. Dada, FAO Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for Africa, expressed satisfaction with the large number of delegates and observers. He particularly commended their contributions, which enriched the deliberations and ensured the successful outcome of the Technical Committee meeting. He confirmed that the Final Report of the Committee would be transmitted to the Regional Conference for appropriate action. Mr Dada, once again, extended, on behalf of all delegates and Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, appreciation and thanks to the Government and the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt for their hospitality. Finally, he wished those delegates who might be leaving a “bon voyage” and those remaining a pleasant stay.

39. The Chairperson, Dr Fawzy N. Mahrous, President of the Agricultural Research Centre, in his closing remarks thanked the Director-General of FAO for the opportunity given Egypt to host the Twenty-second Regional Conference for Africa, and the delegates for their attendance and active participation. He also thanked the FAO Secretariat for good quality Conference documents and for putting together the meeting report. Dr Mahrous hoped that the recommendations made at the meeting would go a long way towards solving the problem of hunger and poverty in Africa. He wished those traveling back home safe journey and a good stay in Egypt during the remaining days of the Conference.

APPENDIX G**DECLARATION OF FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS,
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND
OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS ON THE
WORLD FOOD SUMMIT: FIVE YEARS LATER (WFS:fyI).**

1. Considering:
 - (a) The serious food crises that are rocking the African continent;
 - (b) the unfavourable global economic environment for Africa;
 - (c) the low level of financial resources directed to food and agriculture in the budgets of African States;
 - (d) the need for Africa to undertake vigorous actions in all domains to deal with the danger represented by hunger and poverty;
 - (e) the important role that the Farmers Organizations (FOs) and the NGOs play in the economic, social and cultural development of our countries; and
 - (f) the low level of food and agriculture production and productivity.

2. We, civil society organizations, gathered in Cairo on 2 and 3 February 2002 to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made by the Heads of State at the World Food Summit (WFS) of 1996 in Rome and the preparation for the next WFS, have noted that:
 - (a) Progress has been made against hunger in countries;
 - (b) the States are making efforts towards decentralization, the transfer of responsibility and the involvement of rural organizations, non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society;
 - (c) dialogue has been initiated between African States and civil society in most States;
 - (d) progress has been made in rural irrigation, and in raising awareness about the social and economic dangers of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria; and
 - (e) efforts are being made in certain regions to strengthen political, economic and legal integration and cooperation, and for the management of conflicts and sharing of resources.

3. We, civil society organizations, recognize that despite these efforts, there are still many major challenges to be taken up to ensure that everyone has the right to food. Indeed, we note that the liberalization policies implemented in our countries and the increasing, rapid and poorly prepared integration of our countries into globalization have not produced the promised results. The living conditions of the people, and especially of the rural people, are deteriorating at an ever faster rate, neutralizing all social structures of solidarity because of the lack of resources to be shared within the community. Poverty, hunger, soil depletion and the degradation of forests and wildlife have reached alarming proportions.

4. This unhappy situation which reveals the low level of progress made in controlling food insecurity and poverty is in part the logical conclusion of the rules of the game of globalization through the WTO agreements, which make our national production and our domestic markets vulnerable.
5. At the same time, poor governance, that translates as waste of public resources, failure to control inflation and the appropriation of political and economic authority by a minority, have made the food, economic and social situation in Africa critical.
6. Despite this sombre picture, Africa still has significant agricultural, fisheries, pastoral and forest potential, whose development could ensure food sovereignty. Food sovereignty expresses the identity and the legitimate pride of each country to grant priority to the production of those foods that determine the basic diet of its population. As a major constituent of national sovereignty, food sovereignty should mobilize all public and private actors in its realization and defence.
7. Given that more than 95 percent of food production is carried out by the small farmers, it is necessary to recognize that small family farms are at the heart of this food sovereignty. This is borne out by the fact that this type of agricultural holding is practised by the overwhelming majority of the active population in our countries and ensures the bulk of staple food production.
8. With respect to the social, cultural and economic dimensions of the small-scale agricultural holdings, it is clear that food security and more generally, the fight against poverty, would be empty words, were the small farmers not to receive the necessary attention from the African governments and the development partners. In this connection, a number of major challenges need to be taken up, namely:
 - a) Protecting African production against imports of heavily subsidized substitute foods;
 - b) ensuring a fair remuneration for production, which also calls for the promotion of "local consumption", processing and distribution throughout countries through appropriate transport infrastructures;
 - c) raising productivity of small family farming through easier access to production factors, with lower taxation and availability of appropriate support and advisory services;
 - d) promoting the institutional development of rural organizations and farmer associations through capacity building, and involving them in the definition and implementation of rural development programmes and projects;
 - e) enhancing the quality of life of rural populations thus rendering the African countryside more appealing and encouraging the youth to stay and take over from their parents;
 - f) recognizing that land security at country level is an essential condition for equitable and sustainable access to land by all social categories;
 - g) transferring responsibility for the safeguarding and good management of natural resources to local authorities and rural civil society organizations; and
 - h) reinforcing the capacities of agricultural trade organizations and of their members.

9. In view of all of the above, we consider it humiliating and intolerable that poverty and hunger should continue to be major components of human suffering in Africa. We, therefore, reaffirm the need for the forthcoming *World Food Summit:five years later* to adopt bolder and more practical measures to eliminate poverty and food insecurity.
10. In this optic, the food issue cannot be addressed solely through increased production and improved productivity. In addition to these indispensable technical conditions for Africa, it is imperative that the continent should propose far-reaching reforms to the world trading system in order to confront the real causes of poverty and undernutrition.
11. We, civil society organizations of Africa, undertake to take on board and to support all initiatives in this direction, especially those that target the interests of the African people, namely those relating to the right to food and to food sovereignty.
12. In this perspective, we recommend the following priority actions to the forthcoming *World Food Summit:five years later*.

A. With regard to food sovereignty:

- (i) To act against food dumping;
- (ii) to have adopted, within the WTO, a particular clause for Africa concerning the essentially family-oriented and cultural nature of its agricultural sector;
- (iii) to reinforce agricultural economic cooperation among African States and ensure the solid protection of their food production in the face of competing import products;
- (iv) to raise import taxation on competing food products; and
- (v) to systematically provide for the participation of FOs/NGOs/CSOs and the private sector in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all agricultural programmes and projects.

B. With regard to the right to food:

- (i) To inscribe the right to food in all basic legislation of African countries;
- (ii) to put in place strategic food reserves at national and sub-national levels to guarantee food security;
- (iii) to fight energetically against corruption;
- (iv) to promote triangular aid to absorb the available food surpluses on the African continent in favour of the deficit countries; and
- (v) to use FAO's technical expertise at the level of each country to develop a system of information and monitoring of performance regarding access to food.

C. With regard to Agricultural models of production:

- (i) To introduce measures for security of access to land and safeguarding of property rights;
- (ii) to ensure access to quality and affordable inputs;

- (iii) to promote small and medium commercial activities in food and agriculture and create rural employment to increase opportunities to enhance production; and
- (iv) to control water resources for the promotion of small-scale irrigation.

D. With regard to peace, democracy and good governance:

- (i) To promote, at all levels, dialogue between peoples and the culture of peace;
- (ii) to pursue decentralization and devolution of power in the States to increase the participation of local players in the management of the affairs that concern them;
- (iii) to pursue the refocusing of the functions of the State and to reinforce its capacity to better assume its responsibilities with regard to the people;
- (iv) to reinforce the infrastructural capacity of local authorities; and
- (v) to promote the exchange of experiences between African NGOs, CSOs and FOs.

E. With regard to HIV/AIDS and public health:

- (i) To increase State budgetary assistance to health training in rural and peri-urban areas, with a sufficient number of qualified staff;
- (ii) to reduce taxes on essential medication and put in place an effective mechanism to take charge of AIDS victims at local and national levels; and
- (iii) to encourage partnership between health centres and practitioners of traditional medicine.

F. With regard to gender and food security:

- (i) To develop education programmes and incentive measures to reinforce the self-confidence of women;
- (ii) to sensitize traditional chiefs and governments so that they can progressively abandon the alienating practices that block the advancement of women and the schooling of rural girls; and
- (iii) to accelerate in all African States the introduction of measures to improve land access to rural women.

G. With regard to agricultural financing and the improvement of basic infrastructures:

- (i) To raise between 30 and 40 percent the share of financing of agriculture in the annual budget of each State, with at least half to be assigned to the production and processing of staple food and agricultural products;
- (ii) to create a rural land fund in each African country to facilitate the acquisition of land by small farmers and to reinforce land improvement actions;
- (iii) to reduce and adjust taxation on agricultural materials;
- (iv) to promote medium-term credit for equipment to support increased production and render the small farmer sector viable and competitive; and

- (v) to create favourable rural conditions by stepping up actions to modernize the countryside with the provision of drinking water, rural communications, rural electrification and the opening up of production areas.
13. On the basis of these recommendations, we, civil society organizations of Africa, are convinced that a transparent partnership between the governments and ourselves is vital for the achievement of food security in our States.
14. Such a partnership also underpins national cohesion in the face of all external adversity. That is why it is imperative that we as Africans should be able to attach importance to the value of our pledges by putting in place a system for the participatory and effective monitoring of the commitments that will be made by the Heads of State and Government at the forthcoming World Food Summit, to better gauge the reality of their political will in this regard. It is to the honour of Africa's leaders that the populations whose concerns they represent should be proud to be citizens enjoying true human dignity by being well fed and in good health.
15. It should also be noted that the meeting in Cairo is being held at a time when Africa's highest authorities are committing themselves to the "New Partnership for Africa's Development" (NEPAD). While commending the initiators, the CSOs wish to recall the need to involve, fully and from the very outset, the populations organized through civil society and the private sector so that the NEPAD may serve as a genuine African initiative to rescue the region from its current crises. To this end, we, civil society organizations gathered in Cairo as part of the preparation for the *World Food Summit: five years later*, propose, for the agricultural component of the NEPAD, the creation of a panel grouping FAO, IFAD, the Farmers Organizations and other civil society players active in the agricultural sector as well as the Secretariat of the NEPAD.
16. The following recommendations are made for the attention of the regional and national focal points that structure the civil society network:
- (a) To engage at the national level in a broad sensitization and information campaign on the results of the proceedings in Cairo.
- (b) To widely distribute the documents arising from the consultation in Cairo, targeting in particular:
- The authorities in different countries;
 - The African intergovernmental institutions; and
 - The agencies of the United Nations system and other development partners.
- (c) To ensure methodical and dynamic preparation of the Summit, essentially to ensure (i) a high African profile during the next Summit; and (ii) initiation with the Italian NGO Host Committee of an "Africa Day" during the NGO/CSO International Forum to be organised in parallel to the Summit.

Cairo, 3 February 2002