

**REPORT OF THE**

# **CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE**

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Rome, Italy, 10-15 October 1960



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS



REPORT  
OF THE CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Held in Rome  
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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Rome, Italy



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## INTRODUCTION

### Organization of the Conference

The Conference for Europe was held at the Headquarters of the Organization in Rome from 10 October to 15 October 1960. The main objectives of the Conference were to provide an opportunity for a broad policy discussion on selected issues of major importance to European countries, such as world problems of food and agriculture in their relation to Europe as well as European participation in the world wide activities of FAO. The Conference was also requested to formulate suggestions concerning the orientation of the Organization's future activities in Europe, to provide guidance to facilitate the Director-General in the preparation of his Program of Work for 1962/63, and thus contribute a useful preparation for the Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference to be held in November 1961.

The Conference was attended by delegations from the following 21 countries:

Austria	Netherlands
Belgium	Norway
Denmark	Poland
Finland	Portugal
France	Spain
Federal Republic of Germany	Sweden
Greece	Switzerland
Ireland	Turkey
Israel	United Kingdom
Italy	Yugoslavia
Luxembourg	

The Conference noted that, in accordance with the rules for the admission of observers, the United States of America had notified 14 days in advance its wish to send observers on this occasion.

Having been requested by some other member countries to admit observers although no request had been made before the specified interval, the Conference decided to admit observers from the following member countries outside the European region:

Australia	Japan
Argentina	Lebanon
Brazil	United Arab Republic
Canada	Uruguay
Colombia	

The Permanent Observer of the Holy See and observers from the following Organizations were present:

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
World Health Organization  
United Nations Children's Fund  
Council of Europe  
European Economic Community  
Organization for European Economic Cooperation  
European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization  
International Commission of Agricultural Industries  
International Office of Epizootics  
International Vine and Wine Office  
Permanent International Bureau of Analytical Chemistry  
Associated Country Women of the World  
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs  
European Association for Animal Production  
European Confederation of Agriculture  
European Landworkers' Federation  
International Chamber of Commerce  
International Commission on Agricultural Engineering  
International Cooperative Alliance  
International Council of Women  
International Federation of Agricultural Producers  
International Federation of Christian Trade Unions  
International Union of Family Organizations  
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

A list of the delegates and observers and of the FAO staff in attendance is contained in the annex to this report, which lists also the officers of the Conference.

#### Opening of the Conference

The inaugural session was held on 10 October, when delegations were welcomed by the Director-General.

Mr. B.R. Sen recapitulated the events which had led to the convening of this Conference, first mooted at the last session of the Conference. The quality of the attendance was a proof that the European governments attached great importance to this undertaking. He anticipated that the hopes that had been placed in it would be fully justified and that the governments which had sent their delegations to Rome would appreciate the value of such conferences.

The Conference then proceeded to elect as its Chairman Mr. M. Cépède (France) and, in accordance with the usual procedure at FAO Regional Conferences, the heads of all delegations present were elected Vice-Chairmen. The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen constituted the Steering Committee which dealt with organizational matters of the Conference.



The Conference, on the proposal of the Steering Committee, adopted the following agenda:

- I. The relation of prospective developments in Europe to the current world situation and trends in the production and consumption of agricultural commodities.
- II. Assistance to less-developed countries.
- III. The Mediterranean Development Project.
- IV. Orientation and methods of work of the Organization in Europe.
- V. The Freedom from Hunger Campaign.
- VI. Other business.

#### Closing Session of the Conference

At its closing session the Conference adopted the text of the report in its present form.

The Chairman thanked delegations and observers for their attendance and for the valuable contributions to the discussion of all items of the agenda, and the Director-General and his Secretariat for the careful preparation and arrangements for the Conference.

The Director-General, Mr. B.R. Sen, then briefly addressed the session. Thanking the Chairman for his skillful guidance and delegations and observers for their participation, he could say without any hesitation that the Conference had more than fulfilled the expectations placed in it. He was glad that the working documents submitted had been found useful in the discussions, which on most items of the agenda had called for constructive thinking and criticism more than the undertaking of immediate action by governments and organizations. The Conference had paid special tribute to the paper on trends in European agriculture and their implications for other regions; for this credit must be given to the Economics group in Geneva working in collaboration with the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Europe, the European Economic Community and the Organization for European Economic Cooperation.

Turning to other subjects, he said that the effective organization of assistance to the less developed countries was a problem on which the present discussions had served to focus attention. The conclusions and suggestions they contained would be of great value. It was also gratifying that the methods and objectives of the Mediterranean Development Project had been so well supported by the governments most concerned, this was a great encouragement to proceed with its implementation. The Freedom from Hunger Campaign, which had its sanction in the very Charter of FAO, was aimed primarily at creating the necessary public awareness of the problem; the support given at this Conference would

certainly soon bear fruit. He wished to pay special tribute to the important contribution being made by non-governmental organizations to the success of the Campaign.

In concluding, Mr. Sen expressed his certainty that any doubt concerning the value of such a conference as this had now been dissipated; provision would therefore be made for another such meeting, in 1962, in his next program of work and budget.

The closing session terminated at 1.30 p.m. on 15 October 1960.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Policy Statement by Mr. B.R. Sen, Director-General

Mr. Sen expressed his great pleasure in welcoming the delegates and his hope that the Conference would strengthen both their relations with this Organization and their participation in its European and world-wide activities which rely so largely on their support. Europe from its rich experience and many resources provided a substantial part of the Organization's finance and skilled personnel; it was also a focus of international trade in agricultural produce. In economic, in social and in technical fields, FAO needed to maintain particularly close contact with European governments.

The regional structure of the Organization had always been a matter of great importance as had been emphasized at the ninth and tenth Sessions of the Conference. He recalled that it had been hoped that the transfer of Headquarters to Rome would automatically reinforce contact with European countries; the FAO European Office, as such, had been abolished in 1951 and the idea of a regional conference dropped after the first meeting in 1948. Since then most activities in Europe had been carried out through special European bodies of FAO, such as the Commission on Agriculture and the Forestry Commission. Very useful relations had thus been established, as would be seen from the recommendations and proposals which would be discussed at the present Conference, and he hoped that the valuable work of these bodies at the technical level would continue. In the present phase of dramatic development in Europe there was, however, need for an organ to advise him at the highest policy levels, not only on the priority to be attached to the recommendations of the special technical bodies, but also on the whole orientation of the Organization's work in Europe, a topic specifically included in the Conference agenda. Unnecessary duplication and dispersion of effort in the international field must be avoided, but he would stress that duplication sometimes arose from a lack of understanding between governing bodies composed of delegates of the same governments. He believed that international organizations with wide fields of activity needed to be guided by the national policy-makers themselves, who can if necessary also adjust national policies in the interest of international co-operation.

In framing the agenda for the present Conference the Director-General had avoided issues falling within the terms of reference of the FAO technical European bodies, although such items are to be found in the agendas for Conferences in other regions where specialized technical bodies have not been established. He had however included the consideration of European agricultural problems in their world-wide perspective and of world problems of food and agriculture in their relation to Europe.

The first of these two discussions required an assessment of production and demand in the year 1965, as far as it can be foreseen from present trends, and of the consequent effect on trade prospects and policy issues. This assessment, although it could not claim precision, seemed particularly necessary in view of the tendency to surplus production in some countries; it was therefore also necessary to relate the situation to world trends as a whole and to assess the use of surplusses to improve levels of nutrition, both in European and in less-developed countries.

Assistance by European governments to speed the development of less advanced regions was being intensified and multilateral assistance, though still on a more modest scale, was in the hands of a great many agencies. A major limiting factor was the lack of "technical know-how" as much as investment, and here the unequalled experience of FAO in the field of technical assistance might be put to greater use. This had been recognized by the UN Special Fund which had requested the Organization to act as its technical adviser and executing agent for agricultural projects. The Conference was therefore now invited to discuss the better coordination of European technical assistance, the capacity of European countries to supply expert personnel, and European facilities for absorbing foreign trainees. There were the further questions of training European personnel for technical assistance assignments and of organizing international training centers in Europe.

It must be emphasized that FAO technical assistance was not restricted to countries outside Europe, and economic development in Europe itself was less advanced in the region bordering the Mediterranean than elsewhere. This region fell within the scope of the FAO Mediterranean Development Project and it would be recalled that the tenth Session of the Conference had expressed the wish that member countries should explore, as a matter of urgency, ways to help in the achievement of the objectives of that project. The present Conference would have an opportunity to discuss the implementation of this Resolution and the Director-General's own proposals for future action.

The Director-General next outlined the objectives of the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign, touching on the present extent of malnutrition and under-nutrition and the rapid growth of the world's population. The availability of food surplusses from more developed countries would make a valuable short-term contribution to the world's needs, but the key to the ultimate solution lay in promoting a far higher agricultural productivity in countries less developed. Their governments and peoples must enter upon a new dimension of national effort with the aid of international co-operation. The Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign had been devised to further this aim, with FAO as catalyst and co-ordinator. Referring to the plan of campaign which he had laid before the tenth Session of the FAO Conference and the Trust Fund which had been set up, he felt obliged to say that the response from governments had been rather poor and that contributions from non-government sources had not yet got into full swing. From the industrial field there had been encouraging support for an international fertilizer program and an offer of 2,000 outboard motors,

with the necessary servicing facilities, for the mechanization of fishing boats. The need to set up National Campaign Committees was urgent, but here too the response of member governments had been disappointing and delays at this time were critical. He therefore urged action with all the emphasis at his command.

In conclusion, Mr. Sen said that the movement towards integration in Europe gave a special significance to this Conference and to the subjects to be discussed. He wished to develop with the European Economic Community, the European Free Trade Association and the Organization of European Cooperation and Development the excellent working relations FAO had enjoyed with the OEEC. In urging European governments to keep the development of world problems in view, he would add that they would not so much be acting in an altruistic manner as following the only safe policy. As never before, the world was one and the human problem involved was one also.

2. The relation of prospective developments in Europe to the current world situation and trends in the production and consumption of agricultural commodities.

The Conference considered the working paper "Trends in European Agriculture and their Implications for Other Regions", based on a larger Secretariat study "European Agriculture in 1965" which constituted a review of the prospects for the production and demand of agricultural production and demand of agricultural products in Europe, and in the preparation of which the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC), and the European Economic Community (EEC) had co-operated.

The study summarized trends over the past decade as follows: There had been a continued increase in the scope of technical means utilized in European agriculture, particularly in the more industrialized countries, accompanied by a rapid increase in productivity per man and a large and continuing shift of agricultural workers to other sectors of the economy, and a growing volume of saleable farm products. In southern European countries, changes were similar, except that farm population did not decline. The larger output generally found an expanding market in general economies whose incomes were rising. Other studies showed that farmers' incomes lagged behind those of other occupations.

The findings of the working paper were based on the projection of such existing trends and the continuation of existing policies, but did not constitute forecasts. They also took into account projections of national income and of population, and assumed no major changes in public policies toward agriculture. These assumptions led to the conclusion that supplies could in general be expected to grow faster than demand. Expenditure on

food would increase less than national incomes, while farmers' receipts would rise less rapidly than consumer expenditures for food. The increase in net farm income would moreover not necessarily correspond to the increase in gross income. Recent experience had shown that, with the expanding use of many mechanical and chemical means, farm operating expenses were increasing faster than gross output. Moreover, projections made for production and demand of the principal agricultural commodities had suggested that there might be some weakening of the prices of these commodities, and that import demands, except for a possible increase for beef, would weaken or show no change. The latter development would tend to make it increasingly difficult for governments to implement policies for raising agricultural incomes to a level more nearly comparable with those in other occupations.

Taking all food and feed commodities competing with domestically grown European products together, imports into Western Europe might be expected either to decline, or at least to cover a smaller proportion of the higher requirements for these commodities by 1965. For imports of non-competing and some semi-competing foodstuffs, such as certain fruits, which are only partially affected, if at all, by the growth of European production, the demand (for those commodities taken together) was, in view of the likely increases in personal incomes, expected to rise substantially during the next few years.

Within the time available, it had not been possible in all cases to obtain the views of governments on the study, and several delegates gave their personal reactions in the absence of considered views from their governments.

There was general agreement that this study provided a useful service to governments and should be taken into consideration in the shaping of national and international agricultural policies.

In the course of the discussion it was suggested however that policy changes and alterations to the structure of agriculture in various countries might well affect the assumptions on which the present projection of trends was based. It would therefore be necessary to review these projections periodically and FAO should again call upon the Secretariats of inter-governmental bodies in Europe for close co-operation in such work. Efforts being made within the framework of FAO/ECE to improve projection methods should also be continued. A certain number of delegations felt that efforts of governments to ensure farmers an income comparable to that in other sectors of the economy would require, in many countries, a further reduction in agricultural employment and a consolidation of undersized farms. Mentioned among the means for achieving this were the overall economic and industrial development of backward regions, the development of industrial enterprises in agricultural areas and the training of young people for non-agricultural occupations.

It was suggested by observers representing agricultural producers' organizations that, although farmers were prepared to accept the findings of the study as a realistic view of the situation, the extent to which non-agricultural occupations could become available and the means of

overcoming the many obstacles which prevent or slow down the transfer of labour out of agriculture were problems still to be solved. Moreover, the difficulties of the poorer people of the world could not be met by limiting agricultural production in Europe, but rather by utilizing its surplus products for their benefit. There was a vital need for an international food and farm policy.

The opinion was expressed that if production were to rise faster than demand, the necessary balance between agricultural incomes and incomes in other sectors of the economy would become more difficult to achieve or maintain. The accomplishment of such aims might be further prejudiced by the emergence of burdensome surpluses. A number of delegations stressed, however, that countries should seek so to adjust agricultural production in Europe as to prevent the emergence of structural surpluses. Attention was also drawn to the need for taking account of difficulties likely to arise in such a situation for countries, mainly small countries, which greatly relied on income derived from agricultural exports. It might therefore become necessary to re-examine existing support policies and to consider, for example, price guarantees on a limited part of the total production of a given product, but attention would also have to be given to the difficulties of a system of double-pricing in a market economy. Among other means to be considered might be an increased emphasis on quality production and the lowering of production costs.

It was recognized that variations in weather might produce occasional or temporary surpluses, which could be used to advantage in meeting emergency or short-term needs in less developed countries. At the same time it was recognized that there was a real possibility of structural or continuing surpluses arising in spite of efforts to adjust output. Some delegations expressed their unwillingness to reduce production, since any resulting structural surpluses might be disposed of for use in less developed countries. While such surpluses as might arise in Europe could be used in part in specific aid-programs, as for example milk in dried form, the major emphasis in using surpluses for disposal on non-commercial terms should be to help in financing expanded economic development, in line with earlier FAO recommendations for effective surplus disposal. The opinion was expressed that some solution should be found to avoid a situation in which the burden of such surplus disposal programs was unequally shared and fell unduly on the countries where the surpluses happened to be located.

While the expected increases in personal incomes in many European countries would lead to an increased demand for imports of tropical and semi-tropical products, their consumption could nonetheless be still further developed by a reconsideration of taxation policies. That this possibility should be explored was urged by several delegations.

### 3. Assistance to less developed countries

The Conference next considered the working paper which had been prepared on the above subject. Although the item was concerned mainly with assistance from European countries to less developed countries outside Europe it also was concerned, though to a more limited extent, with those countries within the European region which have underdeveloped areas. In this connection, the Conference took note of the assistance given by FAO to several of these countries in the fields of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, by way of experts and fellowships under the UN Expanded Technical Assistance Program and also as executing agency for Special Fund projects.

It was in the provision of technical assistance to the less developed countries of other regions, however, that the member countries of the European region played a major role, having for example supplied nearly two-thirds of ETAP experts allocated to field assignments in 1958, and having also acted as host to a great number of ETAP fellows. Some European countries provided a much larger volume of technical assistance under bilateral programs than under multilateral aid through the United Nations. The total contribution of the European countries in the form of technical and financial assistance was very considerable, even though it still fell short of the requirement for assistance in the less developed countries.

The Conference visualized continued assistance from the developed to less developed countries in the coming years, and further noted that if the various plans for increased aid which had already been announced by individual European countries, and by groups of such countries, matured, aid on a considerably greater scale would be made available in the future. Much of this additional aid would no doubt be in the form of additional funds for capital investment, but it might be hoped that a substantial part would be allocated for technical assistance, with a major share going to agriculture.

In those circumstances the Conference fully recognized the need for an optimum utilization of all available international funds for technical assistance - multilateral and bilateral - in agriculture, and for avoiding duplication and overlapping in the aid rendered by different agencies. It was also recognized that lack of technical "know-how", particularly in the field of agriculture, was as much a handicap as insufficiency of capital in achieving the initial take-off for self-sustained economic growth in the less developed countries.

There was considerable discussion on the various ways and means to avoid duplication of aid in agriculture, in particular concerning the extent to which FAO could be called upon to undertake this responsibility and the manner in which it could do so. It was generally agreed that, in respect of various funds outside FAO's jurisdiction, while policy decisions should be left to the respective administrative agencies responsible for the operation of such funds, FAO could function in an advisory capacity,



offering advice if and when called upon to do so, by the administrators of such funds or by the recipient countries, in regard to agricultural investment projects and also on the merits of specific projects. Moreover, FAO could of course play an important role in securing a large degree of co-ordination, with the agreement of donor and recipient countries and of the organizations concerned, in the actual application and operation of the agricultural aid offered by various organizations as well as by individual countries under bilateral programs. The Conference noted that some countries have already established means for reconciling their individual country programs with FAO's assistance activities in certain particular fields.

It was further agreed in this connection that FAO is the most suitable clearing house for information on world agriculture, and the Conference recommended that member countries utilize the valuable knowledge and experience of FAO in the problems of food and agriculture when implementing their individual or group technical assistance projects.

The Conference also gave some consideration to the possibility of a further expansion of technical assistance in the future, both in respect to the availability of experts from countries of the region and to the capacity of universities and other training institutions to absorb foreign technicians and trainees. In this connection, the need for an assessment of the technical manpower and training resources of the countries of the region was generally recognized, although some further consideration was thought necessary to determine the best methods for such an assessment. The possibility was also noted of the allocation, by donor countries, of bilateral funds to allow the recruitment of experts from other countries able to supply such experts but unable to meet the cost of employing them on technical assistance assignments. A number of delegations reported the establishment of special institutions for trainees from less developed countries and for their own future experts, namely: France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Poland reported a proposal to set up an Institution for Human Nutrition which would be available for such training.

The Conference noted that another way of relieving the scarcity of technical experts is the holding of international training centers in European countries, and especially the establishment of ad hoc training institutes for specialized instruction in specific fields which are relevant to the needs of less developed countries. It was, however, pointed out that such institutions would not dispense with the need for short-term training centers. There should be room for different parallel lines of development. The need for setting up training institutes in the less developed countries with experts from the European region was also stressed.

Consideration was given to the training of specialists from the European region for future technical assistance assignments. In this connection, some delegations expressed the desirability of associating junior experts with senior FAO experts working in the field: experiments

carried out in the past had shown satisfactory results. Some stress was also laid on the quality of experts, their adaptability and, in particular, their capacity to establish the right human relationship with the people among whom they have to work. The value of close relations between FAO and the National FAO Committees, or other appropriate governmental bodies, in the selection of experts was emphasized.

The Conference fully recognized the need for the exchange of experience in the types of technical assistance work carried out by different agencies, and recommended that FAO should adopt suitable measures to collect information on various types of technical assistance in agriculture, and disseminate it among member governments. A subject of particular interest to a number of delegations was that adequate assessments should be made of the results obtained from technical assistance projects in connection with which their experts had served in less developed countries, or for which they had provided fellowship facilities. It was suggested that FAO should undertake this in the fields of food and agriculture.

Finally, the Conference requested the Director-General to transmit the Report of this Conference to the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems and to consult with the Executive Secretary of the ECE on the possibility of discussing the problem of assistance to the economically less developed countries, also within the all-European framework of appropriate subsidiary bodies, which are jointly serviced by the Secretariats of the two organizations.

The Conference adopted the following resolution:

#### THE CONFERENCE

##### Recognizing

- a) that the need for all types of assistance from developed to less developed countries will continue and may expand in the future,
- b) that already a great deal of such assistance is now given by a number of countries of the European region, both through bilateral and multilateral programs (including the Expanded Technical Assistance Program and the United Nations Special Fund projects for which FAO acts as the executing agency), to less developed countries and territories outside the region and also, to a limited extent, to certain countries within the region which have underdeveloped areas,

Noting that, in the field of agriculture, FAO has, through actual experience of the complexities of the problems of the world as a whole of different regions and even of individual countries, gained specially valuable experience,

Noting also that many governments have already expanded or are likely to expand all types of aid in agriculture, and that use will no doubt be made of the vast experience, accumulated knowledge and the service of FAO in the planning and realization of aid programs;

Recommends to Governments

- a) that in so far as possible they keep FAO informed of:
  - (i) available training facilities and their possible expansion
  - (ii) available experts and technicians, and facilities for their training
  - (iii) projects underway in less developed countries, and.
- b) that they make available regularly to FAO, in so far as the countries concerned agree, technical and scientific data gathered and prepared by their experts in the fields related to food and agriculture in less developed countries; and

Requests the Director-General

- a) to establish means of exchange of experience in the various projects and on the types of technical assistance activities undertaken within and outside the European region,
- b) to offer advice and co-operate in research and survey projects for establishing essential data and the basis for recommendations concerning agricultural development in various less developed countries and regions,
- c) when specifically invited, and with the agreement of the countries and organizations concerned, to take such appropriate action as may lead to better co-ordination of technical assistance in agriculture undertaken by the countries and organizations in the European region, as well as by sources outside the region,
- d) to co-operate with the countries of the European region in expanding their capacity for providing experts through the training of specialists for future technical assistance assignments, either in existing universities or in special training institutes,
- e) to co-operate, as recommended by the 11th Session of the European Commission on Agriculture, in the proposed OEEC survey of training facilities as far as it relates to food and agriculture,
- f) to co-operate, in the light of the above survey, with countries of the European region in establishing ad hoc centers and institutes for the necessary theoretical and practical training of fellows from the less developed countries, in countries best suited for such training, and
- g) in order to facilitate the exchange of ideas and experience in various technical fields, and foster better understanding of underlying problems, to convene from time to time, in appropriate places, meetings of representatives of the less developed countries receiving assistance and of experts actually engaged in giving assistance in any one field of agriculture; and

Finally, the Conference requests that the Director-General report to the next FAO Conference in 1961 on progress made in respect of these recommendations.

With special reference to the training of personnel for technical assistance assignments, the Conference adopted the following further resolution:

#### THE CONFERENCE

Noting that the recruitment of experts in the field of food and agriculture for ETAP as well as for the UN Special Fund meets with difficulties because of the growing demand for such experts from developing countries,

Noting also that there has been an expansion in technical assistance programs and that they seem likely to expand further,

Recognizing that the full execution of the various programs of technical assistance is of primary importance for developed countries as well as for developing countries,

Fearing that unless member governments study ways and means to increase the availability of experts the program will be seriously hampered,

Drawing attention also to the valuable services rendered by associate-experts, usually trained in universities or equivalent higher institutes of education;

Requests Member Governments to give serious consideration to the possibility of making more experts and associate-experts available and,

Finally, invites the Director-General to explore, and make known to Member Governments, both the value of such associate experts and the possibility of employing in a somewhat similar capacity other personnel (not necessarily with university training) who have the knowledge and experience required in handling the day to day problems of specific fields of agriculture.

#### 4. The Mediterranean Development Project

The Conference had before it a working paper on the progress of the Mediterranean Project subsequent to the 10th Session of the FAO Conference. This paper also outlined the intentions of the Secretariat for following up the action already taken and its proposals for future work in the implementation of the project. There had been an encouraging support in academic journals and the press. The governments of some of the European countries concerned had been able to establish "spearhead zones" in accordance with the project recommendations, with the support of the United Nations Special Fund and with FAO as executing agent. FAO had also assisted in promoting projects of a regional character under the auspices of the Mediterranean Forestry Sub-Commission and the Working Party on Mediterranean Pasture and Fodder Development.

Other regional projects are under consideration and co-operation with other international agencies is being promoted. In accordance with a resolution of the 10th Session of the Conference the Director-General intends to convene a Mediterranean Conference to discuss the Project Report and the implementation of its recommendations.

The Conference welcomed the proposed conference, agreeing that the problems that arise in connection with the Mediterranean Project are such that they need to be discussed at high policy levels and not only in their specific technical aspects. Agencies which are interested in promoting development should be represented.

The delegations of many of the countries of the European region most closely concerned stressed the importance of the integrated approach adopted in the Mediterranean Project towards the development of agriculture and forestry and towards their co-ordination with other economic sectors. Such an approach is particularly necessary here in relation to the intense population pressure and the complex pattern of land use.

The delegations related the progress which had been made by their governments towards the implementation of the recommendations of the project. In Greece a Five Year Development Program was initiated which stressed the co-ordinated approach; in Turkey, the full utilization of manpower to restore the country was one of the main objectives of the new government; in Yugoslavia, the progress achieved in both agriculture and industry testified to the desirability of parallel development.

Several delegations emphasized the importance of co-ordination of national efforts with measures for international co-operation, including trade, technical assistance and finance, for which the Mediterranean Project Report provides a useful basis.

The value of an exchange of experience between countries of the Mediterranean region was also emphasized, particularly with respect to the spearhead zones. The delegations of Spain, France and Italy expressed their country's readiness to share their experience of such zones with countries which were now establishing new zones, and the delegation of

Spain invited the other governments to visit and exchange views on the project in the Badajoz area.

The interest of European regional organizations such as the Economic Commission for Europe, the Council of Europe, the Organization for European Economic Cooperation and the European Association for Animal Production in this project, as in all projects for the development of the Mediterranean regions, was clearly apparent in the discussion.

The Conference then adopted the following resolution:

#### THE CONFERENCE

Expressing its satisfaction with the progress of the action taken by the Director-General in the implementation of the Resolution of the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference on the Mediterranean Development Project,

Considering that the Member Countries of FAO have an important role to play in assisting the governments of the countries concerned and the Director-General in implementing the aforesaid resolution;

Records its appreciation of the assistance given by the United Nations Special Fund in the prompt establishment of spearhead development zones under FAO auspices,

Invites the governments of the Southern European countries with which the Mediterranean Development Project report is specifically concerned to give due attention to the implementation of the proposals of the report particularly as regards the acceleration of investment programs in agriculture falling within the framework of the general development programs,

Invites in accordance with Resolution 17/59 passed at the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference, the European governments and the countries in other regions interested in promoting development, to give all due consideration to the ways and means in which they can assist the implementation of the above quoted resolution, and in particular by making concrete offers of technical and economic assistance,

Invites the Director-General to explore ways and means by which the planning of the spearhead development zones could be co-ordinated with that of zones already established under national auspices, and

Suggests as a follow-up action in accordance with the above quoted resolution of the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference, that the Director-General should convene in Rome in the spring of 1961, a Conference of the governments of the Mediterranean region, of the governments of adjoining territories in the Near East and Africa faced with similar problems, and of European and all other Member

Governments which can contribute to the work of the Conference, to discuss the economic and technical aspects of Mediterranean development with a view to exploring ways and means by which international co-operation in the area can be made more effective, particularly through the co-ordination of aid and of technical assistance.

#### 5. Orientation and methods of work of the Organization in Europe

The Conference had before it a working paper on the above subject. In drawing up a work-program for FAO the participation of European governments is of special significance, for the work of FAO in the countries of the European region is not only of service to these countries, but also of great significance to countries in other regions. Since most countries of the European region are not recipients under the Technical Assistance Program FAO European activities relate principally to the Regular Program.

The working paper contained as an appendix a list of the various inter-governmental European bodies of FAO (European Commission on Agriculture, European Forestry Commission, European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission) and of Mediterranean bodies (General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean and the Joint Sub-Commission\* on Mediterranean Forestry Problems) whose membership includes governments in the European region. The recommendations and suggestions made by these bodies and by their specialised subsidiary organs would, within their fields of competence, indicate very well the main interests and technical needs of countries of the region. The Conference for Europe afforded a very welcome opportunity to consider these proposals and suggestions as parts of a single balanced program for the European region, taking also into account the work carried out by the joint FAO/ECE Divisions. This Conference would also provide an opportunity for Member Governments to express their views on the working methods employed by FAO, since they considerably influence the budgetary requirements for carrying out any such program or work.

The Conference felt that technical questions should be left to the existing European bodies of FAO and that it should itself deal primarily with matters of general policy.

While it was felt that FAO's major task was to serve the under-developed countries, it was also agreed that FAO's work in Europe, which had proved successful and useful to European countries and to countries in other regions, should certainly continue. The program of work of the Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry Commissions and their subsidiary organs received the general approval of the Conference. It was agreed that they should continue their work and should receive adequate support in the 1962/63 budget. The European bodies should concentrate their efforts on those matters of the highest priority within their fields of competence and avoid covering too many different subjects. There was general agreement that new permanent bodies should not be set up where ad hoc

\* dependent on the European Forestry Commission, the Near East Forestry Commission and the African Forestry Commission.

working parties would serve the purpose. Such ad hoc working groups should be dissolved upon the completion of their tasks.

The Conference expressed satisfaction with the work already done by the European Commission on Agriculture and with the general lines of the program suggested by it for FAO, in its own field of competence, for the next biennium. Some delegations suggested that more ample funds should be provided for the translation and publication of reports.

In the systematic exchange of scientific work, FAO could play a very important role by gathering and disseminating the information available in individual countries and some delegations expressed the wish for a closer working relationship between the national scientific and technical organizations of all European countries. The use of international seminars in appropriate fields should be given an important place among FAO's activities in Europe.

The Conference attached the greatest importance to the study of co-operatives and the technical, economic and social problems of small farms under prevailing conditions and considered that it should be given priority. This latter project was regarded as of some urgency, as touching upon one of the main contemporary problems of European agriculture. The observer representing the International Federation of Agricultural Producers invited FAO to co-operate in the study of problems relating to vertical integration and mass production, with their implication for European agriculture and, in particular, their implications for the family farm. The matter was at present under study by the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, the Economic Commission for Europe and the European Productivity Agency of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation and early contact with these organizations could prevent duplication of efforts and elicit mutual support.

Some emphasis was placed on the need for closer attention to the fields of nutrition, home economics and improved working conditions for rural women. Other parts of the program of work suggested by the European Commission on Agriculture, also met with approval, such as rural sociology, the agricultural uses of atomic energy, animal and plant production, agricultural engineering, land improvement, soil conservation and erosion control, and the administration of pasture lands. It was stressed that on these two last items co-operation between the European Commission on Agriculture and the European Forestry Commission would be highly desirable.

The threat of new epizootic diseases - as for example African Horse Sickness which already affects two countries in the European region - was also discussed \* and gave rise to a proposal that FAO should study the future possibility of operating an emergency fund to provide assistance in combating new outbreaks of infectious diseases or pests of economic importance to animals or plants.

The role of the European Commission on Agriculture in harmonizing

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\* See page 23 below



the activities of international organizations within the field of agriculture in Europe was commended and encouraged. Co-operation between FAO and other international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental in the field of FAO's competence, in Europe was stressed. The existing relationship between FAO and the Economic Commission for Europe was quoted as an excellent example of harmonious co-operation.

The Conference approved the general lines of the program of work suggested by the European Forestry Commission. Particular stress was laid on the question of national forestry funds. The formation of such a fund may be necessary since re-afforestation can only be a long-term investment, requiring continuity of plan, and private investment cannot always provide sufficient capital or use proper methods for re-afforestation. The matter deserved high priority in the working program and should be put on the agenda at the next session of the European Forestry Commission.

Attention was drawn to the importance of a close co-ordination of the forestry and agricultural programs. The close working arrangements which have been established between the Executive Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture and the Board of the European Forestry Commission were welcomed and the holding of joint annual meetings of these two latter bodies should, therefore, be continued. It was suggested that the scope of work of the European Forestry Commission and its subsidiary bodies should not be further broadened but that the agendas of its meetings should be confined to a limited number of subjects.

Satisfaction was expressed with the activities of the European Inland Fishery Advisory Commission and the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, and with their suggested programs of work. It was emphasized that activities should relate to problems and matters which are of interest to all or most of their member countries, such as the training of fishery technologists, the control of fishing, the development of fish culture and the control of water pollution, rather than to topics of interest to a few countries only. The exchange of documentation and the dissemination of information by FAO should be intensified.

The proposal of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean to convene an international conference on tuna fishing and the prospects for its development was welcomed. A question was raised whether such bodies as the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean should not become independent bodies with independent finance and their own secretariats, as is now the case with other similar fishery bodies; such a procedure would lessen the workload and the financial burden on FAO. It was stressed, however, that even if this procedure were adopted, FAO support for research would still be indispensable.

The Conference then adopted the following resolution:

#### THE CONFERENCE

Appreciating the work of the European and Mediterranean organs of FAO: (European Commission on Agriculture, European Forestry Commission, European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission, the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean and the Joint Sub-Commission on Mediterranean Forestry Problems), and

Having considered how their work can best be continued;

Considers that in future the European Commission on Agriculture should, with the funds available, select problems within its competence which are of the greatest importance for European agriculture,

Considers that the above FAO organs should have more frequent recourse to ad hoc meetings of experts in order to avoid, as far as possible, the setting up of permanent subsidiary bodies in addition to those already existing;

Further considers that the increased use of consultants would add to the efficiency of their work in several fields;

Supports the general lines of activities proposed by the European organs of FAO, as well as those suggested by the Mediterranean organs as far as they affect Europe, with regard to the FAO program of work in Europe for 1962/63;

Transmits these proposals to the Director-General with the request that he take them into account in drawing up the program of work which he will submit to the Eleventh Session of the Conference, having due regard to the budgetary implications; and

Requests the Director-General, on the basis of the views expressed at this conference, to study the implications of European regional conferences on the structure of work within technical fields in Europe, and to report on this matter at a meeting of member governments of the European region to be held during the Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference.

## 6. Freedom from Hunger Campaign

The Conference considered a workingpaper on the development of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

The Conference reviewed the Campaign to date, its launching ceremony and the attendant favourable response, the recommendations of a Conference of International non-governmental Organizations, and of an Advisory Committee, which that Conference had set up, as well as the research Sub-Committee of the Government Advisory Council. The Conference was informed of information activities, including publications issued and those in process as well as basic studies being prepared for educational purposes, and of several action programs. It had been difficult to respond to the initial enthusiasms generated by the Campaign, and further difficulties were foreseen due to lack of funds in providing continuing information and action. The Conference was informed of the present financial position of the Campaign Trust Fund.

In the discussion which followed all delegations and many observers participated. There was unanimous support for the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. In addition to the contributions already received from Denmark, Honduras, Ireland, the Netherlands, Pakistan and the United Kingdom, Austria pledged \$10,000 to the Campaign and the Federal Republic of Germany \$35,000, while Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Belgium, France, Finland, Greece, Yugoslavia and Portugal announced that they had contributions under consideration. In addition, fund raising campaigns are to be organized in Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The importance of co-ordinating efforts on the national level had been recognized and Committees were being set up for this purpose in Austria, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Norway, Denmark, France and Poland. In other countries National FAO Committees were carrying out the Campaign activities and special committees would be established if the necessity arose. All these national committees were endeavouring to obtain the sponsorship of outstanding personalities and to enlist the help of all organizations and persons willing to further the Campaign.

A number of countries, among them the Federal Republic of Germany, Norway, Denmark, Yugoslavia, Israel and Poland, pledged help for the Campaign within the framework of their bilateral assistance to underdeveloped countries or through UN channels. This included the making available of technical experience and of trained personnel.

It was felt that if the Campaign was to produce tangible results, and also to prevent later disappointments, it would be necessary to avoid an oversimplification of the problem itself. The Conference expressed the view that those responsible for policy decisions must be fully aware of the inherent complexities, particularly in the economic field.

The need was stressed for co-ordination in making the impact of the Campaign better felt. It was noted that the Scandinavian countries were consulting with each other on an integrated approach and even wider harmonization might be indicated.

The demand for information materials of all kinds including leaflets, brochures, posters and visual material was stressed by nearly all delegations; the help already given by FAO was recognized, but it would be necessary to strengthen its information activities to enable national organizations in their turn to produce material suited to their specific requirements. Underdeveloped countries should be encouraged to make film strips showing the nature of these problems and demonstrating possible solutions.

The sponsoring of action and research projects would depend on the public reaction to the Campaign in the various countries. The National Committees could help towards a realization of the problem and of the help that could be given by channelling information to interested organizations and individuals.

Representatives of both inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations pledged full support for the Campaign and offered a number of concrete suggestions.

The Director-General declared himself most heartened by the support so unanimously and enthusiastically expressed as well as by the pledges announced. This would encourage him and his colleagues. The numerous tasks which the Campaign was bringing in its train, the necessity for which was constantly stressed by all Conferences and meetings, demanded great efforts and much action. The Campaign continued to be hampered by lack of funds. The Director-General had been obliged to borrow personnel and to use unfilled posts in the Regular Program to carry out the most urgent and immediate assignments of the Campaign. Its scope and effectiveness would continue to depend on the means available.

The Conference adopted the following resolution: \*

#### THE CONFERENCE

Expressing unanimous support of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, and

Noting that the countries of the European region in the main possess technical skills, advanced research facilities and adequate resources;

Considers that the Campaign calls for special attention, leadership and support in the region,

Invites member governments of the region which have not already done so to establish at the earliest possible time strong, widely representative National Campaign Committees or equivalent effective machinery to plan, co-ordinate and encourage action at the national level,

Invites member governments in the region who have not already done so to give early consideration to furnishing, either by direct contribution or otherwise, adequate general Campaign expenses at the international and at the national levels, both currently and over the life of the Campaign;

Suggests that member governments in the region secure the formulation of National Programs, under the general co-ordination of FAO, best suited to carry forward Campaign objectives, and

Urges the Director-General to take, within the limits of the means at his disposal, all action required to implement the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and, especially in the field of information, to supply the national organizations for the Campaign with the material needed to arouse public awareness of the urgency of the problem.

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\* The United Kingdom delegation, while reaffirming support for the Campaign, was unable to commit its Government to some of the implications of the above resolution.

## 7. Other business

### (i) Food standards

On the proposal of a number of delegations, the Conference considered the problem of co-ordination presented by the growing number of food standards programs undertaken by many organizations. The desirability of international agreement on minimum food standards and related questions (including labelling requirements, methods of analysis, etc.) was recognized as an important means of protecting the consumer's health, of ensuring quality and of reducing trade barriers, particularly in the rapidly integrating market of Europe.

The position was clearly reflected in the interest shown in such activities as the joint FAO/WHO Program of Food Additives, the joint FAO/ECE programs on standards for perishable foodstuffs, and the FAO Code of Principles on milk and milk products. The recent formation of the European Council of the Codex Alimentarius with a valuable and far-reaching program in which some twenty countries co-operated, was a further example of this trend.

The advantages to be obtained by integrating and simplifying the various projects under way and by avoiding the creation of new independent bodies were recognized, both as a measure of economy and as an effective mechanism for covering other food products as and when required. In view of the primary role of FAO in such programs and the need for collaboration with WHO where the health aspect is concerned, it was felt that a valuable step forward would be achieved if the Director-General of FAO, in collaboration with the Director-General of WHO and after consultation with the international governmental and non-governmental organizations active in this field, could submit to the 11th Session of the Conference proposals for a joint FAO/WHO program on food standards and associated requirements, with particular reference in the first instance to the principal foodstuffs offered for sale on the European market.

### (ii) New Epizootics

The Conference was informed of the serious losses of horses in Turkey and the Near East Countries due to African Horse Sickness. This insect-borne virus disease has spread very rapidly through several of the countries in the Near East despite great efforts by countries in the region and limited assistance from FAO and other sources. The disease is causing a very high mortality, up to 95% of infected horses, and in some areas, particularly in Iran, Iraq, Turkey and the Syrian region of the U.A.R., the large number of draught animals lost will have a serious adverse effect on crop production.

The Conference was informed of the very serious risk of the disease spreading into Europe through the Balkan Peninsula in the near future. The disease being insect-borne, quarantine and normal sanitary measures

do not limit its spread as insects may be carried great distances by the wind, or other means such as transport.

FAO has assisted the countries affected by training personnel in diagnosis, field control and vaccine production, and also by the provision of some equipment and facilitating the procurement and distribution of vaccine. There is every indication that there will be a temporary cessation of the infection during the winter months, but the disease will almost certainly appear again in all the infected countries in the spring of 1961 and unless mass vaccination is carried out in these countries in anticipation of the recurrence of the disease, it will almost certainly spread to other countries and probably into Europe. Countries in the Near East may not be in a position to carry out such mass vaccinations without outside help in the form of personnel, equipment and supplies. While limited funds were made available in 1960 from the TAB Contingency Fund for FAO assistance to the countries, it is unlikely that these funds could be made available in 1961 or be sufficient to meet all the needs which cannot be met by the affected countries. It was suggested that the Director-General, in consultation with the International Office for Epizootics, should contact European countries to investigate the possible provision of funds to meet this threatened invasion.

Attention was also drawn to the serious epizootic of African Swine Fever in Spain and Portugal which, up to date, has been controlled by a "slaughter out policy" which is at present the only effective method of control involving more than 50,000 pigs. The Conference was warned of the possibility of this disease spreading in Europe with consequent serious economic loss.

The appearance of these diseases hitherto unknown in these areas, with the resultant heavy losses to agriculture, gave rise to the suggestion that consideration be given to the establishment of an emergency fund for the purpose of assisting any country in controlling and limiting the spread of new outbreaks of diseases or pests to live-stock and plants. It was also suggested that the Director-General might place this matter for consideration before the Council at its next Session.

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

(a) Resolutions recommending action by Governments

- On technical assistance to less developed countries, --  
to inform FAO of training facilities, availability  
of experts, projects underway and technical data  
obtained -- to make more experts and associate  
experts available .. . . . pp. 13-14
- On the Mediterranean Development Project, -- to  
promote the implementation of its proposals .. . . . p. 16
- On the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, -- to support  
the campaign and to promote the formulation of  
national programs .. . . . p. 22

(b) Resolutions recommending action by Director-General

- On technical assistance to less developed countries, --  
to promote exchange of experience -- to co-operate  
in surveys for agriculture development -- to  
co-ordinate projects when requested -- to promote  
training of experts and fellows -- to co-operate  
with OEEC in the survey of training facilities --  
to convene meetings of experts and the representatives  
of recipient countries on specific topics .. . . . pp. 12-14
- to study further the employment of associate  
experts and technicians .. . . . p. 14
- On the Mediterranean Development Project, -- to  
co-ordinate planning of "spearhead" zones with zones  
established under national plans -- to convene a  
conference to discuss economic and technical aspects  
of Mediterranean development .. . . . p. 16
- On the Freedom from Hunger Campaign -- to proceed with  
its implementation .. . . . p. 22





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Chef du Service de la production  
Ministère de l'Agriculture  
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UAR Embassy  
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Mahmoud Abd El Aty  
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Ministero della Sanità  
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Paris

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Confederazione Nazionale Coltivatori Diretti  
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COMMISSION OF THE CHURCHES ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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Consultant  
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John D. Metzler  
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Brugg/AG  
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EUROPEAN LANDWORKERS' FEDERATION

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Enrico Crostarosa  
Head, Technical Services of the Italian Section  
Rome

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

Mario Appierto  
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INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Mrs. Luciana Corcos  
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Ottar Bergflødt  
European Officer  
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E. Machielsens  
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Fédération internationale des syndicats  
chrétiens d'ouvriers agricoles  
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INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FAMILY ORGANIZATIONS

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Consultante permanente de l'Union mondiale  
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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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Norman Wright  
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F.W. Parker  
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Technical Department

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Assistant Director-General  
Department of Public Relations and  
Legal Affairs

M. Ezekieli  
Head, Economics Department

W.H. Pawley  
Officer in Charge, Program and Budgetary Service  
Director-General's Office

M. Autret  
Director  
Nutrition Division

E. Glesinger  
Director  
Forestry and Forest Products Division

K.V.L. Kesteven  
Director  
Animal Production and Health Division

C.H. Weitz  
Coordinator, Freedom from Hunger Campaign

ANNEX 2

OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

Mr. M. Cépède (France) presided over the Conference.

Messrs. V. Andersen (Denmark), E. Asensio Villa (Spain), D.J. Buckley (Ireland), M. Dayan (Israel), Ph. d'Otreppe (Belgium), F.M. de Vilhena (Portugal), L. Eutaxias (Greece), J.A.P. Francke (Netherlands), M. Gillen (Luxembourg), E. Jaakkola (Finland), A. Kauter (Switzerland), R. Leopold (Austria), H. Martinstetter (Federal Republic of Germany), M. Marković (Yugoslavia), R. Mork (Norway), G. Netzén (Sweden), J. Okuniewski (Poland), G.U. Papi (Italy), O. Tosun (Turkey), R. Wall (United Kingdom) were Vice-Chairmen of the Conference.

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen constituted the Steering Committee which dealt with organizational matters of the Conference.

Dr. I. Moskovits, Liaison Officer for Europe, in the Program Liaison Branch, Program and Budgetary Service, was the Secretary of the Conference. Mr. F. George, Program Liaison Branch, Program and Budgetary Service, Dr. E.H. Hartmans, Technical Department, Office of the Assistant Director-General, and Mr. H. Jacoby, Acting Head of the FAO/ECE Agriculture Division acted as Assistant-Secretaries. In their work, they were assisted by Mr. Truman Peebles, Department of Public Relations and Legal Affairs, Dr. P.K. Ray, Program Research and Evaluation Branch, Program and Budgetary Service, Mr. I.H. Ergas, Economic Analysis Division, and Dr. R.C. Fortunescu, Operations Officer, Freedom from Hunger Campaign.





