Report of the sixteenth session of the

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Rome, 22-26 April 1985



REPORT

of the

SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Rome, 22-26 April 1985

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PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

This is the final report approved by the sixteenth session of the Committee on Fisheries.

ABSTRACT

The Committee on Fisheries at its sixteenth session reviewed the action taken or planned to implement the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development and the five associated Programmes of Action adopted by the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. It expressed its appreciation for the steps already taken and agreed with the Director-General's proposals for the preparation of detailed progress reports to be presented to the Committee's next session and to the governing bodies of FAO. The Committee also decided to establish a Sub-Committee Trade to facilitate interon Fish governmental consultations on international trade in fish and fishery products. It noted the measures which had been taken or were envisaged for the implementation of a number of resolutions adopted by the World Fisheries Conference concerning specific aspects of fisheries management and development, and in particular endorsed the suggestion that "Fishermen and Fishing Communities" should be adopted as a theme for World Food Day 1986.

The Committee unanimously endorsed the strategies and priorities included in the Director-General's Summary Programme of Work and Budget in fisheries for 1986-87. It considered the proposals well balanced, reflecting the needs of developing countries and responding effectively to the recommendations of the World Fisheries Conference. Furthermore, the Committee expressed its satisfaction at the notable net increase proposed in the resources to be allocated to Major Programme 2.2: Fisheries.

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ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION

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5 June 1985

Dear Dr. Swaminathan,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report of the Sixteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, which was held in Rome from 22 to 26 April 1985.

Yours sincerely,

Chairman

Committee on Fisheries

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Independent Chairman Council of FAO

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MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION BY THE COUNCIL

A. MATTERS FOR DECISION

None

B. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Implementation of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development

The Committee welcomed the recommendation made by the Council in November 1984 that the report of the World Fisheries Conference, together with a document on the progress achieved in implementing the Strategy and Programmes of Action, should be submitted to the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Conference in November 1985. It also noted with appreciation that the Council had recommended that the Conference should adopt a special resolution on the outcome of the World Fisheries Conference and its follow-up. (para. 9)

The Committee agreed that progress reports should include countries' reports, special in-depth case studies, and contributions from other international organizations concerned with fisheries development aid. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a standard format for national progress reports, which should not create too heavy a burden on national administrations. The Committee considered that it would be useful if regional bodies dealing with fisheries were involved in the reporting process. It also agreed that the first report should be submitted to its Seventeenth Session in early 1987 and that the periodicity of future reports could be decided at that session. The reports would also be submitted to the governing bodies of FAO. (paras. 14-16)

Implementation of the Programmes of Action

The Committee expressed its unanimous appreciation of the support already provided by donors for the implementation of the Programmes of Action in 1985. It emphasized that the momentum generated by the World Fisheries Conference should be maintained. It also noted that a progress report would be submitted to the FAO Conference in November 1985 and that further progress reports to be submitted to subsequent sessions of the Committee on Fisheries and to the governing bodies of FAO should cover not only activities carried out by FAO but also those implemented outside the framework of FAO by countries and other organizations. (paras. 24-26)

Follow-up to Resolutions of the World Fisheries Conference concerning specific aspects of fisheries management and development

In considering the implementation of Resolution No. 7 on the role of the fisherman, the Committee agreed that, in view of the considerable procedural, programme and, above all, financial implications of proclaiming an International Year of the Fisherman and a World Fisheries Day, priority should rather be given to devoting scarce resources to the implementation of those aspects of the Programmes of Action which were concerned with better conditions for fishermen and their families. The Committee endorsed the suggestion made by the World Fisheries Conference that the Director-General should be invited to consider adopting "Fishermen and Fishing Communities" as a theme for World Food Day in 1986. (paras 36-38)

Multilateral framework for consultations on international trade in fishery products

The Committee decided to establish a sub-committee on fish trade and approved its terms of reference and membership. The sub-committee will provide a forum for consultations on technical and economic aspects of international trade in fish and fishery products, including pertinent aspects of production and consumption. Membership in the sub-committee will be open to all Member Nations of FAO. States not members of the Organization, which are members of the United Nations, of any of its specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, might be admitted by the Council to membership in the sub-committee. (para. 48)

The work of FAO in fisheries during 1986-87

The Committee unanimously endorsed the strategies and priorities selected by the Director-General in the preparation of his Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87. It approved the content and framework, as well as the areas of emphasis of the fisheries proposals. It felt that these proposals were well balanced, reflected the major needs for the development and management of world fisheries and responded to the recommendations of the World Fisheries Conference. It expressed its satisfaction at the notable net increase in the resources proposed for the work of the Organization in fisheries for 1986-87. (paras 52-55)

OPENING OF THE SESSION

- 1. The Committee on Fisheries held its Sixteenth Session in Rome from 22 to 26 April 1985. The session was attended by 96 members of the Committee, by observers from 5 other FAO Member Nations, 2 non-Member Nations of FAO and the Holy See, by representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Labour Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Bank, the World Food Programme and the European Economic Community and by observers from 21 other international organizations.
- 2. The list of delegates and observers is given in Appendix B to this report.
- 3. The Session was opened by Admiral Abdu Rachman (Indonesia), Chairman of the Fifteenth Session of the Committee whose excellent work was appreciated by the Committee. After his welcoming remarks, Mr. Edward West, Deputy Director-General of FAO, addressed the Committee on behalf of the Director-General. The text of his statement is reproduced in Appendix D to this report.
- 4. The Guest Speaker, His Excellency Pedro Ojeda Paullada, Secretary for Fisheries of Mexico and Chairman of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, delivered an address at the invitation of the Director-General of FAO. The text of his address is reproduced in Appendix E.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

5. The Committee adopted the Agenda shown in Appendix A. The documents which were before the Committee are listed in Appendix C.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 6. As this was the first session being held in the 1984-85 biennium, the Committee was required to elect a Chairman, a First Vice-Chairman and four other Vice-Chairmen. Mr. William G. Gordon (USA) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee; Mr. Hadj Ali Salem (Tunisia) was elected First Vice-Chairman, and representatives from Colombia, India, Italy and Madagascar as other Vice-Chairmen.
- 7. A Drafting Committee was appointed consisting of representatives of: Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal and Sri Lanka. It elected Argentina as its Chairman and Canada as Vice-Chairman.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FAO WORLD CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

(a) Implementation of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development

- 8. This item was discussed on the basis of document COFI/85/2. The Secretariat reported on measures taken or planned by the Director-General to implement the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development endorsed by the World Fisheries Conference. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the progress so far achieved. It was noted that important steps had already been taken in spite of the short time which had elapsed since the Conference. These included:
 - (i) presentation of the report of the Conference to the UN Economic and Social Council;
 - (ii) endorsement of the Strategy and the associated Programmes of Action by the UN General Assembly at its Thirty-ninth Session;

- (iii) presentation of the Strategy to the FAO Regional Conference for Africa at which Ministers, in the Harare Declaration on the food crisis in Africa, had renewed their commitment to the Strategy;
- (iv) presentation of the Strategy to the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean which, in the Buenos Aires Declaration, had welcomed its endorsement by the World Fisheries Conference;
 - (v) presentation of the Strategy to the FAO regional fishery bodies, which had also welcomed the endorsement of the Strategy by the Conference;
- (vi) approval of the Strategy at a meeting on fisheries convened by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); and
- (vii) a resolution by the European Parliament requesting inter alia that the European Economic Community should cooperate fully with FAO in the implementation of the Strategy and the Programmes of Action and that the Community should integrate its own efforts to promote fisheries in developing countries with the measures taken or proposed by FAO and other organizations.
- 9. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Council at its eighty sixth session had recommended that the report of the World Fisheries Conference, together with a document on the progress achieved in implementing the Strategy and Programmes of Action, should be submitted to the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Conference in November 1985. It also noted with appreciation that the Council had recommended the adoption by the Conference of a special resolution on the outcome of the World Fisheries Conference and its follow-up.
- 10. The Committee referred to two of the resolutions adopted by the World Fisheries Conference. Resolution 1 invited the Director-General of FAO to evolve effective measures for observing the progress of follow-up action on the decisions of the Conference. Resolution 3 requested the Director-General to provide the Committee on Fisheries and the Organization's governing bodies with periodic reports on the progress achieved in implementing the Strategy.
- 11. The Committee considered the suggestions made by the Secretariat regarding the format, content and periodicity of reports to be submitted by countries on the implementation of the Strategy and the manner in which States, international and regional organizations might collaborate with FAO in preparing such reports.
- 12. As regards the format, the Committee gave strong support to the eight elements listed in paragraph 22 of document COFI/85/2, which could form the basis for progress reporting. Several delegations commented that due attention should be paid to economic and technical cooperation between developing countries when considering the relevant element. It was also noted that these broad elements had been synthesized from more detailed elements and that the term "fisheries" covered marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture.
- 13. Benchmark data and quantifiable indicators were considered as essential tools if progress were to be measured. However, it was pointed out that some elements could not be easily measured and would therefore have to be reviewed in more qualitative terms taking into account both successes and failures. In this connexion, attention was drawn to the sociological aspects of development. The way in which the benefits were distributed should therefore be the subject of particular care.
- 14. The Committee agreed that the progress reports provided by countries, special in-depth case studies to supplement country reports, and also contributions from other international organizations concerned with fisheries in terms of information on development aid would provide a broad and solid coverage for the progress reporting system.

- 15. In this connexion, the Secretariat was invited by the Committee to prepare a standard format which could provide a basis for national progress reports. Noting that the preparation of these reports should not be too heavy a burden on national administrations, the Committee requested that the format should be designed with this in view. The Committee also considered that it would be useful if competent regional bodies were involved in the reporting process.
- l6. Regarding periodicity, the Committee agreed that the first report should be submitted to the Seventeenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries in 1987. This would allow submission of a report to the Twenty-fourth Session of the Conference to be held in November of that year. The Committee also agreed that the periodicity of future reports (two-yearly or four-yearly) could be decided at the Seventeenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, in the light of the experience gained by countries and FAO in the preparation of the first report.
- 17. The Turkish delegate stated that his country had not signed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and that Turkey's participation in the World Fisheries Conference or its approval of the Strategy did not in any way imply Turkey's acceptance of the provisions of the Convention.
- 18. The Committee noted that as part of the implementation of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development (section III, paragraph 14(xvi)) an Expert Consultation on Fishing Vessel Markings had been organized by Canada with the cooperation of FAO. The Consultation had recommended the use of the International Telecommunications Union Radio Call Signs (IRCS), without prejudice to international conventions, national practices or requirements, as the basis for marking fishing vessels. The results of the Expert Consultation were introduced by Canada and the problems of vessel identification were demonstrated by a visual presentation.
- 19. The Committee was of the view that further studies would be required to prepare technical specifications and examine ways in which such a marking system could be used by countries. It, therefore, invited the Director-General to carry out such further consultations as might be necessary and to report to the Committee at its Seventeenth Session, with a view to the possible adoption of a standardized marking system. One delegation was of the opinion that the competent organization in this matter was the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

(b) Implementation of the Programmes of Action

- 20. The Committee considered this item on the basis of document COFI/85/3. The Committee noted that the five Programmes of Action approved by the World Fisheries Conference provided a comprehensive and integrated framework for the provision of development assistance in fisheries to be undertaken not only by FAO, but also by multilateral and bilateral agencies, by regional organizations and by Member Nations themselves. It was recognized that the Programmes of Action were intended for implementation at the interregional, regional and subregional levels in order to facilitate coordination of fisheries development.
- 21. The Committee observed that the Programmes of Action had a number of common features. Thus, training was an integral part of the five Programmes of Action. The Committee agreed that priority should be given to all forms of training. Similarly, all Programmes provided opportunities for the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries. Furthermore, the Programmes could generate investment follow-up and this was an aspect which should be commended to the attention of the financing institutions for appropriate project formulation.
- 22. As indicated by the World Fisheries Conference, support for the implementation of the Programmes of Action could be in the form of:

- (i) funds channelled to countries through FAO for execution of specific activities;
- (ii) assistance given in kind, e.g. through the secondment of specialists, the provision of equipment or the cooperative use of research vessels; and
- (iii) national and multilateral donor agencies funding and/or executing directly individual components of the Programme or specific activities.
- 23. The Committee was informed that approximately US\$ 14 million had been received or committed for the implementation of the Programmes of Action in 1985. The donors were UNDP, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Assistance in kind to support the FAO activities included that provided by Norway (global resources survey), Spain (stock assessment workshops in West Africa), France (biologist for the fisheries development project in West Africa), Poland (workshop on development planning for the West African region), UK (reduction of post harvest losses in the Bay of Bengal region), and Commonwealth Secretariat (fellowships for training in the FAO regional aguaculture centres). Limited information was available at this stage on the bilateral and multilateral activities executed outside FAO. In this respect, the representative of EEC informed the Committee of the importance attached to fisheries development in the recently concluded Lomé III Convention and to the substantial funds which would be made available for that purpose.
- 24. The Committee was unanimous in its appreciation of the support so far provided by donors for implementation of the Programmes of Action in 1985. At the same time, it emphasized that efforts should continue to be made to identify support for the subsequent years in order to maintain the momentum generated by the World Fisheries Conference. In this connexion, attention was drawn to Resolution 39/225 in which the Thirty-ninth Session of the United Nations General Assembly urged all donors and financial institutions to provide support to FAO for the implementation of the five Programmes of Action. The Committee reiterated this appeal addressed in particular to those countries who had not yet offered assistance.
- 25. The Committee noted that the contribution made available to FAO so far in 1985 showed that the amount and purpose of development assistance depended on the policies and priorities of donors. Several delegations pointed out the resulting imbalance in projects and programmes among the various regions and requested that FAO undertake further consultations with donors in order to remedy the situation. Reference was made to the fact that these imbalances have particular impact in the Latin American and Caribbean region and to southern Africa.
- 26. The Committee agreed with the suggestions made in document COFI/85/3 regarding the preparation of progress reports on the implementation of the Programmes of Action. The consensus was that the document to be submitted to the FAO Conference in November 1985 on the outcome of the World Fisheries Conference should include information on the steps taken to seek financial and other support for the Programmes of Action, as well as on the results achieved in their implementation. Thereafter, further progress reports should be submitted to subsequent sessions of the Committee on Fisheries and to the governing bodies of FAO. Such reports should cover not only FAO-executed projects, but should also include information on the development activities related to the Programmes of Action which were carried out outside the framework of FAO by individual countries or other organizations. The Committee agreed that such information could be sought through questionnaires to be sent by FAO.
- 27. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the work FAO had so far undertaken in implementing the Programmes of Action, as outlined in document COFI/85/3. Several delegations stressed the importance of undertaking an

evaluation of the implementation and impact of individual projects under the various Programmes in order to benefit from experience gained. It was mentioned in this connexion that evaluation and monitoring mechanisms were included in the design of FAO-executed projects and that a thematic evaluation was currently being undertaken of aquaculture development.

- 28. The Representative of IOC referred to the relevant Programmes of Action and noted the close cooperation with FAO through the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System (ASFIS) and the joint programme on Ocean Science in Relation to Living Resources. He also referred to the recent joint FAO/IOC/Norway Workshop on the Improved Use of Research Vessels and on the proposal for the preparation of a manual on the management and use of research vessels and related training courses.
- 29. The Committee was advised of the major participation of UNDP in financing FAO-executed fisheries projects during the 1960's and 1970's and on its current support to the Programmes of Action through national, regional, interregional and global programmes. The UNDP representative indicated that the fourth UNDP programming cycle would be from 1987 to 1991 and that action should now be taken by governments to present project proposals through the appropriate UNDP channels.

(c) Follow-up to Resolutions of the World Fisheries Conference concerning specific aspects of fisheries management and development

- 30. This item was presented by the Secretariat on the basis of document COFI/85/4. The Committee noted that the World Fisheries Conference, in adopting Resolutions endorsing the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development, approving five Programmes of Action and making recommendations regarding the follow-up to the Conference, had also adopted six other Resolutions recommending that a variety of measures should be taken regarding specific aspects of fisheries management and development.
- 31. The Committee stressed the importance it attached to these Resolutions which had been brought to the attention of national authorities at the highest level. It expressed its satisfaction with the steps already taken or envisaged by the Director-General in response to these Resolutions and requested that these efforts should be continued and, where possible, intensified. Delegations made a number of observations and suggestions regarding individual Resolutions.
- 32. There was general appreciation of the efforts made so far in the implementation of Resolution No. 4, regarding the promotion of fish in the fight against malnutrition. In particular, the close working relationship that had been developed in this regard between FAO and the World Food Programme was commended. In pursuing the fight against malnutrition, many delegations urged that greater attention be given to the reduction of post-harvest losses and wastage in order to make more fishery products available. The need for governments to channel these fish products to the poor and undernourished was stressed. Strong emphasis was also placed on the necessity to develop improved technology for the use of fishery resources for direct human consumption, rather than animal feed. The representative of the World Food Programme advised the Committee that there had been a significant increase in the quantity of fish used in food aid in 1984, and that the World Food Programme commitments to fisheries development projects had risen to US\$ 37 million in that year.
- 33. The Committee welcomed the steps taken by the Director-General to bring Resolution No. 5 on investment in fisheries to the attention of all the major financing institutions. While appreciating the progress achieved, many delegations urged donors to pay even greater attention to the investment needs of the fisheries sector. It was emphasized that there was a requirement for increased technical support, for project identification, preparation and evaluation. In informing the Committee on the activities of the World Bank,

the Bank's representative stressed the need for increased multilateral and bilateral efforts, including those of non-governmental organizations, in the pre-investment phase. He strongly urged countries to give high priority to the fisheries sector if they wished to attract increased funds and welcomed the steps taken to promote informal consultations between the financing institutions and FAO.

- 34. With regard to Resolution No. 6 concerning the protection of living resources of developing countries from pollution, the Committee expressed satisfaction that the Director-General had conveyed the concerns of Member Governments on this matter to the other relevant agencies of the UN and to donor organizations and financial institutions. The Committee noted the continuing collaboration between FAO and UNEP in the Regional Seas Programme, and other cooperative efforts among the UN Agencies to assist in reducing marine pollution, for example the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP). Reference was also made to the progress achieved at the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region in which twenty countries participated. Noting the great importance of inland fisheries to many countries, especially in Africa, and the growing problems of pollution in these waters, several delegations requested that similar actions be taken in respect of freshwater. The representative of UNEP expressed his agency's support for the work of the Committee, and drew attention to UNEP's newly reformulated Programme for Oceans and Coastal Areas.
- 35. The Committee noted that Resolution No. 7 on the role of the fisherman had, in effect, three separate parts. First, it invited the Director-General to consider the feasibility of proclaiming an International Year of the Fisherman. The Committee was advised that since 1981, the proclamation of international years and anniversaries had been regulated by the General Assembly Decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 which had adopted the guidelines contained in the annex to the Economic and Social Council Resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 laying down the criteria and procedures of the United Nations with regard to future proposals for international years. Attention was drawn to the general principle that "when a world conference on a particular subject has been or is being separately convened, or when a subject is already of wide international concern and effective organizations and programmes exist to further its ends, an international year should not normally be proclaimed". The Committee further noted that the General Assembly of the United Nations had already adopted proposals regarding the proclamation of International Years for the years 1985 (Youth), 1986 (Peace), 1987 (Shelter for the Homeless) and that other proposals were under active consideration for the years 1988 to 1991.
- 36. The Committee recognized that the proclamation of an international year involved considerable procedural, programme and, above all, financial implications. It noted that, on the evidence of earlier international years, costs of the order of US\$ 5 million or more might be involved. The Committee considered that priority should rather be given to devoting the scarce resources available to pursuing the effective implementation of those aspects of the Programmes of Action which were concerned with better conditions for fishermen and their families.
- 37. The Resolution, secondly, invited the Director-General to adopt "fishermen and fishing communities" as a theme for World Food Day in 1986. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Council at its Eighty-sixth Session in November 1984 had agreed with this suggestion of the World Fisheries Conference. Some delegations requested that steps should be taken to ensure that their countries were provided with timely information and public communication materials to assist their national celebrations.

- 38. Finally, Resolution 7 requested the Director-General to consider the annual observance of a "World Fisheries Day" on 27 June each year, to commemorate the FAO World Fisheries Conference. The Committee noted that the guidelines for such observances laid down by the UN Economic and Social Council emphasized the need for very careful consideration of new proposals for the designation of international anniversaries; attention was drawn to the fact that no less than 28 such annual days or weeks were already celebrated under the UN System. Whilst appreciating the serious financial and other implications of organizing such observances within an international framework, some delegations felt that recognition should nevertheless be given to the millions of artisanal fishermen around the world. In this connexion, a number of delegations referred to the national Fishermen's Days which were celebrated in their countries and suggested that the wider adoption of such national days might be an effective and practical alternative.
- 39. The Committee welcomed the follow-up work being undertaken and planned by FAO in response to Resolution 8 which dealt with the special needs of land-locked countries. Several delegations with coastal and marine resources noted that the interior provinces of developing coastal States faced the same problems of fish supply as land-locked States. The Committee recognized the continuing difficulties encountered by some countries in obtaining adequate support for regional research and development projects for international lakes and rivers, and welcomed the steps being taken by FAO to strengthen its support in this respect, notably through the Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA).
- 40. In Resolution 9, the Director-General was requested to continue and intensify FAO's activities on TCDC and ECDC, particularly the development of human resources for fishery management and development. Emphasizing the high importance it placed on this key aspect of fisheries management and development, the Committee noted with satisfaction the activities being undertaken or planned by FAO in this respect, both within the Regular and Field Programmes. It drew particular attention to the support to inter-country collaboration being provided by the FAO-executed regional projects and the FAO Regional Offices. It also noted that the five Programmes of Action adopted by the World Fisheries Conference related mainly to activities at the regional, subregional and interregional levels and thus contained strong elements of support for ECDC and TCDC. In this connexion, the need was stressed for a more active cooperation with other competent regional bodies such as the Latin American Organization for Fishery Development (OLDEPESCA), the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (SPFFA) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

(d) <u>Multilateral framework for consultations on international trade in fishery products</u>

- 41. In introducing the relevant document COFI/85/5, the Secretariat summarized the results of the Technical Consultation on Fish Trade Matters convened by FAO in Rome from 28 to 31 January 1985, which had considered three options for establishing a multilateral framework for consultations on international trade in fishery products:
 - (a) the Committee on Fisheries itself;
 - (b) a sub-committee on fish trade under the Committee on Fisheries; and
 - (c) an intergovernmental group under the Committee on Commodity Problems.

The Consultation had not reached a consensus on the most appropriate arrangement for a global consultative mechanism on international fish trade matters and had recommended that the Committee on Fisheries take a decision in this regard.

- 42. In accordance with the request made by the Consultation, the Secretariat provided information on the financial implications of each of the three options. As the costs depended primarily on the frequency and duration of meetings and the number of languages used, there was very little difference between the options considered. The Secretariat had also prepared a list of subjects on fish trade, attached as Annex II of document COFI/85/5, which could be regarded as being of priority interest for international consultations.
- 43. With regard to the eligibility for obtaining financing of market research and development activities from the Common Fund for Commodities, the FAO Legal Counsel advised the Committee that difficulties could be foreseen as regards the Committee on Fisheries qualifying as an International Commodity Body (ICB) because the first eligibility criterion for ICBs (Schedule C of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund) required an ICB to be "open to all States Members of the United Nations or of any of its specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency". Such membership would be possible for a sub-committee of the Committee on Fisheries but not for the Committee itself, which is open only to FAO Member Nations. It was explained that a subcommittee of the Committee on Fisheries could be recognized as an ICB, in the same manner as an intergovernmental group established under the Committee on Commodity Problems. However, whether or not sub-committees and intergovernmental groups would be designated as ICBs would be decided by the Executive Board of the Common Fund, which would be established once the Common Fund became operational.
- 44. The Assistant Director-General (Fisheries Department) informed the Committee on behalf of the Director-General that the funds to cover the expenditures involved in making preparations for and convening the Sessions of a sub-committee on fish trade could be available, should the Committee decide to establish it.
- 45. The Committee agreed that questions of international trade in fish and fishery products were important to fisheries development and warranted international consultations. The subjects on fish trade of priority interest listed in Annex II of document COFI/85/5 were considered an appropriate basis for such consultations. The Committee supported the conclusion of the Technical Consultation that, in view of the close collaboration existing between FAO and other international organizations concerned, their work was complementary rather than overlapping. The representative of GATT informed the Committee that it was premature to say which arrangements would be made in GATT with regard to further work related to international fish trade, but a new round of trade negotiations including fishery products might start in 1986.
- 46. The majority of delegations expressed their preference for establishing a sub-committee on fish trade of the Committee on Fisheries. In this way the necessary continuity of the work would be ensured and the impact of the discussions and recommendations of the Fifteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries and of the World Fisheries Conference would be maintained. A sub-committee on fish trade would also be appropriate because its parent body, the Committee on Fisheries, had the mandate to monitor the implementation of the Strategy and of the Programmes of Action endorsed by the World Fisheries Conference. Furthermore, the view was expressed that the tasks to be performed within the multilateral framework for consultations were much wider than those of intergovernmental groups under the Committee on Commodity Problems.
- 47. Some delegations expressed the view that a new body should be created only if absolutely necessary. They felt that the Committee on Fisheries itself (i.e. option (a)) could provide the forum for such consultations, because it had shown that it was capable of discussing specific issues in-depth. If necessary, sessions could be extended and, as appropriate, ad hoc meetings and technical consultations on specific subjects could be organized. It was indicated that the main advantage of this approach was seen in its flexibility

and, possibly, the lower cost for participating countries. Continuous contact should be maintained with other relevant international organizations in order to avoid duplication of work, as well as to promote action on specific issues by organizations which were competent to do so. Several of the delegations in question suggested that if the experience show it to be appropriate, a more permanent framework could be created in the future.

48. The Committee agreed with option (b) to establish a sub-committee on fish trade to serve as a multilateral framework for consultations on international trade in fishery products. Its membership and terms of reference will be as follows:

Membership

Membership in the sub-committee will be open to all Member Nations of the Organization. Non-member states of the Organization that are members of the United Nations, of any of its specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, may be admitted by the Council of the Organization to membership in the sub-committee.

Terms of Reference

The sub-committee shall provide a forum for consultations on technical and economic aspects of international trade in fish and fishery products including pertinent aspects of production and consumption. In particular, the work of the sub-committee will include:

- (a) Periodic reviews of the situation and outlook of principal fishery commodity markets covering all factors influencing them;
- (b) On the basis of special studies, discussion of specific fish trade problems and possible solutions;
- (c) Discussion of suitable measures to promote international trade in fish and fishery products and formulation of recommendations to improve the participation of developing countries in this trade, including trade related services;
- (d) In conjunction with the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, formulation of recommendations for the promotion of international quality standards and the harmonization of quality control and inspection procedures and regulations;
- (e) Consultation and formulation of recommendations for economically viable fishery commodity development, including processing methods, the upgrading of products and production of final products in developing countries.

THE WORK OF FAO IN FISHERIES DURING 1986-87

- 49. The Committee reviewed document COFI/85/6 which provided an extract from the Director-General's proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87, to be submitted to the Programme and Finance Committees and to the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council in June 1985.
- 50. In an introductory statement to the Committee, the Secretariat explained the contents of document COFI/85/6 in the context of the full Summary Programme of Work and Budget. It was emphasized that the Director-General's proposals had been framed, on the one hand, to respond to the highest priorities and expressed needs of Member Nations and, on the other, to limit the request for additional resources. These objectives would be accomplished by stringently cutting programmes of relatively low priority, shifting resources and further increasing the overall efficiency of the Organization by

reducing the share of administrative and support costs. The Committee noted that, in pursuance of the policy adopted by the Director-General further to strengthen technical, economic and social programmes, a net increase for Major Programme 2.2 (Fisheries) of 3.7 percent was proposed, a rate considerably higher than the increase envisaged for the total budget of the Organization. Moreover, the proposals provided for the establishment of five new posts in the Fisheries Department, a greater number than those proposed for any other Department. These new posts, four of which would be non-recurring and outposted to the field, were specifically intended to provide immediate impetus to the implementation of the Programmes of Action adopted by the World Fisheries Conference.

- 51. The Committee was informed that the proposals contained in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget were firmly based upon the priorities and requests expressed by the Organization's governing bodies, inter-governmental technical committees and specific proposals by Member Governments. The Committee expressed satisfaction that the timing of its present session provided it with an opportunity to review the summary proposals and to express its views with regard to its own area of interest and mandate, so that the Director-General could take these views into consideration in formulating his final proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87.
- 52. The Committee unanimously endorsed the strategies and priorities selected by the Director-General and approved the content and framework of the proposals contained in document COFI/85/6. It felt that these proposals were well-balanced and reflected the major needs for the development and management of world fisheries. In particular, they responded to the recommendations of the 1984 World Fisheries Conference. It was recommended that ECDC and TCDC should be particularly promoted.
- 53. Recognizing FAO's unique capacities to provide assistance in fisheries development and management, the Committee expressed its satisfaction at the notable net increase in the resources proposed for the work of the Organization in fisheries in the new biennium and particularly welcomed the intention to employ four of the five new proposed Regular Programme posts in direct support to field activities.
- 54. Several delegations stated that it was without prejudice to their final position with regard to overall budgetary and financial implications that they gave general endorsement to the proposed programme of activities in the fisheries sector.
- 55. The Committee agreed with the proposal that major emphasis be placed upon the following basic areas: conservation and rational utilization of fishery resources in marine and inland waters; aquaculture development; improved fish utilization and promotion of the role of fish in nutrition; fisheries development and investment planning; strengthening of national and regional data services; reduction of post-harvest losses; and technical support to FAO regional activities. It noted with satisfaction that these programmes would each involve training in all aspects of fisheries development and management; promotion of ECDC and TCDC; and the special requirements of developing land-locked and small island States. The Committee also welcomed the attention which would be devoted, in all Sub-programmes, to the special needs of small-scale fisheries and artisanal fishing communities.
- 56. As regards fisheries information and statistics (Programme 2.2.1), the Headquarters-based information networks were considered to be of continuing value. The provision of general statistical information was, however, based on statistics collected within the individual countries and it was felt that training was needed to upgrade their quality. The Committee also expressed its appreciation of other activities, such as ASFIS, for the provision of data useful to fisheries researchers and administrators. It was suggested that

improvements might be achieved in the field of fisheries information through collaboration with the bilateral agencies involved with the collection and dissemination of such data.

- 57. The Committee welcomed the substantial increase in resources proposed for Programme 2.2.2 (fisheries exploitation and utilization) and felt that this would strengthen FAO's technical capacity to implement the Strategy and Programmes of Action approved by the World Fisheries Conference.
- 58. Under Sub-programme 2.2.2.1 (marine resources and environment), the ongoing work on resources evaluation by the Organization was viewed favourably by the Committee, but a further expansion of activities in this field was considered desirable. Reference was made to the need for the assessment of stocks occurring within the exclusive economic zones of two or more States, multi-species stocks and of tuna resources; in this respect, the proposal for three non-recurring outposted fishery resources officers dealing with these topics was strongly supported. The Committee also considered that it was important to evolve and disseminate simple assessment techniques for use by countries whose resources of finance and manpower were insufficient to support large research programmes.
- 59. With regard to Sub-programme 2.2.2.2 (inland fisheries and aquaculture), the Committee placed very strong emphasis on the continuation and expansion of FAO's activities in freshwater and marine aquaculture; the proposed new Head-quarters' post of aquaculture engineer to fill a gap in the expertise of FAO was seen as an essential addition to this work. The need to view aquacultural development in its general socio-economic framework, and hence to encourage appropriate forms of culture, was emphasized.
- 60. Strong emphasis was also placed on inland fisheries whose expansion could potentially add to the availability of animal protein, especially in land-locked areas. The Committee considered that among the critical aspects of these fisheries was their conservation in competition with other users of the aquatic resources and their protection from pollution and other forms of environmental degradation.
- 61. The Committee recognized the role of the FAO Advisory Committee of Experts on Marine Resources Research (ACMRR) as a valuable forum for indicating priorities for the Department's work on resources evaluation and management and on aquaculture.
- 62. In supporting the proposals for work under Sub-programme 2.2.2.3 (fish production), the Committee noted the higher priority accorded to training in small-scale fisheries development. Attention was drawn to the need for further work to develop fishing technologies appropriate to the requirements of small-scale fishermen and to improve the capacity of developing countries to design and construct deep-water fishing vessels.
- 63. With regard to fish utilization and marketing (Sub-programme 2.2.2.4), the Committee laid particular stress upon the need to promote the contribution of fish to the fight against malnutrition through strengthened work on the avoidance of post-harvest losses and the development of new products based on under-utilized resources. The Committee approved the continued and expanded provision of fish market information through the existing INFOFTSH and INFOPESCA and the proposed INFOPECHE and INFOSAMAK programmes, together with the GLOBEFISH world system of fishery commodity information.
- 64. The Committee noted that the net decrease in the provision for Programme 2.2.3 (fisheries policy) reflected a major non-recurring item under Subprogramme 2.2.3.2 (international coordination and liaison) which, in the 1984-85 biennium, related to the resources needed to cover the direct costs of preparing for and organizing the World Fisheries Conference. Under this Sub-programme, the Committee supported the allocation of additional resources

- to the promotion of regional collaboration in fisheries and increased activities by the FAO regional fisheries bodies and their subsidiary technical working parties in response to the relevant recommendations of the World Fisheries Conference. Attention was drawn to the need for FAO to continue to maintain its close collaboration with other non-FAO organizations concerned with fisheries.
- 65. Several delegations expressed concern regarding the proposed reduction in assistance and advice on fishery management policy in Sub-programme 2.2.3.1. They felt that this activity is critical in the rational exploitation of fishery resources. In response the Secretariat informed the Committee that the apparent reduction in the resources to be allotted to fisheries management, under Sub-programme 2.2.3.1 reflected the completion and publication during 1984-85 of a number of studies of key issues and basic principles in fisheries management.
- 66. The Secretariat also drew the Committee's attention to substantial increases proposed under Sub-programme 2.2.1.2 to build up national capabilities in collecting and processing data for management purposes; Sub-programme 2.2.2.1 on the provision of management advice through the work of the three new outposted officers, and the activities of the working parties of the FAO regional fisheries bodies; Sub-programmes 2.2.2.2 and 2.2.3.8 for the direct provision of management advice in inland fisheries to member countries and advice on the management of aquaculture. In addition, considerable extrabudgetary funds would increasingly be used to support FAO's advice and assistance to member countries in the planning and implementation of management schemes.
- 67. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the other resources assigned to Sub-programme 2.2.3.1 (fishery policy and planning) were to be re-allocated to respond to the recommendations of the World Fisheries Conference, in particular to the strengthening of technical assistance and advice on fisheries development and investment planning. The Committee welcomed the proposal to up-date the long-established Fishery Country Profile series which, it felt, was a most useful and unique service. Some delegations, referring to the work long undertaken by OECD regarding subsidies and other financial assistance to fishing industries in developed countries, suggested that FAO should give consideration to the possibility of collecting and analysing information regarding similar government support in developing countries.
- 68. The Committee felt that there was insufficient explanation of that part of the Programme undertaken by the Regional Offices although, in general, levels of funding were satisfactory. Some delegations expressed concern at the reduction in funding in the programme of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, which arose from the higher priority which had to be given to other activities in that region.

PROTECTION OF LIVING RESOURCES FROM ENTANGLEMENT IN FISHING NETS AND DEBRIS

- 69. The Committee considered this item on the basis of document COFI/85/7 submitted by the United States delegation and of an executive summary of a Workshop on the Fate and Impact of Marine Debris (Honolulu, 27-29 November 1984).
- 70. The Committee welcomed the initiative taken by the United States in raising a problem of regional and global concern. Entanglement of marine animals occurred frequently during normal fishing operations or was caused by lost nets and parts of fishing gears. It was also caused by debris intentionally thrown overboard.
- 71. Several delegations pointed out that existing regulations such as the 1972 London Dumping Convention and the 1967 London Convention on the Conduct of Fishing Operations in the North Atlantic already dealt with certain aspects of the problem and that research had been carried out in the North Pacific and in

some other areas, in particular by the United States and Japan within the framework of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission and the North Pacific Fur Seal Commission. The Committee considered that the available information was not sufficient to assess the scope of the problem, which concerned not only fishing operations but also marine transport. Attention was also drawn to the economic implications of the proposed technical solutions to the problem.

72. The Committee recommended that FAO should seek more information from member countries and from regional and international organizations concerned and to report to its next session.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

73. No other matters of business were raised.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION

74. It was agreed that the Committee should meet in Rome in April/May 1987. The exact date would be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairman.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

75. This report was adopted on 26 April 1985.

APPENDIX A

Agenda

- 1. Opening of the Session
- 2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the Session
- 3, Election of Officers
- 4. Follow-up to the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development
 - (a) Implementation of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development
 - (b) Implementation of the Programmes of Action
 - (c) Follow-up to Resolutions concerning specific aspects of fisheries management and development
 - (d) Multilateral framework for consultations on international trade in fishery products
- 5. The work of FAO in fisheries during 1986-87
- 6. Protection of living resources from entanglement in fishing nets and debris
- 7. Any other matters
- 8. Date and place of the Seventeenth Session of the Committee
- 9. Adoption of the Report

Appendix B

LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

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APPENDIX C

List of Documents

COFI/85/1	Annotated provisional agenda and timetable		
2	Implementation of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development		
2, Add.1	Expert Consultation on Fishing Vessel Markings		
3	Implementation of the Programmes of Action		
4, Rev.l	Follow-up to Resolutions of the World Fisheries Conference concerning specific aspects of fisheries management and development		
5	Multilateral framework for consultation on inter- national trade in fishery products		
6	The work of FAO in fisheries during 1986-87		
7	Protection of living resources from entanglement in fishing nets and debris		
COFI/85/Inf.1, Rev.1	List of documents		
2	List of delegates and observers		
3	Opening statement by the Deputy Director-General		
4	Review of the state of world fishery resources		
5 5, Suppl.	Fishery commodity situation and outlook 1984-85		
6 6, Corr.l	Activities of regional fishery bodies and other international organizations concerned with fisheries		
7	Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, 10-19 October 1983		
8	Report of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, Rome, 27 June - 6 July 1984		
9	Address by His Excellency Pedro Ojeda Paullada, Secretary of Fisheries of Mexico and Chairman of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development		

APPENDIX D

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr Chairman, Members of the Committee, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

At the opening of this Session, the Director-General has asked me to speak on his behalf.

He extends his greetings to you all and in particular to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the Honourable Minister of Fisheries of Mexico, Señor Paullada, whom as you all know was the distinguished and most successful Chairman of the World Fisheries Conference held here last year.

I also take the opportunity to introduce to you new senior members of the Department, Mr B.F. Dada of Nigeria, Director, Fishery Policy and Planning Division; Mr A. Sribhibhadh of Thailand, Chief, Fish Utilization and Marketing Service, Fishery Industries Division; Mr M. Fila of Poland, Chief, Fishery Development Planning Service, Fishery Policy and Planning Division; and Dr S. Garcia of France, Chief, Marine Resources Service, Fishery Resources and Environment Division.

Mr Chairman, this year marks the $40\,\mathrm{th}$ Anniversary of the founding of FAO, the commemoration of which will culminate in the World Food Day observances in October.

The year 1985 also marks another anniversary. The Committee on Fisheries was established by the FAO Conference in 1965 as a Committee of the Council. So you are this year celebrating your 20th Anniversary.

The 1984 FAO World Fisheries Conference

A unique event in the recent history of world fisheries took place in Rome last year, when representatives of 147 countries and of 70 international organizations met at the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

Most of the delegates gathered here today participated in that historic and successful event. Many also closely collaborated in the intense preparations for that Conference, including the last session of your Committee which served as the technical phase of the World Fisheries Conference.

The main task of the Committee at this present session is to consider the steps required to follow up and put into practical reality the important and far-reaching decisions of the World Fisheries Conference.

The Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development and Programmes of Action

In the Director-General's closing remarks to the World Fisheries Conference last July, he paid tribute to the consensus which had been achieved. Through that spirit of collaboration, agreement was reached upon a Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development, supported by five Programmes of Action aimed at increasing the capabilities of developing countries as they seek to use their fisheries for the betterment of their economies and to improve the welfare of their people.

He described the Strategy as a new "Charter for World Fisheries". It provides, for the first time, a framework for individual and joint policies and programmes for the more rational management and better use of the world's fishery resources.

It contains guidelines and principles for consideration by governments and international organizations as they strive to promote the self-reliance of countries in fisheries.

In endorsing the Strategy, the World Conference - with a sense of realism and pragmatism - recognized that not all the individual elements of the Strategy were necessarily applicable or appropriate to all States and circumstances. Nevertheless, they are an important source of guidance for all concerned with world fisheries, in both developed and developing countries. They are the distillation of long experience and often painfully learnt lessons.

Follow-up and Progress Reporting

In the Resolution adopted by the Conference regarding follow-up, the Director-General was requested to provide your Committee and the Organization's Governing Bodies with periodic reports on the progress achieved in implementing the Strategy and the associated Programmes of Action.

You will be informed during this Session of the steps he has already taken in this respect. Your advice will be sought upon proposals for future progress reports to be prepared in collaboration with States and the international organizations concerned. The experience gained through the collaboration between FAO, governments and international organizations in preparing similar reports on the follow-up to the 1979 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development may provide useful guidance in this respect.

We have already noted with satisfaction initiatives recently taken or planned at national and international levels to examine the practical implications of implementing the results of the World Fisheries Conference.

India, for example, recently held a successful and fruitful national seminar on this subject. The Government of Spain is to hold, in collaboration with FAO, an international symposium in September 1985, to provide a forum for developing countries to examine further selected issues raised at the World Fisheries Conference. A few weeks ago, the Sub-Committee on Fisheries of the European Parliament discussed a report on follow-up to the Conference.

At FAO's own Regional Conference last year, the outcome of the World Fisheries Conference was endorsed and detailed implications were thoroughly reviewed at the recent sessions of FAO's Regional Fishery Bodies. The FAO Council also reviewed the matter at its session last November.

The Need for Further International Collaboration and Support

With regard to the Programmes of Action approved by the Conference, you will have an opportunity this week of examining in some detail the steps already taken or proposed. You will also be informed of the additional support and collaboration required to help FAO - which has the major, but not

exclusive responsibility for their implementation - to meet fully the expectations of the developing countries.

In this respect, I would like to take this opportunity of paying tribute to those countries and organizations who have already responded, generously, to the appeal made by the Conference for support, both financial and in other forms, to ensure the effective implementation of the Programmes of Action.

While FAO will continue to fulfil its leading role in assisting Member States to achieve greater self-reliance in fisheries management and development, the task cannot be accomplished without the sustained cooperation of our allies in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

We value and look for continued support from our sister agencies in the United Nations system, in particular the UNDP, so long a close collaborator with FAO in world fisheries development. As in the past, we will work closely with the World Bank and regional development funding institutions, and with other sources of financial assistance. FAO's technical expertise and long experience will remain at their disposal.

Our combined efforts must all be aimed at helping those in need to help themselves. The Constitution of FAO gives prime emphasis to the promotion of self-reliance and self-sufficiency. The Organization's policies and programmes have always placed high priority upon the transfer of knowledge and technology, the promotion of research, the encouragement of TCDC and ECDC, and the improvement of skills through a wide variety of training activities.

The Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87

One of your basic tasks, as provided for in your mandate, is to review the programmes of work of the Organization in the field of fisheries.

You have before you a document which gives the extract of the Director-General's Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 for Major Programme 2.2 Fisheries. We are particularly happy that this Session of the Committee on Fisheries is so scheduled that your reactions to these proposals will come soon enough to allow them to be taken into account before the Director-General finalizes his Full Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87, for approval by the Conference towards the end of this year.

You will see that the Director-General proposes to increase the resources devoted to fisheries programmes by US\$ 906 000, which represents a 3.7 percent increase over the current budget base of US\$ 24.5 million. The fisheries programmes have been carefully reviewed in order to determine activities to receive greater or reduced emphasis and those to be terminated. You will also note that the programme proposals basically respond to the demands of the Programmes of Action adopted by the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

I should also like to inform you of how the fisheries programe features in the total context of the Organizations's Programme of Work and Budget.

The net programme increase proposed for the next biennium budget amounts to 1.4 percent over the recosted current base. The demands addressed to FAO and its proven capacity to meet these would, in the view of the Director-General, justify his formulating proposals at a significantly higher level than he has chosen to do. This is because he has taken into account the financial burden of eventual Conference appropriations on all Member Nations. However, the Director-General has again shifted resources to the additional advantage of the technical and economic programmes of FAO. The resources for these are proposed to increase by 3.8 percent over their current base and this shift in resources is made possible by again curtailing the amounts devoted to administrative support and other servicing areas.

The programme priorities for fisheries are governed by the aims of increasing food production, emphasizing training, enhancing economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and ensuring impact at the field level.

The Tragedy in Africa

Before concluding these remarks, Mr Chairman, I would like to make special reference to one very important and immediate re-orientation of the Organization's activities, not only in fisheries, but in other fields of agriculture and food.

The current tragedy in Africa has been vividly brought to the attention of the world through the medium of television. FAO has responded to this crisis and has put forward concrete, practical proposals for the rehabilitation of agricultural production in 21 most severely affected African countries, which were warmly welcomed and generally supported by all Member Countries at meetings which the Director-General called here on 30 January and 29 March.

The situation in Africa cannot be solved by a never-ending flow of humanitarian relief. It is in the interest of all to help the people in their battle for food self-sufficiency. Our efforts to help the peoples of Africa realize the productive potential of their countries must, of course, include fisheries.

The Role of Fisheries in Africa

Fisheries have an important contribution to make. Fish and fishery products provide about a half of the Continent's total supplies of animal protein. In many parts of Africa, fish is an essential, basic food. Its role in most of the Continent's land-locked countries is particularly crucial.

In addition to managing better existing fisheries, to tackling the problem of post-harvest losses, and to promoting aquaculture, the greater participation by Africans in the exploitation of their marine fish resources could substantially increase the already important role of fisheries in providing food, employment and foreign exchange to African countries.

The marine resources off Africa have the potential to yield some 8 million to 9 million tons of fish per year. Of the present annual catch of about 5.5 million tons, African countries themselves still account for less than 2 million tons.

These factors were well recognized when the Programmes of Action approved by the World Fisheries Conference were elaborated. The special needs of Africa, both immediate and long-term, are receiving due priority in the readjustment of the Organization's present programmes and in the proposals for the next biennium.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Director-General and all in the Secretariat, I wish you a productive and successful 20th Anniversary Session.

APPENDIX E

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY PEDRO OJEDA PAULLADA, SECRETARY OF FISHERIES OF MEXICO AND CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 16TH SESSION OF THE FAO COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

On 6 July 1984, at the end of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, here inside the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Strategy, five Programmes of Action, and nine Resolutions for bringing about a new era in world fisheries were unanimously approved.

The Conference was, however, only the beginning of a process calling for a continuous effort from the international community and from each individual sovereign country to work together to implement in full the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, with a view to the optimal exploitation of fisheries resources; to increase the contribution made by fishing to national food self-sufficiency; to achieve world food security; to promote the self-reliance of countries with regard to the management and development of their fisheries resources in the full exercise of their sovereign rights and to stimulate international cooperation between countries, whatever their stage of development.

It should be recalled that the World Conference was convened on the initiative of the Director-General of our Organization, Mr Edouard Saouma, and that all the preparatory work involved in the drawing up of the basic documents for the Conference was performed in the Committee on Fisheries itself.

This is surely proof that our Organization is capable of innovation and of putting itself at the forefront of fisheries development. Let us, therefore, put the seal on our belief in its relevance and importance.

If the 15th Session of this Committee, held in 1983, concentrated mainly on preparing for the Conference, we have the satisfaction today of being able to highlight its achievements and the opportunity to recognize the considerable progress which, in a short time, has been made by the Directorate General and the Fisheries Department of FAO in implementing the Strategy, Programmes, and Resolutions.

Soon after the Conference, Dr Carroz, as its Secretary and chief of the FAO Fisheries Department, reported on its results to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The Council expressed its satisfaction with this declaration and invited FAO to present the relevant report to the 39th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

On 14 November 1984, at the kind invitation of Mr Edouard Saouma, in my capacity as Chairman of the Conference and in the name of the Organization, I had the honour of presenting this Report before the Second Commission of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

From the Report it can be seen that the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development recognizes that the applicability of the new Law of the Sea has been generally accepted with regard to the power of coastal States to manage fisheries within their jurisdiction; that the principles and guidelines in the strategy take full account of national sovereignty, providing enough necessary flexibility to meet the particular requirements of individual countries without bringing into question the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; and that its application was without prejudice to the aforesaid Convention.

In addition, the Report mentioned that there were eight connected elements in the Strategy:

- the contribution of fisheries to national economic, social and nutritional goals;
- improved national self-reliance in fisheries management and development;
- principles and practices for the rational management and optimum use of fish resources;
- the special role and needs of small-scale fisheries and rural fishing and fish-farming communities;
- international trade in fish and fishery products;
- investment in fisheries management and development;
- economic and technical cooperation in fisheries management and development;
- international cooperation in fisheries management and development.

At the same time, it was reported that the Conference had endorsed Programmes of Action for the planning, management, and development of fisheries; the development of small-scale fisheries; aquaculture development; international trade in fish and fishery products, and the promotion of the role of fisheries in alleviating under-nutrition.

Reference was also made to other resolutions adopted concerning the follow-up to Conference recommendations; the promotion of fish in the campaign against malnutrition; the financing of investment projects in the field of fisheries; protection of fishery resources of developing countries from pollution; the role of the fisherman; development of special fisheries programmes for land-locked countries; and the promotion of economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC) and technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC).

On the basis of the above Report, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, at its 39th Session on 18 December 1984, Resolution number 39/225, in which it endorses the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development and the associated Programmes of Action; invites States and international organizations concerned to take into account the principles and guidelines contained in the Strategy when planning the management and development of fisheries; urges all bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and financing institutions to provide the support required for the effective implementation of the Programmes of Action, and invites FAO, in collaboration with the organs, organizations and bodies concerned within the United Nations system, to continue to play its important role in assisting States in their efforts toward the improved management and development of fishery resources.

FAO has a leading role in the important task of fisheries management and development, and the application of the Strategy, the implementation of the Programmes and the application of World Conference Resolutions are currently the chief activities in which the Organization is involved.

It is particularly important for it to be able to assess the progress which has been made over the last nine months as an indispensable prelude to drawing up the Committee's Programme of Activities for 1986-87 which we will be endorsing during the course of this Session.

In addition to FAO's own action, it is also important to highlight that of Member Countries and of the international bodies and organizations involved. It should be emphasized that what has been created is not the work of FAO alone nor has it been done for FAO's benefit - it represents a framework of action for humanity as a whole.

Let us not forget that we aim to overcome situations which deviate from the legal norms and which maintain or exacerbate inequitable situations that ought to be abolished. We should also recognize the existence of political, social and economic phenomena which affect fisheries development adversely. It is, therefore, essential that we go beyond the stage of proposals and propositions and move toward the introduction of practical measures for bringing about real changes.

The measures already adopted have produced some encouraging results. We are glad that FAO Regional Bodies, at seven meetings held between September 1984 and April this year, not only greeted the results of the Conference with satisfaction but also made concrete proposals to meet the specific requirements of the various regions.

At its 86th Session in November 1984, the FAO Council noted the measures adopted by the Organization for the application of Conference results and recommended that the 16th Session of the Committee on Fisheries, which begins today, should make a detailed review of the measures envisaged for implementing the Strategy.

Our firm aim is to put into practice all that has been approved and we shall fulfil it with enthusiasm. Each individual question needs to be analysed in a logical and systematic manner and this means that there should be an information system which allows periodic assessment of the situation, thus providing a dynamic framework for matching Programmes to the new exigencies of fisheries development.

Despite the difficulties involved in the qualitative and quantitative assessment of progress achieved - individual country reports, special studies, as well as the contribution of other international organizations - we must aim to harmonize and integrate all progress reports within such a system.

The Programmes of Action, which provide a large and coherent framework within which FAO and other interested persons and institutions can assist in fisheries management and development, include marine and inland fisheries, as well as aquaculture, and involve all aspects of fishing operations. The Programmes are to be put into operation in each country and include activities which will be carried out at inter-regional, regional, and sub-regional levels, with FAO fisheries bodies playing a leading role in them.

We are aware that FAO's participation in implementing the Programmes of Action will mostly depend on the availability of extra budgetary resources, although we do recognize that some funds from the Regular Programme are earmarked for expenses relating to consultancy work and technical support for these Programmes.

Moreover, the World Fisheries Conference urged, in its Resolution No. 2, "all bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and financing institutions to continue development assistance to the fisheries sector and to provide for the effective implementation of the Programmes of Action approved by the Conference".

Whilst it is true that some countries have made contributions in this direction, the total is still not enough to meet the requirements of the most needy countries with regard to the planning, management and development of fisheries resources. Nor are these contributions currently anywhere near enough to cover the development of small-scale fisheries, aquaculture development, and the promotion of the role of fisheries in alleviating undernutrition.

We are confident that, notwithstanding the serious financial constraints existing in many countries and organizations, appropriate ways will be found to channel the resources needed to meet social and economic objectives in the fisheries sector.

Without underestimating the importance of donations from various bodies, institutions, countries and individuals, it should be emphasized that it is basically the responsibility of international financing institutions to analyse new systems and methods allowing a greater quantity of resources to be channelled more efficiently toward fisheries management and development, thus complementing the contributions - both public and private - made in each country.

The Conference recommendation that the Director-General should "periodically review and analyse trends relating to total financial resources assigned to the Fisheries Sector and report on them to the Committee on Fisheries and the Governing Bodies of FAO", is an important element in this process.

Certainly, this Committee will take particular interest in studying the August 1984 circular containing a review and analysis of donor aid and fisheries assistance projects by country, from which it can be seen that assistance to the fisheries sector in developing countries increased gradually in real terms between 1974 and 1983, although in percentage terms it has remained at 3 percent of total development aid.

It will also be relevant to know the response of the World Bank, regional development banks, financing institutions and bilateral donors to the communication they were sent informing them of the Conference Resolutions.

In addition to new financing methods, projects need to be drawn up that take account of each country's circumstances, avoiding the use of unsuitable or inappropriate technology. The experience of the Fisheries Department, which we are informed will continue to work in close collaboration with the FAO Development Department's Investment Centre, will be instrumental in mobilizing the most eminent national and international experts to identify fisheries investments and prepare projects. The process should be a fully participatory one and take account of the needs of those directly involved in the problems, fishing communities in particular.

It is gratifying that, thanks to measures already adopted, progress is being made in the right direction with regard to the application of Conference Resolutions on the promotion of fish in the campaign against malnutrition; the protection of fisheries resources of developing countries from pollution; the role of the fisherman; the development of special fisheries programmes for land-locked countries and the promotion of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

There has been increased cooperation between FAO and the World Food Programme in relation to the use of fish in food aid. Mention should also be made of the work of the FAO co-sponsored Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP) which is being carried out jointly with other Organizations in the United Nations System. It is also satisfying to know that studies are being carried out for the support of inland fisheries and aquaculture in land-locked countries.

A positive fact is that part of this biennium's Regular Budget has already been assigned to financing some highly important activities for promoting economic and technical cooperation in developing countries. Further promotion of this activity during the next biennium should act as a catalyst in bringing about solidarity between countries and encouraging the efforts of FAO regional bodies to mobilize the considerable force that can be exerted by the actions of people whose experience is closely geared to realities in their own country and totally identified with the needs of its population.

Experience (which goes back, in some cases, several centuries) and tradition, combined with the knowledge contained in research and training centres, and the free exchange of technology and experience, will make a continuous transfer of technology possible with increased national capacity to solve problems through cooperation.

The Organization's Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 should aim clearly to encourage this cooperation. At the same time, efforts should be made to ensure maximum coordination with the competent bodies.

In this regard, I should like to refer to the fact that in November 1984 the Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development (OLDEPESCA) was set up and I have the honour of chairing it. In its name I wish to report that at its first Plenary Meeting of Fisheries Ministers, it fully endorsed the result of the World Fisheries Conference and is today participating as an Observer in the work of this Committee.

The sequence of steps so far taken can be seen in our Agenda - not only because it reports on the results of the Conference and on the measures adopted to implement its Resolutions, but also because it includes an item for discussion which is a direct product of the Conference in that we will have the opportunity of reviewing the results of the Technical Consultation that took place from 28 to 31 January 1985 to look into the establishment of a multilateral framework for consultation on international trade in fishery products.

Many of the barriers to international trade are the product of economic situations which, although they do not justify it, do at least explain some protectionist behaviour. However, there can be no explanation or justification for bringing commercial pressure to bear in order to restrict the sovereign rights of States.

It is a great source of satisfaction for us to have arrived at this Meeting with a solid doctrinal base and clear guidelines for reviewing our actions, geared as they are to achieving the objectives that have been set. We are not acting simply out of routine - we wish to contribute to bringing about a change that will benefit all humanity.

The outcome of discussions on this theme will prove once again the strength and the maturity of our Organization. Although the Expert Consultation did not reach agreement, we at this Meeting have been asked to select one of three proposals before us. All three are consistent with the decision already mentioned above to establish a multilateral framework for this important theme, and which will have to take due account of the characteristics and work of those inter-governmental commodity groups already existing.

In addition to exchanging opinions on technical matters relating to trade in fishery products, the group will have to tackle the task of examining the effects which trade barriers have on fisheries management. We need to emphasize that our Strategy and Programme of Action on the subject call for the elimination of regulations imposing commercial sanctions on countries that apply measures based on the exercise of their rights of sovereignty and of any obstacles which impede observance of the principles of international law recognized in the Convention of the Law of the Sea.

Another theme which we will be dealing with is the protection of living resources from entanglement in fishing nets and debris, due mainly to plastic netting, packing bands and other materials that are lost or discarded at sea. Many fish, marine mammals and sea birds die for this reason and international cooperation is clearly necessary if its negative repercussions on the exploitation of the living resources affected is to be avoided. I hope that appropriate preventive and corrective practical measures will be found at this Meeting.

We are now about to choose a Chairman and Vice-Chairmen for the Meeting and to approve the Agenda and arrangements for this Session. May I congratulate them in advance on their election and tell them that we have every confidence in their ability to chair our discussions and that they will help us achieve the positive results we all hope for.

Our main role here is to ensure that the Programme of Work for the 1986-87 biennium contains a package of practical actions to optimize the rational exploitation and conservation of fishery resources in marine and inland waters, to promote aquaculture and capital investment, and to improve information generation and support for FAO regional activities.

The choice of priorities is conceptually correct. However, the practical areas which will most benefit the populations in the various regions of the world still need to be defined.

We therefore have to ask ourselves how we can act in the most rapid and effective manner so that: coastal states can exercise their rights of sovereignty over fishery resources, preventing nationals from other states from fishing without complying with conservation measures; equitable quotas can be fixed and over-exploitation avoided; the transfer of appropriate technology can be promoted; and research be encouraged and promoted. In short, this involves dealing with the essential questions, not providing palliatives or distracting the creative force of populations with secondary matters.

Only those who make their living from fishing and who therefore experience its difficulties can add further to the commitment which has characterized the work of this Committee. The message of solidarity implicit in this Meeting must now be sent out to each community so as to raise awareness and develop the best form of participation.

We have not focused the attention of the international community on the role of fishermen in vain. Conference Resolution No. 7 reminds us that more than ten million people are directly involved in the sector and that most of them are occupied in small-scale fisheries and require extra help to improve their economic and social situation.

We note with satisfaction that thanks to our Director-General the theme of the 1986 World Food Day will be fishermen and fishing communities and their contribution to food production, nutrition, and social and economic development.

We have also noted the criteria and procedure to be followed with regard to proposals for International Years or Days dedicated each year to highlight a particular activity. We appreciate the difficulties involved in fulfilling

our ambition of proclaiming an International Year of the Fishermen or a World Fisheries Day. However, I firmly believe that we have both the capacity and the obligation to use all the means at our disposal to promote general recognition of the efforts made by fishermen. Theirs is an activity which is worthy of respect, and professional training, proper remuneration, and security should serve to make their existence not only dignified but, because of its contribution to feeding humanity, socially useful too.