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Report of the

# **ELEVENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE**

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Lisbon, 2-7 October 1978



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

*FAO Member Nations in the European Region (as at 7 October 1978)*

Albania	Greece	Poland
Austria	Hungary	Portugal
Belgium	Iceland	Romania
Bulgaria	Ireland	Spain
Cyprus	Israel	Sweden
Czechoslovakia	Italy	Switzerland
Denmark	Luxembourg	Turkey
Finland	Malta	United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	Yugoslavia
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	Norway	

*Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Europe*

- First — Rome, Italy, 10-15 October 1949
- Second — Rome, Italy, 10-15 October 1960
- Third — Rome, Italy, 8-13 October 1962
- Fourth — Salzburg, Austria, 26-31 October 1964
- Fifth — Seville, Spain, 5-11 October 1966
- Sixth — St. Julian's, Malta, 28-31 October 1968
- Seventh — Budapest, Hungary, 21-25 September 1970
- Eighth — Munich, Germany, Fed. Rep. of, 18-23 September 1972
- Ninth — Lausanne, Switzerland, 7-12 October 1974
- Tenth — Bucharest, Romania, 20-25 September 1976
- Eleventh — Lisbon, Portugal, 2-7 October 1978

REPORT

of the

ELEVENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE  
(in cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe)

Lisbon, Portugal

2-7 October, 1978

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 1978

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## INTRODUCTION

### Organization of the Conference

1. The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Europe, in cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe, was held in Lisbon, Portugal, at the Ritz Hotel, from 2 to 7 October 1978, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Portugal.

2. The Conference was attended by delegations from 26 Member Nations of the European Region, viz.

Austria	Greece	Portugal
Belgium	Hungary	Romania
Bulgaria	Iceland	Spain
Cyprus	Ireland	Sweden
Czechoslovakia	Israel	Switzerland
Denmark	Italy	Turkey
Finland	Netherlands	United Kingdom
France	Norway	Yugoslavia.
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	Poland	

3. The following Member Nations from other regions were also present as observers:

Brazil  
United States of America.

4. The following Member Nation of the United Nations, not a member of FAO but member of the Economic Commission for Europe, participated in an observer capacity:

German Democratic Republic.

5. Observers for the Holy See were also present at the Conference.

6. Representatives of the following organizations and agencies of the UN System in addition to the Economic Commission for Europe were present:

United Nations (Information Centre)  
United Nations (Third Conference on the Law of the Sea)  
World Food Council  
World Food Programme  
International Fund for Agricultural Development  
International Atomic Energy Agency.

7. Representatives of the European Economic Community were present.

8. Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations attended the Conference:

International Olive Council  
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

9. Observers from the following non-governmental organizations attended the Conference:

International Commission of Agricultural Engineering  
International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage  
International Federation of Agricultural Producers  
International Federation for Home Economics  
World Federation of Trade Unions.

10. The List of Participants is attached to the Report as Appendix B.

#### Opening Ceremony

11. In opening the Eleventh Regional Conference for Europe, the Director-General of FAO, Mr E. Saouma, welcomed the delegates and observers in attendance. He expressed thanks to the Portuguese Government for having invited the Conference to take place in Lisbon, and for the hospitality that it was so generously extending. In giving the floor to Dr Carlos Manuel de Costa Freitas, Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister, he emphasized that the latter's presence at the opening ceremony bore witness to the special importance which the Portuguese Government attached to the discussions of the Conference.

12. On behalf of the Portuguese Government, the Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister welcomed all the participants in the meeting. He stated that in his view FAO holds a special place, in the agro-industrial sector, for the construction of a new international economic order and for promoting world food security. He also expressed satisfaction with the activities of FAO in Europe, considering that the Region, through its economic, scientific, cultural and technical wealth, can contribute in a great measure to a mutually beneficial international cooperation.

13. The Director-General thanked the Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister for his very interesting statement which, he said, would certainly influence the Conference's discussions. He agreed with him in emphasizing the role that FAO should play in setting up a new international economic order. He also underlined the priority that FAO was giving to the implementation of the International Undertaking on World Food Security.

#### Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

14. The Conference elected unanimously Mr Antonio Vaz Portugal, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Portugal, as Chairman of the Conference.

15. Mr Vaz Portugal expressed his thanks to the Conference for his election as Chairman and asked for proposals for the election of the Vice-Chairmen.

16. Mr J. Lamo de Espinosa, Minister of Agriculture of Spain, was elected unanimously as First Vice-Chairman. Mr A. Kacala, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Poland, was elected unanimously as Second Vice-Chairman. Mr S. Tataridis, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Greece, was elected unanimously as Third Vice-Chairman. Mr T. Hussey, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture of Ireland, was elected unanimously as Fourth Vice-Chairman. Mr J.H.V. Davies, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the United Kingdom, was elected unanimously as Fifth Vice-Chairman.

#### Statement of the Chairman

17. The Minister expressed satisfaction that the meeting was being held in Portugal, and paid tribute to the countries represented and to their respective governments.

18. He paid tribute to FAO and its Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, recalling the spirit of the Hot Springs Conference and the Quebec Conference of 1945, at which FAO was born and at which its first Director-General, Lord Boyd Orr, with whom he had worked at the Rowett Research Institute, was designated. He recalled Lord Boyd Orr's message to the world at the Quebec Conference: "We must seek this high ideal of having a food policy that will free the world from hunger and bring prosperity to the world economy, for the world's health begins with the world's food."

19. He recalled the position of Portugal with regard to the present Conference, stating: "When in 1974 Portugal returned to the company of free nations, the then Secretary of



State for Agriculture invited the Eleventh Regional Conference for Europe of FAO to meet in Portugal. The invitation was renewed by the Secretary of State for Agricultural Development in 1976, and other members of the Government who succeeded them in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries also took note of this decision and determined to carry out the tasks that would give effect to this invitation. It is thus that we are here, and that I have the honour and the pleasure of welcoming you in the name of Portuguese agriculture."

20. He analysed the position of Portuguese agriculture through numerical indicators that reflected the phase of difficulty, and even of stagnation, through which the agricultural sector was passing. They demonstrated "the lack of concrete and integrated objectives, clearly defined and programmed, and the faulty application of mechanisms that would be able, with 'know-how' and a dynamic approach, to redeem Portuguese agriculture from its present position by introducing a suitable methodology that would allow, unequivocally and coherently, the implementation of what was to be done, when and how it should be done. This will show the country's absolute need of agriculture in order to balance its budget, and agriculture will become a priority activity. We must find our way quickly out of this situation, which I need not describe further, becoming less subjective, more objective and efficient."

21. He said: "In 1978 this country will spend 18 billion escudos for grain purchases alone, and another 10 billion for oilseeds. It seems to us worth while to invest, and regularize, investment in the country as a whole, integrating investment into a development programme that will reinforce those agricultural holdings that are technically and economically viable and well-managed. The aim of Portuguese agriculture is to increase the productivity and to modernize the technology of these holdings. A disciplined development programme for Portuguese agriculture will be based on the individual farm and on rural welfare and will take the form of development projects, investment in the sector being a national priority. Portugal has been faced with a complex problem of the consolidation of structures, and the change from the situation which we inherited to an agricultural and fisheries sector prepared for its integration into Europe is an exciting challenge for our powers of accomplishment. Bringing this about, so that the sector will not form an obstacle to the desire of the Portuguese people to join the European Economic Community (EEC) as soon as circumstances permit, is a task that will require a great deal of work and realism in the search for solutions. Portuguese agriculture is thus being challenged to modernize itself and to make itself capable of taking its place among the high-technology countries such as those of the EEC."

22. "Agrarian reform should be integrated into national development policy without becoming 'a piece of unfinished business or a powerful political instrument', as the Ukrainian Wolf Ladejinsky puts it in the remarkable anthology of his writings issued by the World Bank (Agrarian Reform, an Unfinished Business). Realism and authenticity are means towards its consolidation, the conquest of agrarian reform constituting an agrarian revolution on the solid foundation of the desired technical, economic and social evolution. Uncoordinated activity will thus be replaced by programme activity, basis for the passage from underdeveloped agriculture towards a more highly evolved agriculture, renovative and innovative, which will be competitive and promote the social well-being and the financial equilibrium of the country. The agriculture which we wish to encourage in this country must be developed through objective, participative and disciplined programming for the entire productive area of the country. These intentions must be given expression and life in the belief that, all working together, we can build a different tomorrow."

23. "The increasing need for foodstuffs of all kinds and the complex problems to which this gives rise force us to seek solutions whose scientific, technical, socio-economic and political dimensions cannot be taken in isolation but must, on the contrary, be the clear outcome of fruitful work, carried out in the spirit of cooperation among all the various human groups. An outstanding example of this need is the activity launched by FAO as a result of the enthusiasm of Mr Edouard Saouma in the form of the Technical Cooperation Programme. The evolution of world agriculture in its struggle to increase, or to establish

reasonable limits for productivity will lead us inevitably to the threshold of the third revolution in the agricultural world. How this will be brought about is the question!"

24. "Above all, what has already been accomplished must not be destroyed, and we must seek to increase productivity to levels far above those that we can now foresee, even taking into account that the law of diminishing returns makes outputs relatively meaningless in relation to the efforts made. But how will the third revolution be brought about?"

25. "The third revolution will be decisively conditioned by biological principles, known or still to be learned, and the desire to preserve the resources available. To these factors we must add the need to minimize our dependence on fossil fuels."

26. "The capacity for photosynthesis and the mechanisms through which it operates will enable us to build a future of greater productivity. As a matter of curiosity and food for thought, we see that the relationship between energy consumption and output is, for wheat, 2.2, for potatoes 1.1, for milk 0.3 and for eggs 0.16. The proper utilization of agricultural land to make best use of solar energy is a challenge to scientific creativity and especially to geneticists in the field of cytoplasmics who, by manipulating cytoplasmic organisms such as the mitochondria and chloroplasts, can obtain more resistant plants, richer in nutriment, more efficiently utilized and more economical in terms of production costs. Under these circumstances, the selection of varieties having photosynthetic characteristics of the C4 metabolic pathway type will make it possible to increase production from approximately 10 to 12 tons of dry matter per hectare (temperate zone herbage) to 30 tons (tropical zone herbage) and will favour the production of foodstuffs rich in cytoplasmic glucides (sugar cane, sugar beet, maize, etc.). Scientific progress in the manipulation of mechanisms of photosynthesis and of transporting biological energy will allow a more innovative agriculture and, according to the latitude, a better use and more efficient tapping of solar energy. The objective is to bring scientific progress rapidly to the stage of application on the farm, thus giving rise to more efficient production systems and mechanisms. This will be the test of the new capacity for adapting the labour of creation and innovation to the concrete realities demanded by the productive sector and its incorporation into the art and science of farming."

27. He emphasized the importance of the technical cooperation networks developed by FAO and expressed the satisfaction of Portugal with FAO and UNDP assistance in work in progress within the country.

28. "The importance and value of bilateral cooperation in selected areas leads us to express to our friends among the governments, who have shown themselves to be so highly understanding in this transitional period, our gratitude for their invaluable help, which will contribute to accelerating our economic development and thus to consolidating the new democratic regime and to making the preparations, which are indispensable for Portuguese integration into the EEC under conditions satisfactory to both parties, as a result of the negotiations now in progress and as soon as the circumstances are favourable. The need to intensify mutual aid among the European countries and the importance of such action for countries at an intermediate level such as Portugal enter into the framework of these meetings, giving to the European countries, almost all of which are developed - and even highly developed - countries, creators of advanced technologies, a high degree of responsibility toward the developing countries. The challenge of history demands that we find formulae that will permit us realistically to ensure more generous terms of trade and transfer of technology that will gradually lead the world community, in its national and regional diversity, to approach the objectives of equity and justice that must be features of a new international economic order and be the moving spirit of the North-South East-West dialogue. On the other hand, the privileged position of Portugal allows us to strengthen our traditional ties with the countries of the Third World, and particularly with the new Portuguese-speaking African countries, making it possible to arrive at an objective implementation of mutual cooperation projects, with the capacity for creative and executive work being ascribed to the competent levels."

29. He expressed his best wishes for the success of the Conference and his hopes that its results would signify "for the future, an improvement in the life of the rural population,

by creating development systems that respect the ecological balance of the world in which we live, making better use of its resources and conserving its potential. The well-being of the rural populations and the message to be carried to them, while at the same time promoting their education, are concerns which we must not reject. An example of this aspiration of ours is the ad hoc Conference on Home Economics Problems of the Mediterranean Countries organized by the Portuguese Government last week in Lisbon in collaboration with the Working Party on Home Economics of the European Commission on Agriculture of FAO. Fostering nutrition education at the level of the rural family is, for the Mediterranean countries, a task that must be encouraged in order to make it possible to economize resources and better to meet nutritional needs. To feed a people better is to increase its creative and executive capacity.''

#### Adoption of the Agenda

30. The Conference adopted the Agenda set out in Appendix A.

#### Closing of the Conference

31. Mr G.E. Bildesheim, Regional Representative for Europe, reiterated what the Director-General had said at the beginning of the week, namely, that he was extremely happy it had been possible to hold the Conference in Portugal and he was most grateful to the Government of that country for the invitation. Now at the end of the Conference, Mr Bildesheim said he wished to add words of appreciation for the help the Government of Portugal had provided in the form of excellent personnel and facilities which had contributed enormously to the smooth running of the Conference. He requested the Chairman to convey most sincere thanks to the Government of Portugal. The Regional Representative also thanked the delegates for their strong support of the work of FAO and, in particular, that of the European Region.

32. Mr Bildesheim went on to refer to the retirement of several colleagues, namely, Mr G. Escardó Peinador, Spain, who for many years had been closely associated with FAO and had contributed much to the work of the Region and to the good relations existing between the Organization and his country. In expressing thanks to Mr Escardó, he wished him a very happy retirement and hoped that nevertheless, he would still have an opportunity to participate in the Region's activities. Another impending retirement was that of the Secretary of the Conference, Mr K. Kállay, who for many years had been one of his most close collaborators in the Regional Office. Whilst regretting very much his departure, Mr Bildesheim, in wishing him a pleasant retirement, said it was known that this would not be a quiet one and that Mr Kállay would continue his association with FAO, particularly in the field of animal production.

33. Finally Mr Bildesheim expressed his thanks to the countries which had extended invitations for the next two Regional Conferences and said how pleased he was that between them they had reached an amicable arrangement concerning sequence.

34. On behalf of those present, Mr F.J. Specks, Federal Republic of Germany, thanked the Chairman for the brilliant manner in which he had guided the debates, enabling the delegates to discuss difficult issues and reach agreements without controversy, which had led to the full success of the Conference. He also thanked the Vice-Chairmen for the able assistance they had given the Chairman in carrying out his task. Mr Specks went on to express through the Chairman thanks to the Government of Portugal for having organized the Conference. Knowing the great amount of work and expenditure involved, the efforts that had been made for their comfort and enjoyment were very much appreciated by all delegates. One of the reasons why the delegates' stay in Portugal had been so agreeable was the friendly and hospitable nature of the Portuguese people. Mr Specks thanked, too, the Secretariat of FAO which, under the able guidance of the Regional Representative for Europe, had done all in its power concerning preparation and organization for the satisfactory conduct of the Conference. He added a warm word of appreciation and good wishes to Mr Kállay on the occasion of his retirement.

35. In closing the Conference, the Chairman referred to the challenge of the future as it relates to the creation of world food security. Food production and productivity in agriculture must be increased by modernization of agricultural technology and by using, conserving and renewing the valuable resources available. The third agricultural revolution must have as an objective an efficient, integrated system of agricultural production and research oriented to the main problems that face the agricultural future. One of the aims to be attained must be the well-being of the people - the farmer himself, his world and his professional organization. Another point he wished to mention and which had been established at the meeting on home economics held the previous week in Lisbon was that of the role of the family economy and women in ensuring people all over the world are well fed and receive a balanced diet. Furthermore, he stressed the need for increasing and supporting international cooperation as undertaken by FAO and other international organizations, taking into account the various stages of development of the different countries, to approach the objectives of equity and justice which must be the mark of the New International Economic Order.

36. In complimenting the FAO Secretariat on its work, the Chairman paid a special tribute to Mr Kállay. He thanked the delegates for their active participation in the debates and said what a pleasure it had been for Portugal to host the Conference; in wishing them a safe return to their own countries, he hoped they would take with them happy memories of his country and its people.

## SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

### Statement of the Director-General

37. The Director-General repeated his thanks to the Government of the Republic of Portugal for having invited the Eleventh Regional Conference for Europe to meet in Lisbon. He recalled that the Conference was being held in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations, with which FAO maintains close relations.

38. Before discussing the specific points on the Agenda concerning Europe, he analysed the current world food situation which, despite good crops this year in the main producing countries, remains a matter of concern for the future. In the first place, he pointed out, the growth of food production in the developing countries as a whole declined sharply during the 1970s compared to the 1960s, falling from 2.9 to 2.6 percent per year. Moreover, the poorest countries, the ones that most need progress, were those that have had the least. In Africa, per caput food production had even declined, by 1.4 percent per year, since the beginning of the decade. He called attention to the fact that the number of people suffering from malnutrition was increasing constantly: according to the Fourth FAO World Food Survey, their number currently exceeded 450 million.

39. The Director-General concluded his remarks on this point by saying that the developing countries were depending more and more on outside sources for their basic food supply, and that this situation, by diverting their scarce resources from productive investment, put these countries' chances for development in grave jeopardy.

40. The Director-General then emphasized the absolute necessity of making increased resources available to agriculture. The developing countries should pursue this effort by a deliberate policy of integrated rural development aimed at mobilizing the rural masses and integrating them into the development process. The developed countries, on their side, should increase their assistance substantially, particularly in the agricultural sector. He believed that it would be reasonable to devote at least a third of government development assistance to agriculture.

41. As regards emergency assistance, he recalled in particular recent appeals that he had been led to issue, especially in favour of certain African and Asian countries and for energetic action in desert locust control.

42. The Director-General also deplored the absence of a world food security system and the delays in the implementation of a new international economic order. He warned against the rebirth of protectionism, whose continuation could seriously compromise the interests of the exporting countries in the developing world.

43. Turning to Europe, the Director-General emphasized the importance of its role in numerous activities of FAO and its share in the Organization's Regular Budget and as a source of voluntary bilateral contributions. He pointed out that FAO had always maintained a certain level of activities in Europe and that it would continue to do so within the limits of the resources available.

44. He stated that Europe offered ample opportunities for mutually advantageous cooperation within and also outside the Region, fostering the spread of knowledge, the transfer of technology, and scientific cooperation among the national institutions of different regions. In this respect he cited the example of the European cooperative research networks, which should be encouraged.

45. Lastly, the Director-General surveyed rapidly the other points on the Agenda concerning the implications of the new regime of the oceans for fish supply and resource management in Europe, and development and outlook for timber in Europe until the year 2000, and

the question of agrarian reform and rural development, in preparation for the Conference which FAO is to hold on this topic in July 1979.

46. The full text of the Director-General's statement appears in Appendix D.

Statement by the Representative of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe

47. Mr Y. Chestnoy, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, expressed to the Conference his particular appreciation of the continuing and strengthened cooperation between FAO and ECE. He emphasized that the scope of the joint efforts of the two Organizations in Europe went far beyond the boundaries of the Region itself.

48. As a result of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the ECE was recognized as being, in its field, the main instrument for multilateral implementation of the Final Act of Helsinki. Its activities had thus taken on a new dimension, becoming more interdependent with developments in various economic and social sectors.

49. The Final Act of the CSCE has resulted not only in a stronger, better adapted work programme for the Commission, but has also given rise to certain new and important initiatives. The most significant development has been the consideration in the Commission of calling an inter-state conference or a high-level meeting on cooperation in the field of the protection of the environment, as proposed by the Government of the USSR.

50. Mr Chestnoy emphasized the new situations that national agricultural policies will have to face in coming years. On the one hand, these policies will have to continue to aim at the development of an efficient agriculture, an assured supply of high-quality products, and the participation of the rural population in improving welfare. On the other, some important parameters external to the agricultural sector (especially unstable monetary relations, fluctuating world markets, and inflationary price trends) are complicating the adjustment of agriculture to changing conditions. This is true, for example, of the adjustment of structures in Western European countries.

51. A basic necessity for national policies therefore consists in the encouragement of various means of adjusting agricultural activities. Among these, new forms of cooperation (group farming, integration, production under contract) are likely to take on greater importance. In the Eastern European countries, agro-industrial cooperation and integration are already very advanced. Another essential means of adjusting the agricultural sector is the reduction of production costs through research, which therefore deserves full support. In this connection, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the ECE considered that the European research networks constituted a good example of international cooperation. Governments are also paying increased attention to the professional training and education of farmers, which is of capital importance in that it can enable farmers to keep up with technological and economic developments.

52. Mr Chestnoy pointed out that the revision of agricultural policies was particularly necessary with respect to the less-favoured areas, for which a purely economic rational approach might not provide the answer. Further, many European countries are faced with problems of a general trade balance and are seeking to determine how far their agro-industrial trade could contribute to solving them. The answer cannot be found on the national level, but only through consultation and cooperation on the international level.

53. Lastly, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the ECE called attention to the difficulties currently facing the forestry and forest industries sector as a result of the recession. The full text of Mr. Chestnoy's statement appears in Appendix F.

Statement by the Representative of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme

54. The Representative of the World Food Programme reported on the development of the Programme's resources situation and achievements since the last Regional Conference in 1976.

55. The target for 1977-1978 having been practically met in full, the Programme was able to commit \$300 million per annum for economic and social development projects of which about 75 percent for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Most Seriously Affected Countries (MSAs). Thus the Programme's assistance to those countries of the European Region which are still developing from an economic point of view is relatively less than to those of the other regions.

56. In order to allow the Programme to maintain its effectiveness and capacity to satisfy the needs for development aid and approve the great volume of sound requests for aid, the Representative of the Executive Director of WFP invited the European countries, including the EEC, which have already provided very strong support to WFP, to make additional special substantial contributions. The Programme's readiness to explore all avenues for joint or coordinated action with European countries was stressed.

57. He also reviewed the activities of the WFP for providing emergency relief under the authority of the Director-General of FAO and drew special attention to the increasing number of requests for food aid emergency assistance. Here again the European countries were invited to increase their contributions through the International Emergency Food Reserve which, according to the recommendation of the last meeting of the World Food Council held in June 1978 in Mexico, should be established as a continuing reserve with yearly replenishments determined by WFP's governing body, the CFA, and placed at the disposal of the Programme.

Statement by the Representative of the World Food Council

58. Mr Vladimir Stipetić, Vice-President of the World Food Council, in his statement made on behalf of the President of the WFC, Mr Arturo Tanco, briefly informed the Conference about the recent session of that body which had been held at Mexico City from 12-15 June 1978. The Session adopted the "Mexico Declaration", which contained agreements on concrete actions to be undertaken to combat widespread hunger and malnutrition, as a follow-up to the "Manila Communiqué: A Programme of Action to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition", adopted by the Council last year and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly.

59. The Declaration included the following recommendations:

- (i) To Increase Food Production in the developing countries with the assistance of existing and potential donor countries and the major international financial institutions;
- (ii) To Improve Human Nutrition and Reduce Hunger and Malnutrition, particularly through the eradication of vitamin A deficiency and endemic goitre within a decade;
- (iii) To Improve Food Security through establishing the International Emergency Reserve of 500 000 tons of cereals as a continuing reserve with yearly replenishments.

60. The Council intervened by asking governments and multilateral agencies to supply increased emergency food aid to the drought-stricken countries of the Sahel Region.

61. The World Food Council strongly called on all governments to participate actively in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, scheduled for July 1979.

62. The Mexico Declaration of the World Food Council called on all governments to allocate part of the resources freed by disarmament to development, especially to food production.

63. Mr Stipetić drew the attention of the Conference to the Resolution adopted by the ECOSOC on 1 August 1978 which endorsed the Mexico Declaration of the World Food Council and strongly urged all governments, Specialized Agencies, and other bodies within and outside the United Nations system dealing with food, agriculture and human nutrition to take urgent steps to further and fully implement the programme of action to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, as contained in the Manila Communiqué and complemented by the Mexico Declaration.

Statement by the Representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development

64. Mr S. Aziz, Assistant President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, informed the Conference that the Fund, with initial resources of \$1 022 million, had commenced its operation in December 1977 and had already approved two loans of \$12 million each in Sri Lanka and Tanzania in April 1978. Another eight co-financed projects had been processed for submission to the Fund's Executive Board during the current year. Thus the total amount likely to be committed during the first year of the Fund's operation will be about \$100 million. With another 20 co-financed projects, and at least 12 exclusively financed projects, likely to be ready for approval next year, the Fund would have a much larger pipeline of projects before the end of 1979.

65. IFAD's major target group, Mr Aziz explained, will be the small and landless farmer. For this purpose the Fund will support projects that would raise food production, additional income and employment for the poor and landless farmers and help to reduce malnutrition. In undertaking its challenging task, the Fund would closely cooperate with other international organizations within and outside the United Nations system. In this context, the Representative of IFAD said the cooperative arrangements evolved with FAO for identifying and preparing projects were particularly gratifying.

Comments on the Statement of the Director-General

66. During their statements on Item 7 of the Agenda, many delegations referred to the opening statement by the Director-General. They had appreciated the balance and objectivity of the statement, and supported FAO's analysis and evaluation of the world food and agricultural situation. They also indicated their interest in FAO's activities in Europe and expressed the hope that, as the Director-General had declared his intention in his statement, they would prove useful, beyond the limits of the European Region itself, to the greatest possible number of developing countries outside Europe.

67. One delegation, while accepting the views of the Director-General with regard to the activities of FAO in the European Region, expressed the opinion that the cost of any new activities initiated in this Region should be financed from equivalent savings made on other European programmes. Several other delegations, however, favoured a reasonable expansion of European activities for which some additional resources might be made available. The delegations which spoke all recognized the precariousness of the current situation and the absolute need to increase the resources available to agriculture and the rural sector. In this respect, several delegations announced the efforts which their countries intended to make to increase their public aid to development with a view to meeting the assistance target of 0.7 percent of gross national product. One delegation suggested that a study be made of the obstacles to a greater mobilization of resources on behalf of agriculture. It further reminded the Conference of its position in favour of market stabilization and agreed with the Director-General who, in his statement, had recalled the Tokyo Declaration by which the developed countries had declared their intention of taking full account of the interests of the developing countries during the multilateral trade negotiations. Attention was also drawn to the fact that the target of US\$ 8.3 billion mentioned by the Director-General, is an estimation by the FAO Secretariat.

68. Several delegations shared the Director-General's concern at the terrible threat of the desert locust, and at the food shortage situation that prevails in several countries



of the world, particularly in the Sahel and in certain parts of Asia. Emphasis was placed on the value of the service rendered by FAO's Food Information System for the surveillance and rapid identification of emergency situations.

69. Many delegations also supported the Director-General's approach to FAO's activities in Europe, particularly for the benefit of the countries in Europe which are still developing from an economic point of view, and of the developing countries of other regions. In this respect, several delegations emphasized the usefulness of the cooperative research networks as a means, which was to be encouraged, of reinforcing cooperation among national institutions within and outside the Region. Mention was made of the excellent cooperation which exists between FAO and the ECE, through the Joint Division in Geneva. Several delegations emphasized the importance of the specialized work undertaken under the sponsorship of the working parties, particularly as regards water resources and irrigation, agrarian structures and mechanization.

#### Comments on the Statement of the Representative of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme

70. In the course of comments on the statement of the Representative of the WFP, the view was expressed that food aid was increasingly accepted as intrinsically important in its own right rather than a second-best form of aid. A number of delegations announced that their governments were intending to increase substantially their contribution to WFP.

#### Replies and Comments of the Director-General on the first two days of the Session

71. Obligated to leave Lisbon, the Director-General replied briefly to the delegations which had made reference to his opening statement, and commented on the first two days' discussions concerning fisheries and forestry. The full text of his statement, which was not circulated during the Conference, appears in Appendix E.

72. The Director-General expressed his satisfaction at the high level of representation at the Regional Conference, which demonstrated the interest that the European governments were taking in the worldwide and regional activities of FAO. He noted with pleasure that numerous speakers had supported FAO's analysis and evaluation of the world food and agricultural situation.

73. As regards fisheries and forestry, the Director-General emphasized that, according to the studies presented to the Conference, the European countries would in the future be much more dependent on inputs from developing countries to cover their requirements in fish and in timber, and considered that this was a good illustration of the economic interdependence between the countries of the North and those of the South. In his view, it was therefore normal for the European countries to lay particular emphasis on FAO's assistance programmes in order to enable the developing countries to take full advantage of their immense, but insufficiently exploited, fishery and forestry resources. He stated that he was particularly pleased with the support that delegations had expressed for the programme which he intends to submit to the next session of the Committee on Fisheries, with a view to attaining the best possible exploitation of living resources in the exclusive economic zones of the developing countries. He declared that he would examine with great care the contribution FAO could make in encouraging and rationalizing the marketing of fisheries products at world level, and the role that the regional fisheries commissions should play in implementing the new regime of the oceans.

74. He emphasized that technical cooperation among developing countries should not lead the latter to fall back upon themselves, but should be a joint effort to which the developed countries could and should make their contribution.

75. Finally, the Director-General assured the delegations that their discussions would be useful to him in preparing his Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81. Considering the

limitations of the budget as related to needs, he suggested a formula which would considerably relieve the pressure on the Organization as regards meeting costs: for the host country, for certain meetings within Europe, to assume also the costs of interpretation.

#### New Regime of the Oceans and Its Implications for Fish Supply and Resource Management in Europe

76. The Conference expressed satisfaction at the inclusion of such an important item on the Agenda and at the submission of document ERC 78/2 as a basis for its discussion. From the economic and technical points of view, the new regime of the oceans had considerable implications for a large number of European countries. A discussion of these questions was therefore especially opportune.

77. The Conference noted that the generalized extension of national jurisdiction over fisheries would lead to fundamental changes in the European supply of fish and, although to a lesser extent, would have repercussions on the conservation and management of the living resources of the seas surrounding the Continent. It observed that the effects on the various European countries would be different, but that the sources of the fish supplies of a great number would be affected by the fact that their fishing fleets would be excluded from waters which had fallen under the national jurisdiction of other countries. It noted that the more intensive utilization of certain stocks that were still under-exploited, the exploitation of the so-called unconventional resources, and the development of aquaculture and inland fisheries would contribute only partially to filling the gap between European production and needs. Several delegations pointed out that the conclusion of bilateral agreements and the establishment of joint ventures between European countries and countries of other regions should make it possible to mitigate considerably the negative effects which might otherwise be expected.

78. Many delegations, and the representatives of the European Economic Community, described in detail the implications of the new regime of the sea for fisheries and the fishing trade in their respective countries and indicated the measures that had been taken or were under consideration to meet the new situation.

79. The Conference emphasized that the next years will be crucial for the fisheries sector since they will constitute a period of transition and adaptation to the new regime. It believed that FAO, as the specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for food problems and the conservation and rational management of natural resources, certainly will have a role to play during this interim period. In this connection, the Conference took note with satisfaction of the fact that the Director-General was preparing, at the request of the Committee on Fisheries and as endorsed by the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference, a programme to assist developing countries in making the best use of the living resources in their exclusive economic zones. Several delegations indicated that they would give their support to a programme of this kind, since it might in particular strengthen the guarantees that their foreign partners could offer and ensure a more rational and equitable organization of markets, thus contributing to the establishment of a new international economic order. They called attention to the fact that the European countries can make a concrete and useful contribution. Special mention was made of the transfer of technologies, professional training, and the supply of fishing craft and equipment and of capital.

80. The representative of the EEC expressed the Community's desire to be associated with the preparation and implementation of the Director-General's programme, and pointed out the necessity of paying full attention to the financial implications of this programme for FAO. The representative of the Secretariat of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea emphasized the importance that the Secretary-General's Special Representative to the Conference attached to the Director-General's programme.

81. In speaking on this programme, many delegations observed that FAO might usefully strengthen its action aimed at encouraging and assisting the negotiation of bilateral fishing agreements as well as of arrangements for the establishment of joint ventures with developing coastal states. In this connection, they suggested that the agreements and arrangements concluded might be communicated to FAO since this would tend to facilitate their application and the exchange of information on the experience gained.

82. A number of delegations emphasized the importance, for the countries negatively affected by the new regime of the oceans, of having access to that part of the living resources that the coastal states were not able, or not yet able, to exploit themselves in their exclusive economic zones. The European coastal states which apparently stand to benefit from the new ocean regime emphasized their ability to exploit fully the marine resources of their new economic zones. They were looking forward to exporting those marine resources to a greater extent to the other European countries.

83. The Conference considered that as an outgrowth of the extension of national jurisdiction, FAO and its European member countries should work to ensure the maximum utilization of the living resources of the seas for human consumption, the elimination of wastes which are too frequent in the utilization of fisheries products, and the development of new products, especially those based on the exploitation of unconventional resources.

84. As regards the implications of the new regime for resource management, the Conference felt that the new Law of the Sea will in no way decrease the role of regional fisheries bodies in most cases. The renewable nature of the living resources, the distribution areas and the migration of many stocks were such that international cooperation for their management was indispensable. Certain adjustments would, however, be necessary to take account of the increased rights and responsibilities of the coastal states. Several delegations emphasized the importance of the work of regional bodies and research organizations such as the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in determining the total allowable catch of stocks shared by several countries, as well as in allocating quotas to the states concerned. In this process, close consultations through ICSPRO with IOC were encouraged.

85. Finally, several allied problems were referred to, in particular the need to take into account, in the programme of work of the regional bodies, the question of the protection of the marine environment against pollution and other degradation. It was also observed that in certain areas, and particularly the Mediterranean Basin, FAO should contribute to rationalizing the structure and programmes of the various existing institutions and to facilitating the coordination of their activities.

#### Long-term Policy Implications of the Conclusions of the Study on European Timber Trends and Prospects, 1950 to 2000

86. The Conference examined the long-term policy implications of the conclusions of the study "European Timber Trends and Prospects, 1950 to 2000", taking as a basis the paper presented by the Secretariat (ERC 78/3). The decision to include an item on the forestry and forest industry sector for the first time on the Agenda of the Conference was warmly welcomed by many delegations and the wish was expressed that in view of the interest in this important topic, it should be considered again periodically by the Conference.

87. The Conference expressed its appreciation for "European Timber Trends and Prospects, 1950 to 2000" (Third Study) and the Secretariat paper. It agreed with the conclusion in the Third Study that, even allowing for growth rates in the European economy and population almost certainly lower than in the preceding quarter century, a substantial volume of growth in Europe's consumption of forest products would occur between the mid-1970s and 2000. Furthermore, expansion in consumption would continue into the twenty-first century. Supplies to meet this increase appeared to be physically available, both domestically, from Europe's forests and the fuller utilization of industrial wood residues and waste paper, as well as from imports from other regions.

88. With regard to domestic supplies, the Conference stressed that the additional volume of wood and wood products would be found only if the forestry and forest industry sector received strong political support aimed at attracting the necessary investments to raise productivity and capacity. It noted the difficulties experienced by the sector in generating or attracting capital, partly because of its past poor record of profitability and the long-term nature of the investment. A primary objective should be to improve the level of net returns in forestry and the forest industries. At the same time, however, it concluded that, because wood was only one of the multiple goods and services provided by the forest, the profitability of wood production in commercial terms was not an adequate indicator of the total benefits derived by society from the resource. Account had to be taken of the environmental and social functions, the relative importance of which were steadily increasing.

89. In this connection, the important role was underlined that forestry and ancillary activities could play in creating employment and in raising living standards among rural populations.

90. The Conference recognized that Europe possessed in its forests a highly valuable natural resource that was one of the few in which it could remain reasonably self-sufficient, provided that adequate political and financial support was committed to its renewal and maintenance.

91. The Conference recognized the difficulties in evaluating the non-wood benefits of the forest. Accordingly, it commended the work being undertaken jointly by the European Forestry Commission of FAO and the ECE Timber Committee to examine what information on the forest resource and its supply of goods and services is needed in face of evolving demand patterns, as well as the means of meeting such needs.

92. The Conference took note of the forecast that Europe's net import requirements of forest products could at least double over the 25 years to 2000 and of the increasingly heavy burden on their balance of payments which many countries would face. Part of the additional supplies may come from the USSR and North America, but the developing countries were also expected to share in the growth of exports to Europe. The Conference gave careful attention to the possible evolution of the trade relationships between tropical and European countries. It concluded that in the coming decade or two, Europe could actively assist in the establishment of a new international economic order by encouraging investment in fishery and forest industries in developing countries and promoting imports from them. Looking to the twenty-first century, however, it was felt that expanding demand in the developing regions themselves, coupled with a declining area of forest as the need rose for more land for food production and other uses, might well reduce their export availabilities of forest products. The Conference concluded that in the long term, the responsible attitude of the already industrialized countries could well be to avoid placing undue reliance on supplies from other regions, which the latter may need for their own development. It agreed that the question of inter-regional development of trade in forest products and the related policy implications were of such importance that they deserved thorough discussion in a forum such as the Committee on Forestry.

93. The Conference also stressed the importance of monitoring actual trends in the consumption and supply of forest products in relation to the forecasts in the Third Study, and noted with satisfaction the inclusion of this activity in the programmes of work of the European Forestry Commission of FAO and the ECE Timber Committee.

94. The Conference agreed that timber trends and prospects studies would be useful for individual countries within the regional framework provided by the Third Study, so that countries could examine their forest and trade policies in the light of their prospective degrees of self-sufficiency in forest products and of the outlook for trade with other European countries and other regions.

95. In their statements, many delegations drew attention to the importance of the non-wood benefits of the forest, including the regulation of water flow and quality, soil

protection, wildlife conservation, air purification, noise abatement, and the provision of recreation and tourist facilities. These, as well as wood production, necessitated the maintenance of the forest in a healthy and vigorous state. They would increasingly justify the strengthening of political support for the forestry sector and the provision of adequate funds to improve its capability to supply society's expanding needs. Forestry was a very long-term activity, with little flexibility in adapting to short-term changes in priorities. The forest manager had to be prepared to supply more and a wider combination of goods and services in the future. It was becoming urgent, therefore, that a policy framework and priorities be established as soon as possible to allow the long-term planning of the development of the forest resource.

96. In this connection, the Conference concluded that it would be useful for a body such as the European Forestry Commission to draw up a broad set of policy guidelines for the Region. These could be valuable both as a framework within which European countries could develop their own more precise forest policies according to their specific needs and conditions; and also as a basis for the European position in any inter-regional dialogue along the lines proposed in paragraph 92 above.

97. The Conference agreed on the potential for the use of wood for energy, under specific local conditions, assuming the expected rise in the cost of fossil fuels materialized, although for the region as a whole wood would never provide more than a marginal share of total energy supply. The extent to which individual countries could benefit from the use of wood for energy, however, varied according to its availability and other local conditions. The Conference supported the proposal for increased attention to the potential use of wood for energy, and also as a chemical feedstock and as a source of food, notably in the form of fats.

98. The Conference concluded that an intensification in the amount of research on forestry and forest products, along the lines set out in document ERC 78/3, the international coordination of research activities and the dissemination of research results, notably to the developing countries, was desirable. Emphasis should be given to increasing the supply of wood and other goods and services of the forest over the long term, the reduction of waste and rationalization in the use of forest products.

99. The Conference stressed the importance for the agricultural and forestry sectors to develop and apply an integrated approach to land use planning for rural areas, particularly on questions of mutual concern such as the rational use of abandoned agricultural areas and unproductive land. It was also essential that they formed part of a multi-sectoral responsibility for overall land use and land use planning. With regard to planning within the forestry sector, the Conference agreed on the need for the productive, protective and social functions of the forest to be taken into consideration at all stages of the planning process, including the establishment of priorities, in order to avoid conflicts of interest and the waste of resources.

#### Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and Preparations for the World Conference

100. Mr Hernán Santa Cruz, Special Representative of the Director-General for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, made a statement to the Regional Conference setting out the preparations being made as well as the objectives and orientation of the forthcoming World Conference. The item had been included in the Agenda of the Regional Conference under an express decision of the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference held in November 1977.

101. He placed emphasis on the gravity and urgency of the problems of the rural world in the developing countries. To a great extent, the grave difficulties facing mankind today involve the underdevelopment of many countries and, in particular, the poverty, hunger, malnutrition and unemployment that affect the rural populations of those countries. At a moment when the world is becoming more interdependent every day, the economic, social and political dimensions of the rural development problem clearly transcend national boundaries and necessitate a sharing of responsibilities. The World Conference, therefore, constitutes

a unique opportunity to organize and implement global collective action. Only political will in all countries will make it possible to make an attack on the backwardness of the rural areas.

102. Mr Santa Cruz emphasized that for the World Conference, agrarian reform was not synonymous with the reform of land tenure systems. The basic objective has a much broader scope: accelerating the economic, social, technological and cultural development of the rural areas of the developing world.

103. Rural underdevelopment being a complex global phenomenon, it will be important for the World Conference to study its various aspects through a multidisciplinary approach that would include the sectorial aspects analysed by the various world conferences of recent years. It should therefore examine the means of integrating policies for rural development, environmental protection, education, employment and rural industrialization with policies for the reform of agrarian structures, the final essential target being to transform not only land tenure systems, but also all the economic, social, cultural and institutional life of rural zones. It is in the perspective of such a global approach that not only an Advisory Committee of high-level experts set up by the Director-General has been established, but also an Inter-institutional Committee which, with the Administrative Committee on Coordination, are enabling the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies to provide their full and efficient collaboration.

104. As regards documentation, the national reports received by the Secretariat of the World Conference are currently being used as the basis for the preparation of the main background document to be submitted to the Conference, entitled "Review and Analysis of Past Developments and Policies on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development since the Mid-60s". The Conference documents will be submitted to the Preparatory Committee which will meet in March 1979. The draft provisional agenda for the World Conference is also being prepared; it will take into account the conclusions of the Regional Conferences.

105. With regard to the orientation of the 1979 World Conference, the Special Representative of the Director-General underlined the necessity of concentrating on key questions, particularly the institutional changes that will be needed to obtain the active participation of the population in rural development. Problems and strategies for their solution vary considerably from one country and from one region to another, and it is the people and their governments who must decide what paths to follow.

106. Lastly, Mr Santa Cruz referred to the resolutions and reports of the recent sessions of the other four Regional Conferences of FAO, all of which expressed, in the same terms, the objectives of agrarian reform and rural development. He appealed to the European countries to contribute actively to international policies that would facilitate the rapid achievement of these objectives. The cooperation of these countries would represent an important step toward reaching a consensus at the Conference both in the diagnosis of the problems and the planning and execution of policies to overcome them.

107. The national delegations and representatives of international organizations speaking after Mr Santa Cruz made his statement thanked him for the information provided and for the role he was playing in the preparation of the Conference. All considered that the forthcoming World Conference would be an event of capital importance for the reform of agrarian structures and for the improvement of rural development. Repeating their expressions of support, the European countries stated that they were prepared to contribute actively to the success of the Conference.

108. The delegations agreed that the solution of agrarian structures problems was a key question for many countries whose economic and social necessity was overriding. It could be an essential condition for the more rational use of land and other agricultural inputs and would be a decisive means for the developing countries to increase their agricultural production and thus reduce their dependency on food imports. Further, rural development in these countries would contribute to relieving the serious economic and social problems arising out of mass urbanization.

109. The global, multidisciplinary approach, going beyond the single problem of land reform and aimed at integrated regional rural development, was supported by all delegations. In promoting a complete and balanced rural development, the reform of agrarian structures was an essential condition, but not an end in itself. Further, mutual interaction between agrarian reform and rural development had different effects in different countries.

110. Several delegations summarized briefly the broad lines of far-reaching agrarian reforms and other measures promoting rural improvements carried out by their respective countries. The conditions and processes for the transformation of structures varied considerably according to the country and, within one country, according to the zones. What is more, structures were never adjusted once and for all, the search for a balance between justice and efficiency being a matter of continuous evolution. Every country in Europe, then, had its own experience. Consequently, the purpose of the World Conference should, in their opinion, not be to propose universally valid models for agrarian reform and rural development. The European countries declared that they were prepared to exchange information on their experience with the developing countries, but all countries would have to find national solutions in keeping with their needs and capacities, as well as with the aspirations of their rural populations.

111. The delegations expressed the hope that the Conference would lead to concrete results and that this objective would underlie the forthcoming preparatory work. Some delegations urged that the national reports forwarded to the Conference Secretariat be fully used during the preparatory phase. Some delegations and observers raised the issue of the participation of non-governmental organizations in the World Conference and the Conference agreed that this matter should be dealt with in line with the decision of the Nineteenth FAO Conference.

112. The Conference adopted unanimously the following Resolution:

The Conference,

Recalling Resolution 13/77 of the Nineteenth FAO Conference which convened a World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, to be held in Rome in July 1979 and which decided on its orientation,

Bearing in mind Resolution E/RES 1978/44 of the Economic and Social Council which "endorses the view expressed by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development should result in well-defined and action-oriented programmes which would enhance agrarian reform, investment in the rural areas, increase production and raise the economic and social standards of the rural population",

Aware that the large majority of the population of developing countries living in rural areas is experiencing poverty, malnutrition, unemployment or underemployment,

Noting that FAO Regional Conferences already held this year have reaffirmed the determination of the countries of those Regions to give priority to speeding up agricultural production and productivity as an integral part of their rural national development, and to create conditions for the sustained improvement in social and economic well-being of the rural populations, so reducing the gap in income and quality of life between urban and rural areas,

(i) Notes with satisfaction that although the problems of agrarian structure are not as acute in Europe as in some other parts of the world, a large number of countries of the European Region have presented reviews on the situation in their rural areas and comments on the problems facing developing countries in this area;

(ii) Considers as recommended by Resolution 13/77 of the FAO Conference that the objectives of the World Conference should be geared toward eradicating rural poverty, increasing production in the rural areas, promoting people's participation in the process of development, especially women;

(iii) Recognizes that the reforms in economic, social, cultural and technical conditions prevailing in the rural areas including the improvement in land tenure systems and organization of production and in the use of natural resources should be the result of the sovereign decisions of each nation utilizing the models and measures suited to the conditions of each country;

(iv) Invites all countries in a position to do so to give priority to supporting policies and programmes of developing countries aimed at developing their depressed rural areas and to participate effectively in all concerted international action undertaken for such purposes;

(v) Recommends that the countries of the European Region make their people aware of the magnitude and gravity of the problems which will be dealt with by the World Conference in order to mobilize public opinion in its support;

(vi) Welcomes the steps taken by the Director-General of FAO in the preparation of the World Conference, including those directed to ensure the cooperation of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies concerned and invites governments to participate effectively in the Preparatory Committee and the World Conference itself, taking into account the multidisciplinary character of this gathering and the recommendations of the Nineteenth FAO Conference.

#### The Agricultural Development of Less-Favoured Areas

113. Document ERC 78/4, which was introduced by the Secretariat, contained two separate papers. The paper entitled "Recent Trends and Changes in Agrarian Structure", based on nine country reports, was a by-product of the Second Session of the Working Party on Agrarian Structure and Farm Rationalization (held in January this year) which discussed the impact of technical progress on agrarian structure. The paper summarized the recent trends in technology and the associated changes in the agricultural labour force, agrarian structure, as well as in the overall position of the agricultural sector in the economy. Considerable space was devoted to the step-by-step changes in the situation of family farms in Western Europe, the decline in the total number of farms and the tendency of production to concentrate in larger production units. The differences between Eastern and Western Europe with respect to agrarian structure were clearly pointed out, but it was noted that technical progress and economic growth tended to produce certain similar trends in both sub-regions. The emergence and proliferation of new cooperation forms - though different between east and west - was a feature common to agriculture in both sub-regions and, above all, reflected the rapidly changing nature of agriculture brought about by technical progress and the ever-closer ties between farming and a wide range of secondary and tertiary activities.

114. The paper entitled "The Agricultural Development of Less-Favoured Areas" was based on a large number of country reports prepared for the FAO/ECE Symposium on this particular subject (held in May this year). The first section of the paper reviewed the definitions of less-favoured areas and the criteria used in various countries. The second section dealt with the governments' objectives to be achieved in the less-favoured areas, distinguishing between those set for the productive function of agriculture and those which concern other functions of the sector (protection of the environment, landscape, development of tourism, etc.). The third section reviewed the main policy lines and policy instruments designed by the governments for coping with the problems of less-favoured areas. The fourth section summarized the obstacles and difficulties encountered by governments - financial constraints, various difficulties met at the administrative level, the



problem of activating the population of the less-favoured areas, the problems associated with finding a promising orientation of production, the adverse effects of recessionary conditions on structural policies, etc.

115. The delegations emphasized the high quality of the reports submitted and provided further information on problems and policies relating to the less-favoured areas as well as on the current evolution of farm structures in their countries. One matter that is essential today is to continue to draw up policies and strategies which will make it possible to limit the rural exodus and, in particular, to apply specific support measures in backward rural areas.

116. The national policies currently applied in the underprivileged areas have two objectives: to maintain an appropriate level of agricultural activity, and to preserve a population level adequate for ensuring the preservation of the natural environment and the adequate utilization of land and other natural resources. These objectives must take their place in an overall integrated rural development policy that will link the agricultural sector with other diversified and dynamic activities and thus increase the possibilities of part-time farming.

117. In some European countries, the adjustment of agrarian structures and forms of tenancy depends among other factors on the capital/labour relationship. While agricultural modernization has until the present led to replacing labour by capital, certain current policies concentrate rather on slowing down this replacement. Without disregarding their needs in capital, these policies are designed to encourage the farmers, especially the younger ones, to remain on the land. From this point of view, the problems of several European countries are somewhat similar to those of the developing countries, in their nature if not in their extent.

118. Several delegations expressed their attachment to the value of the family farm. Thanks in particular to professional training, equipment support measures and cooperation among production units, this type of farm can be modernized further and attain a good balance between economic necessities, social life and personal fulfilment. Among other advantages, it allows women to play fully their role in agricultural activities and rural life.

119. During the discussion, the Netherlands delegation proposed that a symposium be organized on certain aspects of agrarian structure specifically regarding the shifting tendencies in the labour/capital ratio, among them the slowing down of the rural exodus. The delegations of France and Spain also proposed that, following the symposium held in Geneva in May 1978, a symposium be organized to discuss problems of rural adjustment and development in semi-arid areas, especially in the Mediterranean Basin. These subjects were further discussed under Item 10 of the Agenda.

#### The State of Natural Resources and Human Environment for Food and Agriculture

120. The Chairman of the FAO Interdepartmental Working Party on Natural Resources and Human Environment presented document ERC 78/4-Sup.1 dealing with this item of the Agenda. His statement was divided into four parts: (i) in an introduction he recalled that, from the time of its creation, FAO had concerned itself with environmental problems arising out of rural development. In 1970, this concern had led to the establishment within FAO of an Interdisciplinary Working Group covering all the technical departments and divisions of the Organization; (ii) he underlined that the problems relating to the environment did not appear in the same light in the developed and in the developing countries. The former were more concerned with pollution problems, while the latter were concerned with the problems arising out of poverty, hunger, ignorance and social injustice, the causes of the degradation of the productive capacity of the soil and thence of the environment. In this connection, he referred to soil erosion, desertification, deforestation, and other forms of environmental degradation; (iii) he emphasized, however, that the developed and the developing countries had a common interest in the setting up, in the light of the ecological, social and cultural conditions of each country, of an agriculture more attached to natural

equilibria, more economical and less depending on external inputs such as energy: (iv) he reiterated the hope expressed by the Minister of Agriculture of Portugal that there would come about a third agricultural revolution having these characteristics.

121. The Conference expressed satisfaction with the document submitted by the Secretariat and with its presentation. It approved the conclusions and resolutions contained therein. It requested that FAO pursue its work in this field, continually refining it, but devoting special attention to the following three points: (i) improvement of its statistical basis and reinforcement of the specialized centres necessary for data collection, exchange and dissemination; (ii) the development of appropriate methodologies; and (iii) the necessary cooperation with the national authorities and the scientific community, and the other organizations inside and outside the United Nations family.

122. Considering that agricultural, forestry and fisheries development cannot be considered in isolation from the management of natural resources and thus of the environment, it emphasized (i) that this work lay within the terms of reference of FAO; (ii) that it should be a permanent responsibility of the Organization, which should find the means necessary to execute it; (iii) that FAO should take the lead in the work, in close collaboration with the United Nations and Specialized Agencies concerned, and (iv) that FAO should publish periodically an assessment of the state of natural resources and human environment for food and agriculture, which would complete the publications which are already in existence on the state of food and agriculture.

#### Current and Future FAO Activities in Europe

123. The Conference considered this item on the basis of document ERC 78/5.

124. The Conference expressed its appreciation to the Director-General of FAO for his statement (document ERC 78/CONF.1) that the Organization will continue to keep up a certain level of activities in Europe within the limits of the resources available, which was in line with FAO Conference Resolution 6/77. The Conference recommended that at least the present level of European activities be maintained within the Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81. However, several delegations felt that a certain increase of the resources available for Europe would be justified, particularly in order to expand those activities which are of interest to developing countries outside of Europe.

125. It requested that in the setting up of priorities for European activities, special attention should continue to be given to those countries in the European Region which are developing from an economic point of view, and to the developing countries of other regions.

126. The Conference fully endorsed the cooperative research networks as a valuable instrument for multilateral scientific cooperation in Europe and as a positive example of the implementation of the FAO Conference Resolution on the use of national institutions. It underlined the production-oriented joint applied research programmes of the networks.

127. The increasing participation in the networks of the research institutions from developing countries outside Europe, mainly in the Mediterranean area, was welcomed and their further involvement would be appreciated.

128. The Conference recommended that, after the establishment of the sheep husbandry network, priority should be given to the strengthening and consolidation of the existing European networks.

129. The Conference also recommended that the competent authorities of the countries to which the cooperating institutions in the networks belong lend them all the moral and financial support which would be necessary in order to enable them to cooperate actively in the network activities of their choice and to implement their part of the contribution.

130. The Conference expressed the hope that the UNDP would approve the project in support of the countries with IPFs cooperating in the networks in order to facilitate the dissemination of results, the exchange of research workers and the exchange of biological material for research.

131. The continuous appraisal of the network activities on the part of the Executive Committee of the ECA and of the Coordinators of the networks would contribute to their efficiency and help to overcome the initial organizational difficulties. Attention was drawn in this connection to the Recommendation adopted by the first meeting of the Network Coordinators in Cordoba in September 1977.

132. The Conference expressed its satisfaction with the increasing cooperation of FAO with other international organizations in the Region, in particular with ECE, and requested its continuation in order to produce joint efforts and prevent duplication. In this respect, the useful activities of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Parties on Agrarian Structure and Farm Rationalization and on Mechanization in Agriculture were underlined.

133. The Conference expressed the wish that priority be given to the strengthening of research systems in the countries of the European Region developing from an economic point of view, and to the study of methodologies of definitions in the field of research.

134. The Conference recommended that the FAO Working Party on Water Resources and Irrigation convene its sessions regularly and that the next one take place in 1980.

135. The Conference also recommended the continuation of the FAO activities concerning the role of women in rural areas and their contribution to rural development. It welcomed the proposal to change the present title of the ECA Working Party on Home Economics into another one which would indicate more clearly its actual aims.

136. At the same time, the Conference thanked the Government of Portugal for having organized, in cooperation with FAO, the successful ad hoc Conference (Lisbon, Portugal, 26-28 September 1978) on the contribution of home economics extension workers to food production and nutritional education, which had enabled a continuation of the activities of the Working Party on Home Economics.

137. Several delegations referred to the importance of FAO's activities in the field of inland and Mediterranean fisheries, animal health (swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease, etc.), genetic resources, agricultural services, agricultural insurance, statistics, seed production, control of pesticide residues, animal feed management, marketing, food processing, farming organizations, training and in-service training, plant and animal breeding, environmental control, use of agricultural lands, etc.

138. The Conference took note with great interest of the proposal made by the delegation of the Netherlands to study the problems related to agricultural labour and employment, rural exodus and the relation between labour and capital in agriculture. The delegation also suggested that a symposium or seminar might be held on this study with the participation of selected developing countries outside the Region. It indicated the availability of the Dutch Government to cooperate closely with FAO in the preparation and holding of such a symposium or seminar.

139. Some delegations suggested the organization of discussions around a central theme in the near future with regard to research, dealing for example with the research policies of the European countries, international scientific policies and the transfer of the results of scientific and technological research among countries and regions. The Conference took note of the field activities carried out under 55 country programmes by FAO with contributions from UNDP, the Government Cooperative Programme and the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).

140. One delegation proposed to study the various forms of cooperation between governments and farmers' organizations in the field of general agricultural policy, agricultural legislation, market research and extension.

141. Several delegations expressed the hope that the UNDP country programmes for the development of agricultural production in the countries of the European Region which are still developing from an economic point of view would continue during the third UNDP programming cycle after 1981. The Conference indicated its priority interest in the elaboration of FAO/UNDP European regional cooperative programmes with a view to reinforcing regional activities in the agricultural sector. These programmes should foresee strong participation by national institutions in the countries of the European Region developing from an economic point of view. The Conference took note of the programmes currently in the planning stage concerning support for the cooperative research networks, the creation of a Mediterranean programme for improved olive production and the cooperative programme for conservation and exchange of genetic resources, as well as the study of the possibility of setting up programmes for the marketing of selected products. Several delegations showed interest in the regional cooperative programmes carried out by UNDP/WHO/UNEP in cooperation with FAO concerning energy utilization, zoonoses and aquaculture.

142. The Conference considered that in future the Regional Conference should concentrate its agenda on one main topic, and possibly a supplementary one, besides the usual review of FAO's European activities.

143. For the Regional Conference to be held in 1980, the following subjects were suggested for consideration, from which one or two themes might be selected:

- Labour and employment policies in the European Region, with particular reference to the balance of labour and capital;
- New agricultural research policies, taking into consideration the energy crisis;
- Marketing of agricultural commodities; and
- The use of energy in agriculture.

144. It was suggested that the practice of consulting member countries of the Region well in advance regarding the agenda for the subsequent Regional Conference should be continued.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment

145. The Conference was informed that the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment has been disbanded.

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

146. The Conference re-elected unanimously Romania to serve in this Group for a further biennium 1979/80. Greece was elected unanimously to serve in the Group for the biennium 1979/80.

147. The Conference expressed its appreciation to Israel for having served in the Group for the last two biennia.

VENUE OF FUTURE REGIONAL CONFERENCES

148. The delegation of Greece reiterated the invitation of its Government to FAO to hold the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Europe in Athens in 1980.

149. The delegation of Bulgaria stated that it had been its Government's intention to invite FAO to organize its Twelfth Regional Conference for Europe in Sofia. However, considering the excellent relations that prevailed between Bulgaria and Greece and in the spirit of the Helsinki Agreement, Bulgaria had decided to make its invitation applicable to the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe in 1982.

150. The Regional Representative for Europe thanked these delegations for their kind invitations, which he said would be submitted to the Director-General of FAO, who would take the necessary decisions in due course.



AGENDA

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
4. Statement by the Director-General of FAO
5. Statement by the Representative of the Executive Secretary of ECE
6. Statement by the Representative of the Executive Director of the WFP
7. New Regime of the Oceans and its Implications for Fish Supply and Resource Management in Europe
8. Long-term Policy Implications of the Conclusions of the Study on European Timber Trends and Prospects, 1950 to 2000
9. Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and Preparations for the World Conference including the State of Natural Resources and Human Environment for Food and Agriculture
10. Current and Future FAO Activities in Europe
11. Any other Business
12. Date and Place of the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Europe
13. Adoption of the Report
14. Closure of the Conference





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STATEMENT BY MR. EDOUARD SAOUMA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL

It is an honour and pleasure for me to address the Eleventh Regional Conference for Europe meeting in this magnificent city of Lisbon, and to welcome the ministers, ambassadors, and heads and members of the delegations assembled here.

I should like to take this occasion to express on behalf of myself, my colleagues and you all, I am sure, our gratitude to the Government of Portugal for the generous hospitality it is extending to us so abundantly here. We are deeply grateful for the warm reception accorded us and the excellent arrangements which have been made for our meetings.

I should also like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your unanimous election to that high office. Let me express my sincere good wishes for great success in your work.

As you know, this Regional Conference is organized in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe. I therefore would like to express my special thanks to Mr. Stanovnik, Executive Secretary of the Commission, for this assistance and, in general, for the fruitful collaboration between our two Organizations, which is being realized specifically through the Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture Division at Geneva.

A mere glance at the map is enough to show the place your country holds: it is both an outpost facing the Atlantic, the open sea, and a land with deep roots in this ancient Europe whose civilization it has done so much to shape. Your interests, then, are naturally worldwide, regional and local. This being so, you will be the first to understand why my present remarks are placed first in a worldwide and then in a regional context.

I would like to look at FAO in its proper global perspective, even if this goes somewhat beyond your formal agenda, before coming to subjects that relate more specifically to your region.

It seems to me that the world food and agricultural situation is precarious, in spite of the deceptive sense of security which is tending to spread thanks to the recent replenishment of grain reserves.

True, world stocks have returned to reassuring levels. Indeed, in some - but all too few - developing countries, such as India, the reconstitution of sizable reserves reflects a not inconsiderable recovery.

But it would be tragic if this improvement in worldwide terms were to demobilize the energies and appease the sense of urgency which the 1974 World Food Conference aroused in us. We are still at the mercy of the uncertainties of the weather, and present stocks could be exhausted very quickly in the event of a general drop in agricultural production such as occurred in 1972-1974.

Moreover, in spite of the encouraging results achieved in some developing countries, the position of the large majority remains critical.

A few striking figures will illustrate my point.

In the first place, the growth of food production in the Third World has declined sharply during the 1970s compared to the 1960s, falling from 2.9 to 2.6 percent per year.

Moreover the poorest countries, the ones that most need progress, are those that have had the least. Since 1970, their agricultural production has shown an annual increase of only 2 percent, a rate considerably below their population growth rate.

In Africa, per caput food production has even declined, by 1.4 percent per year, since the beginning of this decade.

The number of people suffering from malnutrition, especially in the most underprivileged countries, is increasing constantly. According to the Fourth FAO World Food Survey, they totalled more than 450 million in 1972-1974, 15 percent more than the total three years before.

As a result of this weakness in the agricultural sector, the developing countries are coming to depend more and more on outside sources for their basic food supply, whereas before the war they were, on the whole, net exporters of grains.

A current figure and a projection reflect how the position has worsened: in 1976 the non-oil-exporting countries spent more than \$10 billion for the purchase of food commodities, 80 percent of the assistance they received from public sources in the developed countries. According to FAO projections, their grain import requirements will even increase, unless radical steps are taken, from the present 66 million to more than 90 million tons per year in 1985.

It is clear that this increasing dependence on food imports, by diverting their scarce resources from productive investment, puts these countries' chance of development in grave jeopardy.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that this will point up the present inadequacies and the urgent need for increased efforts on behalf of agriculture.

In the short term, we must meet the most crying needs.

According to recent data of our food information system, 16 countries now suffer from acute food shortages; the most serious problems are in Africa and certain countries of Asia. I have already issued several appeals to the international community on their behalf. Those appeals have certainly been heard, and I take pleasure in thanking the donor countries for their response.

Nevertheless the assistance that has been obtained is not enough to meet the needs. For example, the needs not covered by imports for the Sahel alone are still estimated at about 150 000 tons.

It is obvious that a greater effort is necessary.

Moreover, I should like to repeat the appeal I launched recently for massive and rapid action to head off the threat of the desert locust. The emergency session of the FAO Desert Locust Control Committee, which I called at the end of July, emphasized the gravity of the danger: unless preventive measures are taken, this pest could spread like wildfire. FAO has appropriated about \$1 250 000 from its own funds so far, and several donors have responded to my appeal or are planning to do so. But it is absolutely necessary to do more, and more quickly, if we are to avert a real disaster.

In the longer term, the developing countries will have to speed up their agricultural production in order to become less dependent on outside assistance and the channels of international trade.

It is true that since the 1974 World Food Conference the developing countries have managed in general to put more resources to work for agriculture. But this effort must not cease. It must be pursued, in particular, by a deliberate policy of integrated rural development aimed at mobilizing the rural masses and integrating them into the development process.

We must recognize that food and agriculture will be the key problem of development in the coming years.

But the task these very underprivileged countries have to face is overwhelming. It requires much more capital than they have. Therefore the outside assistance of the developed countries remains absolutely necessary.

In this regard, obviously, I am disappointed by the most recent tabulation of governments' assistance to development: according to the Development Assistance Committee, their performance fell to 0.31 percent of the GNP in 1977, compared to 0.33 percent in 1976. The continuous decline takes us farther and farther away from meeting the target of 0.70 percent.

Furthermore the increase in assistance to agriculture, which was rapid following the World Food Conference, has lost its momentum considerably since then, notwithstanding the auspicious establishment, which I welcome, of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Not even half of the target for assistance to agriculture suggested by FAO at that Conference, and later updated to \$8.3 billion, at 1975 prices, has been met.

And yet it would, I think, be reasonable to devote at least a third of government development assistance to agriculture. This proportion is nearly reached by the World Bank, but the figure is only 10 to 15 percent for the CAD countries and 20 percent for those of the OPEC.

It would probably not be enough just to reallocate development funds to agriculture in order to attain the desirable percentage: a massive increase in the total amount of government assistance to development would be necessary.

Mr. Chairman, this is not the best place to review in detail many negotiations of crucial importance for the developing countries that are now under way. But the present turn of events forces me to mention them, at least briefly.

For example, every one recognizes the need to set up, on a world scale, an adequate international food security system and to guarantee a sure and satisfactory level of food aid. Yet the Geneva grain negotiations are deadlocked, mainly owing to differences of approach among the developed countries, and as a result the establishment of such a system is being delayed indefinitely.

This is deplorable, and I can only appeal to the parties concerned to overcome their differences so that an agreement may be reached in the coming months.

The International Undertaking on World Food Security, endorsed by the Member Nations of FAO, would then become a reality. For the present, stocks, although substantial at the world level, provide no guarantee whatever in the absence of a mechanism to ensure their permanence and regulate their use.

I have already several times stated my conviction that a new and more just organization of international relations is absolutely essential. Economic relations, and especially trade in the agricultural products of the developing countries, must be established on a fairer basis. In short, we must set up this New International Economic Order about which we have heard so much.

Unfortunately, its establishment is proceeding at an exasperatingly slow pace. The North/South dialogue has now come under the auspices of the United Nations, but still the initial discussions there have not led to concrete solutions, although the measures recently taken by some creditor countries to remit debts can be taken as an encouraging sign.

On the other hand, the UNCTAD negotiations on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for commodities continue to mark time, even though greater price and market stability for the main commodities is fundamental for many developing countries.

Finally, a disturbing trend towards protectionism, threatening in particular the export trade in agricultural commodities, is again appearing as a result of the current economic crisis. If it continues, it could seriously compromise the interests of the exporting countries in the developing world.

Preventing this rebirth of protectionism is what is at stake in the current GATT multilateral trade negotiations. It goes without saying that in these negotiations the developed countries should take into account the interests of the developing ones, as they announced their intention of doing in the Tokyo Declaration.

Now, Mr. Chairman, before making a few comments more directly related to the items on your agenda, I should like to make two general remarks.

First, the contribution of Europe as a whole represents more than half of FAO's regular budget and Europe is also one of the main sources of voluntary bilateral contributions.

This points to the importance of your region for our Organization, as regards both its Regular Programme and its extra-budgetary activities.

You play a leading rôle in supporting food aid, emergency aid, world food security, many a development and training project, fertilizer supply, pesticides and seed, and various specific projects dealing with meat, milk, credit, and so on.

I fully appreciate these contributions, and above all those that enable us, through trust funds, to take direct action in the field for the benefit of the receiving countries.

More recently, certain countries of your region have given active support to the programme launched by FAO at the beginning of this year for the prevention of food losses.

I take the liberty of asking you once again for more solid support for this initiative.

The importance of this matter is clear to all, but the resources available to FAO are much too limited: even the more than modest target of 20 million dollars has not been reached, only 13 million dollars having been made available so far.

My second remark concerns FAO's activities in Europe - a question which is, moreover, on your agenda.

FAO must, of course, give priority to the developing regions. But it has always kept up a certain level of activities in Europe and will continue to do so within the limits of the resources available.

Your region, taken as a whole, is relatively rich and has a considerable scientific and technological potential, but it is also infinitely varied, as regards not only natural conditions but also levels of development and economic and social systems.

In particular, we must recognize that in Europe there are still some less developed countries that need assistance, underprivileged areas that raise extremely tricky problems, and that there are still some highly complex situations that will not be solved from one day to the next.

I refer in particular to the questions of farm labour, marketing, and the difficulties of agriculture in mountain zones. And I refer above all to the special conditions of Mediterranean agriculture and to the difficult balance which must be sought in the production and marketing of the largely competing products from the opposite sides of the Mediterranean.

These questions come all the more to the fore at a time when negotiations for the enlargement of the European Economic Community are being carried on. I hope that the negotiations will take account of any repercussions that a change from a Community of Nine to one of Twelve may have on other European, and even non-European, countries.

The importance of your work, and in particular that of the European Commission on Agriculture and its working parties lies in the fact that your diversity offers ample opportunities for mutually advantageous cooperation within and also outside the region.

It is also good that your efforts concentrated on sectors whose importance goes beyond the European framework proper and from which other regions can benefit.

In this context the example provided by the European cooperative research networks, that have aroused interest in many countries outside Europe, should be encouraged. It proves that FAO's activities in Europe can foster the spread of knowledge and the transfer of technology and, by promoting multilateral cooperation, help to reinforce the scientific potential of the developing countries' national institutions.

I therefore hope that these countries, particularly in neighbouring areas, will participate more actively in FAO's European activities.

This brings me to the main items on your agenda.

As regards fisheries, you will be reviewing the implications of new developments in the law of the sea for Europe's fish supply and the management of its biological resources. I would emphasize that the intention is not to open a debate here on the jurisdictional problems raised by these developments, nor to enter into a matter that more properly falls within the province of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. Our purpose is rather to examine from the technical and economic point of view the consequences of recent changes, and in particular those that extend the limits of national jurisdictions.

The document before you, ERC 78/2, constitutes a first attempt in this respect. It brings out the complexity of the new situation from the point of view of supplies and trade, indicates the countries of the region which may be most affected by the changes now taking place, and examines their possible effect on the regional fishery bodies existing in the European area.

We await with interest your comments on this matter.

The study before you on timber trends and prospects in Europe between 1950 and 2000 reflects the complexity of the matter, its growing importance for the future and its many implications for various spheres: economic, social, commercial and environmental.

It is well known that western Europe has become increasingly dependent on imports of forest products from other regions. The prospects are that these imports will double by the end of the century.

In reviewing this study, you will certainly wish to envisage the overall development and investment policies that should be adopted for the forestry sector and the need to find a satisfactory balance between local production and imports.

Forestry being a long-term activity, it therefore seems to me all the more advisable to exchange views now on this subject at the regional level.

Finally, you will be dealing with the fundamental question of agrarian reform and rural development, in preparation for the World Conference to be organized in July 1979 by FAO in cooperation with the United Nations and a number of other bodies concerned.

Admittedly these problems are less acute in Europe than elsewhere, partly, no doubt, because several countries here have already carried out their agrarian reforms or introduced far-reaching structural changes.

Nonetheless, the documentation available shows that some countries still have serious problems, for example as regards agriculture in backward areas, decreases in the rural population and changes in agrarian structures resulting from the introduction of modern agricultural techniques.

The experience of your region will therefore be of great interest for the World Conference.

In addition, you may wish to indicate what share of your assistance programmes you expect to allocate to agrarian reform and rural development.

Mr. Chairman,

I thus come to the end of my address.

I have spoken above all in terms of overall percentages and figures, and I have deliberately abstained from giving my remarks an emotional tone. Perhaps you will allow me, therefore, to conclude by saying that in speaking I have constantly been thinking of the human dimension of our problems.

And I am certain that during your discussions you too will bear it in mind.

An ancient Greek philosopher taught that man is the measure of all things.

How then can we be anything but disturbed and concerned by the malnutrition and poverty which afflict so many of our fellows?

To improve their lot must be our common resolve.

REPLIES AND COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
ON THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE SESSION

I regret that I have to leave you amid your deliberations, just as I had to do during the other four Regional Conferences which I attended. Nevertheless, the first two days have enabled me to realize your concerns. They have given a constructive tone to your debate and I think they have been of considerable interest.

I am glad to note the high level of representation at your assembly. This attests to the interest of your Governments in the worldwide and regional activities of FAO.

In particular, I should like to thank the many speakers who, although the matter was not on the agenda, were so kind as to express agreement with the ideas I put forward in my opening statement on the development problems which are worrying the poor countries and on the food and agriculture situation in the world.

You have confirmed the analysis and assessment of FAO. I have taken note with keen interest of the measures some of your countries plan to take to help the massive mobilization for agricultural and rural development the need of which you have acknowledged. I have taken note of your positive appraisal concerning the important role FAO is playing in monitoring this situation and the efforts it is making to improve it, especially as far as emergency aid is concerned.

I share the alarm voiced by the distinguished Representative of Belgium about the desert locust. The danger is an extreme one and we must succeed in mobilizing the necessary resources to check it. I have launched several appeals, the most recent one at this session yesterday. I believe indeed that without massive intervention the situation may get out of control. Various donors have already responded generously, and I have received positive reaction from a number of other potential donors, as well as the EEC. But we must act quickly. We must realize that inevitably it takes time to ship aid to that politically troubled zone, where inadequate infrastructures delay operations. It is therefore important that decisions are taken in time.

I have noted your support for and your interest in FAO's activities in Europe. I fully share your concern that, beyond the European Region proper, they should be of benefit to the greatest possible number of extra-European developing countries. You may be sure that this is my intention as well.

A significant example in this respect is the cooperative research networks to which several delegations have referred to emphasize their usefulness. The fact that 14 developing countries already take part in the networks, in addition to the 130 institutions of European countries, shows the interest in this programme. This movement can and must be widened as a means of strengthening cooperation among national institutions within and beyond your Region. I hope that the interested countries will very actively support their national organizations cooperating in the networks of their choice.

The discussion on the two papers about fisheries and forestry clearly brings out the undeniable fact that the European countries will in future depend to a much greater extent on imports from developing countries for their fish and timber requirements.

This illustrates the economic interdependence between the northern and southern countries.

Therefore it seems quite natural to me that the European countries are paying special attention to FAO's assistance programmes aimed at enabling the developing countries to utilize their immense but insufficiently exploited fishery and forestry resources.

They have an opportunity in this respect through FAO's technical assistance programmes designed to allow the developing countries to exploit their exclusive economic zones of the sea and to make use of their resources of tropical timber.

I am particularly satisfied with the backing you have already expressed for the programme I am going to submit at the next session of our Committee on Fisheries for optimum use of biological resources in the exclusive economic zones of developing countries. I hope that you will consider rightaway how you could translate such support into concrete action when you will examine the proposals I shall make in this respect for my Programme of Work and Budget.

Following your discussions, I shall carefully investigate the contribution FAO could make to facilitate and rationalize the marketing of fishery products on a world scale, in the interest of all our Member Nations. I also intend to examine the role our Regional Fisheries Commissions should play in implementing the new regime for the oceans, and to suggest the new guidelines that may be necessary.

This causes me to say a few words about technical cooperation among developing countries. The recent Buenos Aires Conference has stressed the role which the developed countries can and should play in promoting such cooperation. The technique applied by developing countries is often adapted and worked out on the basis of Western technology and know-how. Technical cooperation among developing countries therefore should not be something that concerns them exclusively but a joint effort in which the developed countries can and must make their contribution.

Mr. Chairman,

Your deliberations and the orientations resulting from them this week will be useful for me when I prepare my Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81. It is evident that the present economic crisis and cost inflation call for redoubled financial strictness. The tightness of our budget compared with needs forces us to use available funds in a selective and judicious manner.

Speaking before a European audience about the activities of FAO in your Region, I may perhaps take the liberty of making a suggestion about a subject which, to be sure, is a limited one but which counts from the angle of expenses -- the steadily growing costs of meetings. Would it not be possible that, for certain meetings in Europe, the host country also bears the costs of interpretation? It would greatly relieve the Organization. It would appear to me that this is a possible formula considering the resources of your countries. This is already the case of the Economic Commission for Europe, for which the host countries bear a large part of the costs for the meetings of its Committees.

In conclusion, I should like to thank you for your very active participation in this Eleventh Regional Conference. I am glad to see among you a number of Permanent Representatives with whom I have the habit and pleasure of collaborating and carrying on dialogue. I also greet all the delegates from their capital cities and wish them a pleasant journey home.

I expect to meet you again in November for the FAO Council and hope to see you in Rome for the principal meetings scheduled in 1979, especially the meeting on agrarian reform and rural development and the biennial Conference of our Organization.



STATEMENT BY MR. Y. CHESTNOY, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Mr. Chairman,

To begin with I would like to congratulate you with your election as chairman at this important Conference and wish you every success.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, it gives me a very particular pleasure to be participating in the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Europe on behalf of the Economic Commission for Europe. The Executive Secretary of the ECE, Mr. Stanovnik, has requested me to express his most profound regrets that he cannot be present at this Conference himself since he is participating in the World Conference of the International Chamber of Commerce. He has been requested by that Conference to lead the discussion on East-West trade relations, a subject of basic importance to ECE.

May I convey to you, Mr. Director-General, the appreciation of the ECE for the important and valuable work being undertaken by the FAO. We particularly appreciate the continuing and strengthened joint effort of FAO and ECE, which goes far beyond normal co-operation, to carry out programmes in this region which not only benefit the countries directly concerned but which have a global impact as well. Through the very close working relations which we enjoy through the joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division as well as implementation of projects jointly, we have the possibility of making a substantial impact on the agricultural situation in the region and the world.

Nowadays the work of the ECE has received a new dimension. Not only has a solid basis for co-operation been maintained in traditional areas but new activities and approaches have been incorporated in response to new challenges in the region. At the thirty-third session of the Commission last April, the Executive Secretary of the ECE stated:

The role and authority of the Economic Commission for Europe in providing a unique forum for co-operation in economic and related fields among countries with different economic and social systems has continued to strengthen since the thirty-second session last year. The Commission has received a major impulse from the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and has become the main instrument for multilateral implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Act."

We have witnessed a new tempo of activity in the Commission in recent years which has important ramifications for all areas of economic activity in the region including the key areas of agriculture and timber. Increasingly the programme of ECE is becoming more inter-dependent with developments in individual sectors having an impact on other sectors - this is particularly true in such fields as energy, environment, transport and trade.

The Final Act of the CSCE has resulted not only in a stronger, adapted work programme for the Commission but has given rise to certain new and important initiatives. The most significant development has been the consideration in the Commission of an inter-state conference or a high-level meeting on the protection of the environment proposed by the U.S.S.R. government. Although a final decision has not as yet been taken on the convening of such a meeting, the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems have been requested to prepare recommendations and concrete proposals for important decisions to be submitted to a high-level meeting on long-range transboundary air pollution; low and non-waste technology and reutilization and recycling of wastes as well as on water pollution, control of toxic wastes and protection of flora and fauna. There is no need to say that all these problems are of direct concern of the agriculture and forestry sectors.

The ECE Committees on Agricultural Problems and Timber, which are important tools for our joint efforts with the FAO, have also major work areas pertaining to environmental protection and the results of studies, seminars and other activities carried out by them in this area will have an important bearing on ECE environmental activities generally, as well as providing possible contributions to the high-level meeting on protection of the environment.

I would like to refer briefly to some general issues which have come to the foreground in our work and which agricultural policies are having to face during the seventies.

These issues do not necessarily imply any basic modifications in the general objectives of these policies which continue to aim at the development of an economically sound and efficient agriculture, an assured supply of high-quality products from a properly diversified domestic production, and the participation of the agricultural population - through an harmonized system of economic and social policy measures - in the general growth of income and well-being. The rapid technical progress of the post-war period has not only helped the pronounced evolution and modernization of European agriculture, but it has also brought in its wake new problems. In addition, some important external parameters have undergone considerable changes in recent years and have left their impact also on agriculture. The general economic situation, both nationally and internationally, has further complicated the adjustment of agriculture to changed technological, economic and social conditions. Reference can be made, for example, to unstable monetary relations, fluctuating world markets, inflationary price trends and energy problems. Traditional agricultural price policies have to play their part in anti-inflation policies, which limits their usefulness as a tool of income policies. Farmers in western European countries have less possibilities to move to other branches or to supplement their income from non-agricultural part-time employment; less land is therefore offered for sale or lease, impeding traditional structural policies aiming at the enlargement of farms, and in many countries the market situation also leaves little room for the intensification of livestock production or for higher prices. It is therefore not surprising that quite a few countries in the West have recently been reviewing their agricultural policies to adapt them to conditions which differ markedly from those prevailing in the fifties and the sixties. In this context, and in particular in relation to regions less favoured by their natural conditions, the purely economic rational approach might not provide the answer.

In view of the prevailing agricultural structure in western Europe and of the growing integration of agriculture, as an important purchaser of inputs of industrial origin and as supplier of the processing industry, into the general economy, various forms of co-operation, group farming and integration have been gaining considerably in importance for many years.

Forms of co-operation and integration are already very advanced in eastern European countries. In these countries the objective of intensified co-operation is not limited to agriculture, but includes also industry (in the form of agro-industrial complexes), leading to large-scale specialized and amalgamated units on a regional and sectorial basis.

Many other issues could still be referred to, but I shall limit myself very briefly to two of a quite different character. One concerns the serious problems of trade balance with which many countries are faced. It is natural that these countries pose the question how far their agricultural trade could contribute to solving this problem. The answer cannot be found on the national level, but only through consultation and co-operation on the international level.

The other issue is closely connected with the rapid technological progress in agriculture; it is the result of agricultural research work which has therefore gained considerably in importance and all attempts at better international co-operation (such as FAO's research networks in Europe) in particular will help to achieve further progress at reduced costs and therefore deserve full support. Modern agriculture also calls for a highly qualified and specialized labour force which differs considerably from the outdated picture of the traditional peasant farmer. It is therefore not surprising that all countries pay increasing attention to professional training and education.

For the forestry and forest industries sector, the recession in the western European economies which began in 1974 has brought a number of serious difficulties. Not least of these was the steep fall in demand in 1974 and 1975 for virtually all assortments of forest products, with only partial recovery in the years since. The result has been persistent under-utilization of resources, both of production capacity and manpower, and for many enterprises, both in forestry and in industry, serious financial problems.

Without wishing to cast an unduly pessimistic cloud over the immediate prospects, I have to say that it is the opinion of our experts in Geneva that no quick or dramatic improvement in western Europe's economy, and hence in the fortunes of the forestry sector, is in sight. On the other hand, progress continues to be made in the economies of eastern Europe, though with rates of growth moderately slower than those achieved up to the mid-1970s.

I shall not dwell on the long-term prospects now, since this will be the subject of your debate tomorrow afternoon and on Wednesday. Nevertheless, I should just like to draw attention to the study which formed the background for the secretariat paper on this topic - "European Timber Trends and Prospects, 1950 to 2000" as a good illustration of the close cooperation that exists between the secretariats of FAO and ECE in Rome and in Geneva. There are a number of important policy implications which arise from this study which I believe deserve your careful attention.

The work of the Commission in the fields of agriculture and timber has developed in a most fruitful direction since the last FAO Regional Conference for Europe and has been the subject of many favourable comments at the Commission sessions. The programme has been balanced and refined to include projects of relevance in the economic, technical and environmental fields. The review of current developments in agriculture and timber are considered to be valuable sources of economic and statistical information. Work on quality standards and on international trade practices has continued to form an important and integral part of the work programme.

Considerable attention has been devoted to selected economic and technological problems in the agricultural sector, particularly with respect to problems relating to agrarian structure and farm rationalization and problems relating to agricultural mechanization. In commenting on this section of the work programme in the agricultural sector many delegations pointed to the successful development of these activities by the Committee in recent years and expressed their expectation that these activities would be continued as one of the main tasks of the Committee.

Similar strong support has been accorded to the very diversified work programme of the Timber Committee.

In recent year, the ECE has been devoting increased attention to the special problems of countries of the region which are developing from the economic point of view. Through projects on commodity and trade problems of special interest to these countries as well as other activities in the field of mechanization, agrarian structures and farm rationalization, ECE can complement the efforts of these countries. A Seminar on Agriculture in Less Favoured Areas, held last May, is an example of this type of activity.

As we seek joint programmes of action to deal with the problems of the economy of the region, we must be always sensitive to the situation in other regions. It is essential, therefore, that other regions benefit from the activities in the agriculture and timber sectors in our region. This is one of the most significant contributions which the region can make to the global economy. This Conference, which forms an integral part of the global FAO programme of activities, could make positive and constructive recommendations in this respect.

May I again, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECE and myself express warm wishes for a successful Conference and the prospects which it holds for joint efforts by FAO and ECE in dealing with problems of countries concern.





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