

**Report of the**  
**ELEVENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**FOR LATIN AMERICA**

---

**Venezuela, 12-20 October 1970**



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

*Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Latin America*

- First — Quito, Ecuador, 1949
- Second — Montevideo, Uruguay, 1950
- Third — Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1-10 September 1954
- Fourth — Santiago, Chile, 19-30 November 1956
- Fifth — San José, Costa Rica, 12-21 November 1958
- Sixth — Mexico City, Mexico, 9-20 August 1960
- Seventh — Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 17-27 November 1962
- Eighth — Viña del Mar, Chile, 13-29 March 1965
- Ninth — Punta del Este, Uruguay, 5-16 December 1966
- Tenth — Kingston, Jamaica, 2-13 December 1968

*FAO Member Nations in the Latin American Region (at 1 November 1970)*

Argentina	Ecuador	Netherlands
Barbados	El Salvador	Nicaragua
Bolivia	France	Panama
Brazil	Guatemala	Paraguay
Chile	Guyana	Peru
Colombia	Haiti	Trinidad and Tobago
Costa Rica	Honduras	United States of America
Cuba	Jamaica	Uruguay
Dominican Republic	Mexico	Venezuela

R E P O R T

of the

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LATIN AMERICA

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Rome, 1970





## T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

### INTRODUCTION

	Page
Inaugural Ceremony	1
Opening of the Conference	3
Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur	3
Adoption of Agenda	3
Statement by Mr. A.H. Boerma, Director-General of FAO	3
Statement by Mr. Francisco Aquino, Executive Director of the World Food Programme	7
Statement by Mr. Carlos Quintana, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America	8
Statement by Mr. Remy Freire, Representative of the Organisation of American States	10
Statement by Mr. José Emilio G. Araujo, Director- General of the Interamerican Institute for Agricultural Sciences	10
Statement by Mr. Roberto Esguerra-Barry, Representative of UNICEF	12
Statement by Mr. Juan Felipe Yriart, Assistant Director- General and Regional Representative for Latin America	12
Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of FAO	17

### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

General Debate	18
The Latin American Region in the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development and FAO Contribution to the Second Development Decade	23
Foreign Trade: Problems and Prospects for the countries of the Region	27
Science and Technology	34
Agrarian Reform	40
Livestock Development	47
Medium-Term Programme	54

### CONCLUDING ITEMS

Approval of Report	60
Date and Place for the Twelfth Regional Conference	60
Closing Session	60

### APPENDICES

A. Agenda	62
B. List of Documents	64
C. Officers of the Conference	67
List of Delegates, Observers and FAO Officers	68
1. Member Nations of the Region	68
2. Observers from Member Nations not in the Region	78

3. Permanent Observer for the Holy See	79
4. Representatives of United Nations and Specialised Agencies	80
5. Observers from Intergovernmental Organisations	81
6. Observers from Non-Governmental Organisations	82
7. FAO Staff	83
D. Report of the Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform	86
E. Report of the Technical Committee on Livestock Development	98

## INTRODUCTION

1. On the cordial invitation of the Venezuelan Government, the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America was held in Caracas from 12 to 20 October 1970. Advance meetings were held from 5 to 9 October 1970 by two Technical Committees, on Agrarian Reform and Livestock Development respectively; their reports, containing the summary of the discussions and the list of participants, are attached to this report as appendixes.

### Inaugural Ceremony

2. The Conference was opened on 12 October 1970 in a ceremony attended by His Excellency the President of the Republic, Dr. Rafael Caldera. The first address was delivered by Mr. A.H. Boerma, Director-General of FAO, who thanked the Government of Venezuela for its invitation and for the excellent facilities made available to the Conference. He observed that, by a happy coincidence, this date commemorated the discovery of America.

3. He recalled the words of Simón Bolívar expressing his conviction that man would achieve his greatest possible happiness when society was based on justice, liberty and equality.

4. He remarked on the increasing importance of Latin America and then referred to its vast natural resources, its problems and limitations. Furthermore, he stressed the magnificent quality of its human resources and the spirit that inspired its people and their leaders, among whom were men of vision and courage who struggled to achieve a new structure of society.

5. He praised the work of the two technical committees and expressed his confidence that this Regional Conference would provide FAO with sufficient elements to formulate a comprehensive programme of action.

6. In conclusion, he thanked His Excellency President Rafael Caldera for his attendance and pointed to the humanistic and objective approach which Venezuela had adopted in its march to progress.

7. Mr. L.M. Robinson, Minister of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago, then spoke. On behalf of all the delegations, he greeted his Excellency the President of the Republic and through him extended those greetings to the people of Venezuela.

8. He mentioned the profound changes that were taking place as the result of the rapid awakening of peoples and technological advances, all of which affected their political, economic and social organization. Within this framework, agriculture played an essential role because of the substantial proportion of the population which depended on it for livelihood.

9. In his opinion, the low income level of the rural population which prevailed in the great majority of the developing countries must be attributed to two fundamental causes: the unfavourable relations of power that existed between the underdeveloped and developed countries and the internal imbalances that existed in the traditional organization of society. This combination of difficult situation, he added, was aggravated by the alarming increase in unemployment.

10. He then commented on the usefulness of this kind of meeting, which, on the one hand, permitted discussion of the problems and limitations inhibiting agricultural development and, on the other, opened the way to an expression of Latin American solidarity without which all efforts would be fruitless.

11. He went on to refer to the Prebisch Report, which analyzed the tremendous task confronting Latin America, and to the call to action by the Second World Food Congress. The measures to be adopted must be bold and even unorthodox. This was demanded by Latin American youth, which would not accept rhetorical promises.

12. In conclusion, he pointed to the growing cooperation between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela in various sectors, among them agriculture, which could serve as an example to the rest of the region.

13. His Excellency the President of the Republic, Dr. Rafael Caldera, closed the first meeting. He began his statement by welcoming the delegates and observers. He then referred to the 25th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, remarking on the fact that the original League of Nations had resulted in many failures and some successes. Among the latter were specialized agencies like FAO, which have served to bring together the countries and their peoples for the purpose of adopting solutions to the grave problems common to all men.

14. He stated that agriculture in Latin America was still far from reaching the high yields long since achieved in the developed countries. It would be necessary, he added, to make these lands produce at their maximum level. This was a duty to all humanity and Latin America must meet this challenge by developing and adapting those technologies most suitable to its own conditions, at the same time making sure that, through adequate legal, economic and social structures, the higher yields would really benefit the masses who worked the soil.

15. He stressed the need for the same standards of social justice in the international sphere as those that governed internal conduct in most modern states. Justice without a social context, he declared, was a negation of justice itself, which was based on solidarity between men.

16. FAO, in his opinion, should not accept as an inevitable fact that countries producing primary commodities resign themselves to accepting the prices set for their goods by the buyers in the markets, while at the same time they have to obtain manufactured equipment and inputs in those same markets at prices fixed by the manufacturers. There was a need to establish new types of trade relations that would permit the exporting countries not only to participate in the setting of prices for their products but at the same time to develop their own industries.

17. In respect to agrarian reform, he emphasized that in order to improve living conditions in rural areas and to give production a more human and constructive perspective, the economic and technical transformation must always be imbued with social meaning. He expressed his profound concern over the need to create new sources of employment in the countryside.

18. He then stated his hope that this Conference would serve as a guide and a stimulus to Latin American countries so that they might resolve satisfactorily the rising conflict between an incipient industrial development, an urban population explosion and a rural population which has not been given the consideration and attention befitting its importance and requirements. He emphasised that agrarian reform should be integral in that it must seek to relate to man and his rural environment.

19. In conclusion, he stated that in Venezuela peace was not an empty word, because there was faith in friendship between men. The effort of each individual, however modest, helped all to find the road leading to a truly human existence.

#### Opening of the Conference

20. Mr. A.H. Boerma, Director-General of FAO, opened the Eleventh Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America.

#### Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur

21. The Conference, in the absence of the Delegation of Cuba, with the unanimous support of the member countries present, elected His Excellency The Minister of Agriculture of Venezuela, Mr. Jesús López Luque, as Chairman. As Vice-Chairmen were elected Their Excellencies, Mr. J. Emilio Valderrama, the Minister of Agriculture of Colombia; Mr. Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, the Minister-President of the National Commission for Economic and Scientific-Technical Collaboration of Cuba; Mr. Vicente Burneo, the Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador; Mr. R. Shankar, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Surinam; Mr. Jorge Barandiaran, the Minister of Agriculture of Peru; and Mr. Lionel M. Robinson, the Minister of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. José Olivares, the Head of the Delegation of Chile, was appointed Rapporteur of the Conference.

#### Adoption of Agenda

22. The Conference approved the Agenda and the Provisional Timetable. With regard to the text of the Agenda, which appears in Appendix A of this report, a number of delegations stated their satisfaction with the fact that the Latin American countries had been consulted on its preliminary outline during the Fifteenth FAO Conference. It was urged that in the future the Conference should not last more than a week.

#### Statement by Mr. A.H. Boerma, Director-General of FAO

23. Mr. Boerma began by expressing his pleasure at attending this Eleventh Regional Conference and having the opportunity to renew his contacts with all the governments of the region, and because he was certain that the discussions would be thorough and the conclusions constructive and of deep impact.

24. He referred to the importance which FAO gives to Latin America and to the possibilities of achieving closer relations. In the past, he said, there had been problems in these relations, not only on the part of FAO because of excessive centralization, but also on the part of several countries of the Region which had not appreciated what FAO really is and what it can do to help them solve their problems in agriculture.

25. He mentioned the strengthening of field work both at Regional and Country levels. This was an important part of the reorganization undertaken since he took office. He pointed out that although the final responsibility for policy must remain in Rome, he was becoming increasingly convinced that the Regional Offices should have much more authority in matters related to each region, a practice which had already been put into effect. The presence in Latin America of Mr. Yriart as FAO Regional Representative had been of great help and his was a voice which was listened to with great attention at Headquarters. He mentioned, moreover, that Mr. Yriart had worked strenuously and successfully to consolidate FAO's working relations with the regional organizations. He added that nearly all the 55 FAO Country Representatives were already in place; eleven had so far been appointed in Latin American countries and the appointment of a further three was under way. As an example of the trend to decentralisation, he pointed out that the proportion of the Regular Programme funds allocated to the Regions had risen from 7.2 percent in the 1968-1969 biennium to 14.5 percent in the current one and that, in his opinion, this was a trend that should be continued.

26. Apart from general direction and assistance, the policy now under development was based on the precept that FAO activities in Latin America should arise from the needs and wishes of the Region itself and that the men appointed in Latin America should, in consultation with the governments of the Region, be given as free a hand as possible in judging how the Organization could best serve Latin American interests.

27. He mentioned that, despite his desire to increase the number of Latin Americans in posts of responsibility at Headquarters, he had had difficulties in finding well qualified Latin Americans who were prepared to accept appointments in Rome under the conditions which FAO could offer them.

28. He went on to say that one of the most positive ways of strengthening the links between FAO and Latin America would be for more Latin American countries to appoint Permanent Representatives in Rome, working full time on FAO affairs. In his experience, countries whose representatives followed the work of FAO closely were in a position to make much better use of the range of assistance that could be provided by FAO.

29. Referring to the documents on the Medium Term Programme, he pointed out that these were preliminary papers, submitted in order to obtain the views of countries at the Regional Conferences before drawing up the final version to be presented to the FAO Council. He explained that the programme was basically structured around the Five Areas of Concentration, to which a sixth area dealing with Agricultural Development Planning had recently been added.

30. The main problems whose increasing gravity was stressed by the documents were: unemployment and underemployment, whose explosive nature needed no underlining and concerning which urgent steps to create new and massive employment opportunities must be taken; conservation of the environment, a problem which had been of concern to FAO for many years and which was now assuming new dimensions, especially in regard to pollution; and research, to which FAO hoped to give special emphasis in its medium-term programming and on which the Regional Conference could greatly assist by setting a realistic order of priorities.

31. Another important matter connected with the Medium Term Programme was FAO's gradual move towards a system of programme budgeting. This system would enable the evaluation of work to be conducted in terms of programmes or sub-programmes instead of within the more bureaucratic framework of administrative divisions followed to date.

32. Out of the main problem areas listed for Latin America, he made special mention of agrarian reform, which the documents stressed as essential to the mobilization of human resources. It was clear, he said, that agrarian reform - which covered not only the redistribution of land and the transformation of structures and land tenure systems but also cultural and technical improvement - was one of the main keys to economic and social progress in the Latin American Region. In that connection, he said that, in accordance with the resolution of the Fifteenth FAO Conference, a high-level Special Committee on Agrarian Reform had been set up under the chairmanship of Dr. Carlos Lleras Restrepo, the former President of Colombia, which would analyse agrarian reform experience throughout the world during the sixties and suggest strategies which should be adopted in this field by the United Nations agencies, and in particular by FAO during the Second Development Decade.

33. He then mentioned the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development, which was an updating, re-examination and reorientation of the Indicative World Plan, which FAO is carrying out in accordance with the respective Resolution of the Fifteenth FAO Conference, in which the opinion of the Latin American countries had been decisive. Pursuant to one of the paragraphs of that Resolution, he mentioned the long-term studies on the principal economic sectors of the developed countries, which were being carried out by the Economic Commission for Europe in collaboration with FAO.

34. Turning to the Pearson Report, he said that it constituted one of the most authoritative analyses of the development situation, inasmuch as it sets out a clear strategy for action in matters of foreign trade, investment and financial assistance, and that he unreservedly supported its recommendations on these matters. Unfortunately, there was little evidence that its proposals concerning the amount of aid required from the developed countries were on the way to being implemented, especially as regards financial aid to national development programmes. Nor did the developed countries seem to be doing much to liberalize their imports from the developing world.

35. With regard to the Jackson report, he recognized its usefulness in bringing a new look into the UNDP system of operation. However, he mentioned FAO's disagreement with the report concerning the relationship between UNDP and the specialized agencies, especially in regard to the scheme of dependence which it established. Although recognizing the validity of UNDP leadership, FAO liked to think in terms of partnership more than of dependence, and he drew attention to the consensus arrived at in the Economic and Social Council, which emphasized this idea.

36. One specific aspect which would have a very great impact on future work was country programming, which should gradually replace the present system of ad-hoc submission and approval of projects with a process of joint identification by each government and UNDP and its agencies, of sectors or subsectors where UNDP support would be of the greatest value to the objectives set forth in national development plans. With regard to food and agriculture, this would mean the involvement of the respective national ministries and of FAO acting through its Country Representatives.

37. He then made a brief reference to the Second World Food Congress in The Hague. In his view, this had been a very invigorating experience for the Organization. He felt that the criticisms and the aggressive part played by some of the young people who were present had been greatly exaggerated and that the contribution of youth, motivated as it had been by a real concern for the suffering of others, had been healthy and constructive. It was necessary to open the doors to young people in order to win their loyalty to the Organization's causes. The constant insistence on the need to humanize the development process had undoubtedly been the theme that had emerged most strongly from the Congress.

38. He then analysed the situation of food and agriculture in Latin America, which he found disquieting. Although it had been encouraging to see that overall economic growth in 1969 had been substantial, in most countries the agricultural sector had lagged far behind the rest of the economy. It was true that there had been sizable gains in the production of some commodities but agriculture as a whole was far from making the contribution that it should to Latin America's economic and social development. Here he wished to mention a few salient points. In the first place, the countries of the Region must greatly increase their investments in agriculture. Secondly, average levels of nutrition were low and concealed the fact of the coexistence of an extremely well-fed minority with a vast and poorly nourished majority. This was really a consequence of the inequality of incomes already mentioned, and was liable to spark off violence.

39. Increased protein production was of special importance in regard to the problem of low nutritional levels. There was no doubt that progress could be made in this field by encouraging the production of high-protein cereals, but it was clear that, as the income of the poor began to rise, there would be a growing demand for animal protein. Thus, one of the main priorities facing the Region was to accelerate the development of livestock production.

40. Another major problem facing Latin America was the question of international trade. To be realistic, not much could be hoped for from trade with countries outside of the Region from the point of view of finding solutions to the Region's main problems: first, because of the existing perspectives and, second, because even if such trade were greatly increased it would not have much impact on regional development. He therefore urged that special importance be devoted to intra-regional trade. However, progress in this direction could be described as modest. In this respect, he mentioned that FAO was actively cooperating with the different integration processes currently under way in Latin America.

41. FAO desired nothing better than to collaborate effectively in solving the Region's agricultural problems. For this purpose, besides resources under the Regular Programme, there existed very considerable extra-budgetary resources which were available to FAO or which could potentially be channeled through FAO. For example, there were the funds obtained by FAO from UNDP for technical assistance and pre-investment studies and also the growing cooperation with bilateral programmes, such as the recent agreement with the three Scandinavian countries, under which they supplied FAO with resources to carry out certain special projects; several other examples were also mentioned. FAO was thus a much more powerful instrument than was sometimes thought and the extent to which it was utilized depended on the countries.



42. He concluded by saying that peace and progress could only be achieved if countries were prepared to take a world view. In the Second Development Decade there would be many more millions of people in search of food, shelter and work. The dangers that would arise from this situation could only be conquered if there was unity of will and action in the world as a whole. It was that unity which must be sought above all else.

Statement by Mr. Francisco Aquino, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme

43. Mr. Aquino began his statement by giving a brief summary of the scope of operations carried out by the World Food Programme (WFP). Besides emergency operations, which had absorbed 90 million dollars in food, by the end of September 459 projects had been approved in 83 developing countries, with WFP contributing a total of nearly 950 million dollars. Of this sum, more than half had been allocated to agricultural development projects and about a third to improve the diet of the school and pre-school population as well as of pregnant and nursing mothers. A large part of the rest - some 150 million dollars - had been allocated to the financing of infrastructure and community development projects, mainly in rural areas.

44. In regard to Latin America, he pointed out that to date 72 projects for economic and social development had been approved in 19 countries, to which the Programme had promised to contribute food worth 126 million dollars. This figure represented a threefold increase of activities in the Region since the report presented to the Tenth FAO Regional Conference.

45. It should be recognised, however, that the total contribution of WFP to agriculture in Latin America up to the present time - some 16 million dollars - had been relatively modest and contrasted with the situation in other regions like North Africa, the Middle East and Asia, where agricultural projects had accounted for the bulk of the aid granted by the Programme.

46. Recent experience in rural development projects in Mexico and some of the Andean countries aroused hope that in the future it would be possible to substantially expand the contribution of WFP to the agricultural development of the Region, especially through projects that generated new employment opportunities. In this respect, the decision of several countries to broaden the scope of their agrarian reform programmes, with emphasis on the formation of cooperatives and other types of community associations, would facilitate the administration of food aid in the form of direct distribution to peasant families during the first year of settlement, or as feed for livestock, or part payment to labour engaged in drainage, small irrigation, and other infrastructural works.

47. Somewhat outside the traditional framework of WFP, it was hoped to begin negotiations soon with the regional agencies of the Central American Common Market for an initial operation designed to stabilise the prices of certain basic commodities like maize, rice and beans, which would absorb some 11 million dollars. He went on to state that the resources of the Programme committed to date for food aid to schools and other special groups amounted to almost 93 million dollars for the Region.

48. He expressed his concern over how little was known about the effects of this type of aid on the domestic economy and, in particular, on the agricultural output of the country that received it; normally this kind of operation was not coordinated with programming at a national level. It is

hoped that the National Programme for Nutritional Education and Food Supplements (PRONENCA) in Colombia, to which WFP was contributing 42.5 million dollars, would make it possible to draw up a basic plan of nutrition and food which was fully integrated with national plans and with action by various voluntary bilateral aid agencies.

49. He referred to the report on "Food Aid and Related Questions during the Second United Nations Development Decade", approved in April of this year by the Intergovernmental Programme Committee and submitted to the Fifteenth General Assembly then meeting in New York. One of its main recommendations referred to the advisability of channeling food aid through multilateral mechanisms. It also recommended an expansion of multilateral food aid and a diversification of its resources.

50. In conclusion, he appealed to the countries of the Region to play a leading role in this great multilateral undertaking, for which WFP was prepared to be an effective instrument.

Statement by Mr. Carlos Quintana, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America

51. Mr. Quintana first remarked on the close bonds which had existed between FAO and ECLA for many years. These had resulted in a fruitful collaboration which should be maintained and strengthened in the future. He pointed to the agreements that had led to broader joint action in such fields as the development of the forest, fishery and food industries, the technical assistance given to the Board of the Cartagena Agreement and the planning of work for United Nations strategy during the Second Development Decade.

52. He went on to review the evolution of the Latin American economy during the sixties. During that period, the rate of development in the region had been relatively slow and uneven, although it accelerated in the final years of the decade. This process had also suffered profound internal imbalances, chiefly manifested in the concentration of technical progress and higher productivity in certain sectors and regions, the extreme concentration of income in a small proportion of the population and the obvious inability of the system to absorb the available labour force, which had worsened the problem of open and disguised unemployment.

53. He also referred to the low growth rate in exports from the Region during a period of exceptional expansion in international trade, which was reflected in a reduction of the Latin American share in the world total from 11.1 percent in 1950 to only 4.8 percent in 1969. At the same time, import demand has tended to exceed the limits set by export income, which had led to a growing foreign debt and to a dangerous increase in the outflow of payments. Together with this, more and more economic activities had come under foreign control, which not only accentuated external dependence but also added to the financial burden of remittances abroad.

54. An analysis of the relations between the increase in domestic product, investment and foreign trade showed that import level had been one of the principal indicators of the rate of development reached by the Latin American economies. Naturally, there were exceptions but, broadly speaking, the periods in which domestic product had grown most rapidly coincided with those in which imports had risen even more sharply, which was reflected in a corresponding rise in the rate of investment. On the other hand, exactly

the reverse had occurred in the early years of the decade. As for exports, they had kept pace with domestic product, with the exception of 1969, when exports had shot ahead.

55. This dynamic effect of imports on economic development had, from 1966 onwards, been accompanied by a substantial reduction in the surplus in the trade balance, which, added to the chronic regional deficit in services, resulted in large negative balances in the current account and consequently an increase in the foreign debt. This intensified the problem of servicing the foreign debt, which absorbed more and more of export income in spite of the increase in the latter.

56. Within this context, he added, agriculture had been one of the restraining elements on development in the Region, because its growth rate had been slowing down. The significance of this decline could be appreciated when one considered that this sector contributed one-fifth of the GDP of the Region and that almost half the population depended on it.

57. This poor performance, he stressed, had aggravated the nutritional problem that affects large areas of Latin America. It was important to bear in mind, nonetheless, that the dietary deficiency derived not so much from lack of production as from the low purchasing power of the population. ECLA figures on income distribution in Latin America showed that vast groups received such low incomes that they had no possibility of obtaining adequate food, much less goods and services.

58. The contraction of both domestic and foreign markets largely explained the low growth rate of agricultural activity. Because of the importance of this sector in the economy as a whole and the poor prospects for the agricultural products of the region in international markets, it must be concluded that the chief impulse to agriculture lay in a substantial change in income distribution which would give the deprived social groups far greater purchasing power for goods and services.

59. In his opinion, poverty acquired a special dimension in rural areas, where massive unemployment was closely related to the concentration of income and property. According to ECLA studies, more than 80 million Latin Americans, who depended on agriculture for their livelihood, received a per capita income that barely reached 100 dollars per year.

60. Among the principal causes of this situation was the continued concentration of land and income in the hands of a relatively small number of landholders. In spite of the agrarian reform laws enacted by most of the Latin American countries, the process of change has been either very slow or virtually non-existent. Because agrarian reform is an eminently political process, it can only succeed, whatever the form it takes, if it effects a profound change in the existing rural economic and power structures; that is to say, it must be conceived and applied on a much more profound and far-reaching scale than anything done thus far.

61. Furthermore, the technological level of most farming remained very low, despite the work done in agricultural research. Nevertheless, through better credit and investment policies, a strengthening of the agencies of agricultural research and extension, and other measures, technical progress could reach many more producers. In his opinion, however, an intensification of technological advances that did not fit into a comprehensive programme to improve the situation of the peasants and to alleviate or

eliminate unemployment could result in further concentration of power and less employment opportunities. This would exacerbate the problem throughout society, inasmuch as historical experience has shown that the urban sectors have barely been able to maintain gainful employment for their own natural population increase.

62. In contrast to the above, he pointed to magnificent opportunities that exist to give a special impulse to agriculture and in general to the Latin American economy. As an example, he cited the brilliant prospects for industries such as forestry, fisheries, fruit and vegetable canning and numerous others. The regional market for products of the industries producing agricultural inputs could expand enormously, especially if programmes of social change like those outlined in his statement were put into effect. Such a strong industrial development based on agriculture would clearly have a notable impact on the problems of rural and urban employment, as well as on the overall rate of economic development.

63. In addition, improving the mechanisms of economic integration would assist in bringing about the structural changes. He pointed out in this respect, however, that given the conditions peculiar to agriculture, it would not be practical to carry out integration by the indiscriminate elimination of barriers to free trade in agricultural products. All countries, to a greater or lesser extent, faced seriously social problems in some of most of the subsectors composing their agriculture, which would be worsened by an unrestricted opening of the frontiers. Nevertheless, from a long-term standpoint this problem acquired a new dimension. If it was considered that in the next fifteen years the demand for agricultural products would be doubled, it was quite possible to conceive some kind of mechanism for a gradual adjustment that, without too severely affecting the present units of production, would harmonise the agricultural development of individual countries with that of the region or subregions.

64. The foregoing would only be possible to the degree that national agrarian policies could be coordinated. In other words, in regards to the agricultural sector, rather than continue to concentrate on the purely domestic problems of each country, future efforts should be cooperative and converge on those areas where the problems are less difficult.

Statement by Mr. Remy Freire, Representative of the Organization of American States

65. Mr. Freire made a brief statement to convey the greetings of the Secretary-General of OAS, Mr. Galo Plaza. He also referred to the admonition by His Excellency the President of Venezuela, that those responsible for making decisions should have a clear awareness of the real nature of the problems affecting Latin American agriculture. He concluded by stressing the importance that OAS accorded to its relations with FAO, especially its participation in the annual country studies carried out by CIAP.

Statement by Mr. José Emilio G. Araujo, Director-General of the Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Sciences

66. In expressing his thanks for the invitation to speak at the first plenary session of the Conference, Mr. Araujo emphasised the excellent relationship that existed between FAO and IICA, based on the sincere and

firm intention of coordinating and integrating the efforts of the world agency and the regional agency responsible for the international promotion of agricultural development.

67. As an example, he cited the technical meeting held in Santiago in January 1970 by experts from both institutions and resulting in a document establishing a framework for the promotion of the process of agrarian reform in Latin America. These proposals served as the basis for the frame of reference adopted by those participating in the Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform of this Conference. The agreement between the two institutions was not limited, however, to concepts but extended to their mode of operation, maintaining a unity of objectives and thus avoiding duplication of efforts.

68. The basic strategy of action of both agencies consisted in concentrating their efforts on the strengthening of the national institutions responsible for developing agriculture and transforming rural life, the only way to bring such institutions to a level where they could operate efficiently without depending on outside help. As regards international aid, he said, there was only room for that kind which was faithfully and rigorously adapted to the requirements, aspirations and potentialities of the countries.

69. He emphasised that IICA and FAO also coincided in their growing concern with helping countries to draw up development schemes in accord with their actual circumstances. It became daily more evident that a greater output of goods and services in the countries was not sufficient to achieve the happiness of their inhabitants, because this by itself did not lead to an equitable distribution of such goods and services, nor to their proper use. On the contrary, a dehumanised progress might worsen underdevelopment and consolidate the domination of majorities by minorities. The development of man was a prerequisite for the development of the environment that governed his destiny.

70. Within this concept of development, IICA and FAO were called upon to fulfill rather different missions. The action of IICA was essentially aimed at the strengthening of agricultural institutions and he cited the support given to institutions for agricultural training at various levels, to physiological and socio-economic research, to promotion of structural change, etc.

71. He then referred to the problem of hunger which affected millions of Latin Americans and was the product of a dramatic shortage of employment and a threatening demographic explosion. Only through a change in the very structure of power in society could the countries make effective progress. This required a change in the behaviour of people, which was a formidable challenge and for which the time available was limited. There were no suitable systems of communication to incorporate the masses into the great development enterprise of which they must be both subject and object. In particular, he noted the situation of the great rural masses which were not only outside the economy of the country but also of its culture and politics.

72. In conclusion, he emphasised the role that FAO and IICA must play as catalysts and promoters of innovations vital to development, and in the assistance and stimulation of countries to achieve social transformation. Without this transformation the result would be a painful impotence to provide human beings with the welfare and prosperity that were compatible with their highest values: dignity and liberty.

Statement by the Representative of UNICEF, Mr. Roberto Esguerra-Barry

73. Mr. Esguerra-Barry expressed the satisfaction of UNICEF for the high degree of coordination that had been attained in the joint activities with FAO in Latin America, a coordination which has been aided by the decentralisation being promoted by FAO's Director-General. It was in the field of nutrition that such coordination had achieved its highest degree, because this field was considered as one of the objectives of development. The evaluation of past successes and failures constituted the basis for future planning.

74. He referred to the recent Prebisch Report, which defined the decade of the sixties as a period of development without development policies. The field of food and nutrition was clear proof of this. Progress had been made in clinical aspects, production, etc., but substantial social unbalances still continued. For this reason UNICEF, together with FAO, ECLA, WHO, WFP, UNDP and the Inter-American system, intended to concentrate on the promotion of food and nutrition policies. The organisation of a series of sub-regional Seminars with the participation of health, agriculture, planning, transport and other specialists, was proposed as a first step in this direction. The first of these Seminars would relate to the countries of the Andean Pact. As a second step, the training of the planners and technicians required in the countries for the formulation of national food and nutrition policies would be stimulated. And finally, if the countries so desired, the appropriate financing organisations could be approached, asking them to collaborate in the formulation of national plans which included specific policies in these fields. He concluded by stating that the problems of food and nutrition were not of a sentimental or humanistic nature, but were basic to Latin America's development.

Statement by Mr. Juan Felipe Yriart, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Latin America

75. Mr. Yriart began his statement by referring to the significance of this period in which mankind and especially Latin America was living. At the beginning of the Second Development Decade proclaimed by the United Nations, the Latin American countries faced severe internal tensions which were the result of the continued poverty of vast population groups together with the rising impatience felt by the Latin American masses. They found it less and less possible to accept the disparities between their way of life and that enjoyed by more developed regions, and also by privileged minorities within their own region. The people of the developing countries no longer accepted timid schemes with long-term results. They demanded immediate action resulting in a visible improvement of their living standards in the course of this generation and they also expected to participate in the process that would govern their future.

76. Development was the task of all sectors of the economy. Agriculture would not be the only sector to absorb the growing population of these countries but nonetheless, emotionally, great hope was placed in it for the achievement of better and more just socio-economic levels.

77. In reference to population increase and its relation with food production, he emphasised that the problem was not just to produce sufficiently in Latin America for its own inhabitants, but that it should be taken into account that the Region was endowed with a magnificent potential for supplying food to a much greater proportion of mankind.

78. He made clear his concern over the figures for agricultural production in Latin America over the last 20 years, which showed a steady decline in their growth rate. Moreover, these figures were only a regional average and therefore concealed substantial differences between countries, which meant that in some of the countries the situation was even more serious.

79. If other socio-economic considerations were added to this analysis of production trends, the conclusion was that, in general, the prospects for Latin American agriculture were discouraging. In fact, he added, even the limited progress achieved had not been uniform among the various social strata participating in the productive process. Judging by the fragmentary information available, some groups had advanced more rapidly than others. If this had been so, it would mean that certain groups of the rural population, probably the majority, had virtually not improved their real situation in recent years and it was even possible that in many cases their situation might have deteriorated.

80. In reference to the nutritional levels of large sectors of the Latin American population, which were already low in the last decade, he observed that they had apparently dropped even further. Large sectors of the rural population were impoverished and characterised by a high proportion of unemployment or underemployment as well as low nutritional levels.

81. As an indication of the techniques now used and the degree of utilisation of resources, he said that, although half the agricultural land was of low fertility and a substantial part of the rest presented problems of slope, drainage and aridity, the Region employed an average of only 20 Kg/ha of fertilizers against 356 Kg in Japan and 400 Kg in Holland. Of 108 million irrigable hectares, only 12 million were being irrigated at present. Regarding land reserves, there were estimated to be about 400 to 600 million Ha available, which represented an area six times larger than that currently used.

82. The data presented indicated not only the vast unused productive capacity but also the need to improve soil preparation, to make better use of water for irrigation, to improve soil conservation practices as well as cultivating and harvesting methods, to apply fertilizers, pesticides, etc., and above all, to humanise agricultural work in the fullest sense of the word.

83. In thus examining recent production trends, socio-economic problems of the countryside and some of the principal technological aspects, one point should be made clear: the important role that Latin American agriculture must play depends on the wise and balanced use of the measures aimed at structural changes in the sector and on the utilisation of adequate technological advances - all of this in accord with the socio-economic circumstances of each country.

84. It was not enough, however, to win the race between population growth and the increase in agricultural output. It was even more important that this larger population should really possess the economic means to acquire that additional output. He declared that measures and policies must be adopted which would produce a change in income distribution patterns and in present employment structures. The creation of new employment both within and outside agriculture should be one of the principal instruments in providing those impoverished masses with a secure and expanding family income. With the stimulus generated by greater demand, all the technological means

available to modern man could be employed in order to extract greater yields from the land and thereby give a more vigorous impulse to agricultural production. By creating a framework of internal demand, it would not be difficult to put all available resources to a more intensive and rational use.

85. As regards the agricultural sector, in some countries better income distribution would require agrarian reform programmes that tackled with the same vigor problems, not only of land tenure and of access to means of production, but also of increased output and productivity through training in the use of the appropriate technology.

86. In the face of the present difficulty in productively absorbing the huge surplus of rural population into activities outside of agriculture, it was also imperative that the problem of the minifundio be attacked. The implementation of an effective agrarian reform programme, he added, would require a multi-disciplinary approach which must necessarily include technical and financial assistance, technical and economic research, personnel training, the dissemination of research results and, naturally, the political action connected with land tenure.

87. Livestock, he stated, was a key sector in the agricultural development of Latin America, not only because this sector had developed slowly in the past but also because it was the sector that could contribute the great amount of proteins of animal origin required in the Latin American diet. Moreover, it offered an enormous productive potential which could meet the accelerated growth in internal demand and the favourable prospects offered by world markets for these products.

88. It would be necessary to intensify promotional activities, finding new pathways leading to additional long-term benefits. He mentioned the report of the Technical Committee on Livestock Development which made clear the high priority given by the countries to the establishment of a regional training programme at existing centres in order that countries might prepare in the required number and quality, their own professionals in this field. He also mentioned other priorities assigned by this Committee such as the promotion of diversification programmes and the strengthening of FAO activities in animal health and the production and marketing of livestock products.

89. Referring to the role that should be played by technological innovations, he emphasised that historically they had been a force in social and economic progress. Only by changing and even in some cases destroying incompatible social and economic structures would it be possible to overcome the obstacles to this process. It was becoming increasingly clear that technology could serve as an instrument that contributed to the rational control of the historical forces that so far have hindered man in his struggle for economic and social emancipation. The formulation of a technological strategy should be based on adequate identification and a constant search for those areas in which technological innovations appropriate to the conditions of the less developed societies could bring benefits and create only minimum social problems.

90. The application of technology in Latin America should be adapted not only to prevailing physical conditions but also to social, economic and administrative factors. FAO, he said, must devote part of its efforts to the field of technology and research.



91. He mentioned his personal interest in and concern about the urgent need to launch research programmes in autochthonous crops. Latin America must not forget these crops; this would demand a regional effort in which FAO would be honoured to collaborate.

92. In the future, more attention must also be paid to problems of the environment and of the use of natural resources. These were problems which so far probably only a few countries of the Region had confronted but to which thought must be given in time to keep the price of development from being the gradual deterioration of the human environment.

93. In referring to the activities of FAO in the Region since the Tenth Regional Conference, he drew attention to the work done by experts of the Regional Office, Headquarters and field programmes.

94. He then went on to mention the consultation on the Indicative World Plan regional study, recommended by governments at the Jamaica Conference and carried out in Santiago in July 1969. The report of the consultation had been submitted to the Fifteenth FAO Conference and, thanks to joint action by the Latin American delegations, had been of great influence in the adoption of Resolution 1/69 on perspective studies of world agricultural development which were now being carried out by FAO at regional level.

95. He described, among other FAO activities, the creation of Regional Groups on Agrarian Reform and Livestock Development in the Regional Office.

96. With regard to the Second World Food Congress in The Hague, he remarked on the active participation of youth, pointing out that it was evident that this generation had taken up every intellectual and physical weapon against poverty and injustice.

97. In relation to the medium-term programmes, he emphasised the need to concentrate efforts and identify priority problems in order to act more effectively, given the available resources. Within this scheme, the FAO Regional Office could play a very important role in giving a Latin American tone to the knowledge, experience and ability of the Organisation in dealing with the problems of this continent, whether for each country individually or for the Region as a whole.

98. He then referred to the profound changes which had taken place in the field structure of FAO, to the adjustment in the instruments and methodology of the work of the Regional Office as recommended by the countries at the Jamaica Conference and to the reorganisation of the United Nations Development Programme which should also result in a better orientation of FAO assistance.

99. He noted the work that FAO had been doing to collaborate with Latin American integration movements such as LAFTA, the Andean Pact, SIECA and CARIFTA, to ensure a better and more efficient coordination of resources and programmes in the Region.

100. He attached special importance to the actions taken to strengthen and reinforce the cooperation of FAO with the regional and sub-regional multi-lateral or bilateral agencies.

101. In referring to ECLA, he emphasised the work of the Joint Agricultural Division, which placed the agricultural sector in its proper framework

within the general economy of countries. He went on to mention the achievements of the FAO/ECLA/UNIDO Forestry Advisory Group and the commencement of activities by the Group on Food Industries Development with those same agencies. He noted the collaboration of ECLA econometrists in the work carried out by FAO with GAFICA and, in general, on behalf of activities connected with the Second Development Decade.

102. With respect to relations with the Inter-American system, he stressed the close, continuous and frank relationship which had developed with OAS, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, the Pan-American Health Organisation, the Inter-American Committee for the Alliance for Progress and the Inter-American Development Bank.

103. Another important field had been the growing collaboration of FAO in the preparation of the yearly meetings of CIAP sub-committees at the country level. This ensured the consideration in depth of the agricultural sector in those important deliberations which oriented national country planning and the assistance of international financing agencies.

104. Efforts were being made to establish the bases for coordination and even for joint action with IICA on the assumption of identical criteria concerning the contribution which both Organisations could make to agricultural development in the Region. He said that collaboration in the fields of agrarian reform and extension was especially important.

105. He mentioned the long-standing and close relationship with the Pan-American Health Organisation through the Inter-American Centres for Foot and Mouth Disease and Zoonosis. In connection with foot and mouth disease, programmes were being designed through which FAO would be able to contribute to the Pan-American Health Organisation with its human resources, its world experience, and its access to the science and technology of other regions. With that Organisation, moreover, a vast new field of joint activities had been opened up in the areas of food and nutrition.

106. With respect to the Inter-American Development Bank, he said that for 1971 it was hoped to be able to more than double the Cooperative Programme devoted to the study of financing projects in the countries. FAO had increased its financial contribution to the Cooperative Programme and was assigning an increasing number of full-time experts to carry out missions under this Programme.

107. He also drew attention to the growing coordination between technical assistance activities of FAO and the financial activities of IDB. This relationship had the understanding and support of the United Nations Development Programme. As an example, he mentioned the assistance furnished to the Government of Peru in the implementation of its agrarian reform programmes. He also drew attention to the contribution being made by the Inter-American Development Bank to the financing of agricultural research and adaptation of technology programmes.

108. He also referred to the importance of communications in the modern world and said that FAO would stress the use of these new instruments in support of development and that attempts would be made to raise their efficiency to the maximum degree, taking advantage of the most modern means offered by the current electronic age.

109. He stated that FAO personnel were not overwhelmed by the magnitude and complexity of the task that must be carried out in order to contribute to the efforts of the nations in this Region to achieve the full development of their agricultural resources and the wellbeing of their population. The strength of FAO lies in its world character, which made it possible to transfer knowledge as had never been done before in history, in relation to agriculture.

110. The possibility of effective action on the part of FAO in promoting agriculture, so that this sector might play its role in the consolidation of a just society in which the needs of man could be adequately satisfied, paradoxically lies in the humility with which such a task was undertaken.

111. He concluded with the assurance that FAO would not overlook the fact that it was the governments which, on behalf of their people, must take the difficult decisions as to what was possible. The wealth represented by the Region's soils, water, forests and seas were a challenge to FAO, which had made every effort to submit suggestions and alternative possibilities of action for the consideration of governments. What was required, nevertheless, was the participation of national technicians and leaders in order to define in which fields and in what manner FAO action would be most useful to Latin America.

#### Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of FAO

112. The Chairman of the Conference observed that on 16 October FAO was 25 years old and he paid it homage by saying that as an Organisation it was making an authentic contribution to world development and by praising, in the name of the Venezuelan Government, the collaboration of FAO in the agricultural progress of his country. The Regional Representative, after thanking the Chairman on behalf of the Director-General, read the relevant paragraphs of the Constitution of the Organisation related to its objectives; he then stated that in spite of all its accomplishments, it still had fundamental tasks to fulfill. In view of its ability to transfer knowledge, FAO must now help to solve the socio-economic problems of agriculture so that modern techniques could be productive and effective.

113. The Independent Chairman of the FAO Council, Mr. Michel Cépède, remarked on the hopes placed in FAO when it was founded in 1945 and urged the countries to continue with increasing energy the battle against hunger and malnutrition. He added that we were, at present, much better informed about the somber situation that existed in many parts of the world and that this awareness, this greater information, compelled us to do everything in our power to guarantee to all men their first freedom, the freedom from hunger.

114. Several delegations made similar reference to the significance of this anniversary of the Organization and they approved by unanimous consent the following resolution:

#### RESOLUTION 1/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

#### Considering:

1. That on 16 October 1970 the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations will be 25 years old;

2. That this Organisation, in accordance with its objectives, plays an immensely important role in promoting the development of food and agriculture and in improving the living conditions of rural populations;
3. That, notwithstanding the progress made, it is indispensable that FAO intensify still further its action in Latin America in order to spur on the social changes and technological progress which will permit the effective achievement of these objectives;

Resolves:

1. To present to FAO on the 25th anniversary of its foundation a heart-felt greeting in recognition of the work it has accomplished to date;
2. To express the hope that the action of FAO in Latin America will be intensified, paying special attention to the need to advise on and cooperate in the rapid transformation of agrarian structures, which should include the incorporation of the most modern techniques in exploiting existing land and water resources;
3. To offer to the Director-General and the Regional Representative for Latin America the support of the countries represented at this Conference, urging them to take into account the priority lines of action laid down at the 11th Regional Conference when considering FAO's future Programmes of Work.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

General Debate

115. In accordance with the agenda that had been adopted, the Conference opened a general debate on the items to which the Regional Representative had referred in his statement, that is, situation and prospects for food and agriculture, FAO's activities in the Region, and medium-term programmes. There was general agreement by Delegations that the documents presented by the Secretariat on these topics, especially LARC/70/8 and the one prepared by the Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform (LARC/70/6), were a new departure in FAO documents. In these papers, FAO took a serious and courageous look at the problems of Latin America; the papers were not merely descriptive but detailed documents of excellent quality which revealed a committed and realistic approach on the part of FAO.

116. Delegations were in unanimous agreement on the utility of the new organisation whereby the Regional Conference was divided into two stages, with meetings at ministerial level preceded by meetings of technical committees in which topics of fundamental interest to the countries could be more thoroughly discussed. Satisfaction was expressed at the results achieved by the Technical Committees on Agrarian Reform and Livestock Development. The elimination of country statements, which helped to concentrate discussion on the fundamental items of the Conference, was also the subject of favourable comment.

117. Another matter on which there was agreement among a number of delegations was that progress had been made in the functional decentralisation of FAO, with a consequent strengthening of countries' confidence in the Organisation. That, however, did not mean that the countries considered

that enough progress had been made in that direction. Without advocating complete autonomy for the FAO services in the Region, delegations repeatedly stressed the desirability of according greater decision-making authority to the Regional Office, a point the Director-General had mentioned in his opening statement. Several delegations considered that there was a top-heavy concentration of functions and resources at Headquarters.

118. The delegations took note of the explanations given by the Director-General and, as they had done at the Tenth Regional Conference, again stressed the fact that there were very few Latin Americans in posts of responsibility at FAO in Rome, which meant that they had little to do with the decision-making process.

119. As to the personnel assigned to the Region, it was felt that they were too few in number to meet the countries' requirements. It was also stated that FAO should take greater care in selecting personnel. The philosophy of the experts was not always consistent with that of the FAO, which had always emphasised, the close link between economic and social development, and the part to be played by man in the development process.

120. Stress was laid by various speakers on the need for FAO patterns of work to be adapted to the human and institutional characteristics of Latin America. The greatest contribution that the Organisation could make to the Region was in aiding countries to prepare their own technicians adequately so that they would be the tools of the development of their countries. However, it meant that FAO would have to direct its action at strengthening existing national or regional institutions in Latin America.

121. Several delegations declared that, in their opinion, there had been great improvement in the orientation of the work carried out by FAO to solve the problems of Latin America. Favourable reference was made to the creation of the Special Committee on Agrarian Reform, the growing coordination with the several Inter-American and regional agencies, and the support given to the regional and sub-regional integration agencies. It was also stated that one of the most efficient forms of FAO action were the UNDP projects, for which it acted as executing agency, especially when those projects were integrated into and strengthened existing national agencies, without duplicating them.

122. Satisfaction was expressed over the growing number of FAO Country Representatives. Nevertheless, one delegation remarked on the lack of representation in his country, which he invited the Regional Representative to visit so that he might realise the seriousness of its agricultural problems.

123. It was pointed out that the remoteness of FAO from Latin America, mentioned by the Director-General in his opening statement, had existed and that the rapprochement should be mutual. A tangible proof of this had been the proposal by Argentina at the Second Consultation on Meat and Poultry, when it proposed itself as the Headquarters of the Permanent Study Group, for which it has offered financing, which meant almost a doubling of its annual contribution to FAO.

124. Several delegations agreed that the somber diagnosis of the Latin American situation presented in document LARC/70/8 was correct: special importance was attributed to the problem of malnutrition, which was a consequence of poor income distribution and of the increasing shortage of employment opportunities.

125. With regard to the development strategy mentioned in the initial statements and set out in document LARC/70/8, several delegations agreed that, although the importance of income redistribution was recognised as a driving factor of internal demand and, thus, of agricultural production, the document did not place enough emphasis on the growth of exports. Thus, that strategy was not valid for countries like Argentina and Uruguay, where, owing to existing levels of food consumption and the low income elasticity of demand for agricultural products, income redistribution would basically benefit the demand for industrial goods and services. For the remaining countries the strategy would transform the potential demand of vast strata of the population into effective demand, which could give impetus to the sector but would simultaneously generate various qualitative imbalances between supply and demand. Such imbalances would have to be offset by additional imports, thereby burdening the balance of payments.

126. In short, in various degrees, questions of foreign trade in agricultural products continued to represent a key problem in regard to development of the sector. Hence, without disregarding the importance of promoting internal demand as a development strategy, the delegates indicated that such action should be given an order of priority similar to that assigned to the quest for solutions which would expand exports of products of the Region. It was important to emphasise that point, inasmuch as the strategy of inward-directed development arising from document LARC/70/8 might weaken the negotiating position of the Latin American countries with respect to the developed countries. The latter, on the basis of such an argument, were apt to maintain that Latin America should first concern itself with expanding its own domestic market, thus improving income distribution, before tackling problems of how to dispose of its exportable surpluses.

127. In connection with this topic it was mentioned that the strategy of inward-directed development was of greater validity in a regional context. From this point of view, certain policies of self-sufficiency advocated in the national agricultural development plans drawn up by various Latin American countries possessed no real justification.

128. Several delegations expressed their full agreement with the position taken by the Director-General on the Pearson and Jackson reports. In regard to the first, it was pointed out that the developed countries were doing little or nothing to liberalise imports from the developing countries or to allocate one percent of their Gross National Product (GNP) to the aid of those countries. They also signified their agreement with the proposal contained in the Jackson report on the programming of international technical assistance at the national level, with which UNDP, the executing agency associated with UNDP, the national planning agencies and the respective Ministries would all be concerned.

129. One delegation mentioned certain problems that had arisen in connection with the World Food Programme owing to the lack of coordination in the arrival of this aid and the needs of the recipient country.

130. The observer of the Holy See said that His Holiness fully endorsed the necessity of effecting structural changes in the developing countries, and he mentioned an important contribution made to the IDB to assist agrarian reform in Latin America. He likewise stressed the desirability of using the prestige enjoyed by religious leaders in rural communities to channel FAO aid. He pointed out that those leader and rural teachers were often ignorant of what FAO was and what it could do.

131. Mr. M. Cépède, the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council, referred to the structure of the Organisation and the importance of inter-country collaboration, since FAO was above all an inter-governmental organisation. FAO could only do what its member countries asked it to do, and only if they allocated the necessary resources to it. He stressed that, in his capacity as Independent Chairman of the Council, a post to which he was elected by the FAO Conference, he was in a position to keep in close touch with countries and in this way to make known the desires and needs of member countries to the directive levels of the Organisation.

132. Mr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Chairman of the FAO Programme Committee, began his statement by emphasising the timeliness of the Regional Conference, since the Programme Committee would meet in November 1970 closely followed by the FAO Council, at which the report of the Conference's deliberations and recommendations would be studied with close attention. Likewise, when item 13 was discussed, countries would be able to give direct expression to what they expected from FAO and the priorities they assigned to its activities and suggest ways in which such activities could be improved. There had been an obvious improvement in FAO's work in Latin America in the past few years. In his view, the progress achieved, which had been recognised by the countries, should not be regarded complacently but, on the contrary, should be considered a spur to further progress. He urged the countries to remain vigilant in this connection.

133. He singled out some FAO activities over the past two years as being specially important. These included the adoption of the programme budgeting system, programming of assistance at the country level, strengthened links with international agencies, etc. He welcomed the suggestions made by some delegations regarding the need to find more FAO resources and personnel for the Region and stressed the need to overcome the current financial difficulties. A reorientation and redistribution of the Organisation's funds was necessary.

134. Several delegations expressed their pleasure at the fact that the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council and the Chairman of the Programme Committee had been invited to attend the Regional Conference.

135. At the conclusion of the general debate the Conference unanimously approved the following resolutions:

#### RESOLUTION 2/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

#### Considering:

1. That it is essential to reorient policies and mechanisms for the furnishing of technical assistance by United Nations agencies, with the objective to make the system flexible and at the same time to base it on national and regional criteria for priorities;
2. That the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America in its Recommendation N°1/68 resolved to recommend to the Council and to the Director-General that the latter "delegate to the Regional Representative the broadest possible authority and full responsibility to enable him to work effectively without being handicapped by bureaucratic red tape, though reporting directly to the Director-General";

3. That that Conference also recommended: "that the Regional Office for Latin America be given an effective role in the centralisation of technical information within its fields of responsibility in order to meet the requirements for the evaluation of development and financing projects";
4. That any re-orientation will be incomplete if the formulation of regional strategies for agricultural development is not properly coordinated and if national and regional priorities are not suitably adjusted at the same time;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That the Regional Office for Latin America assume greater responsibilities in the joint identification and preparation with the member country or countries of the Region, of specific development projects which involve technical assistance and/or financing components, the execution phase remaining naturally excluded;
2. That the Regional Office for Latin America, in consultation with FAO Headquarters, actively promote and participate in the necessary studies for the identification of priorities for specific projects and programmes of investment and technical assistance, in collaboration with national planning bodies and with regional and international external financing agencies;
3. That the necessary coordination be established at regional and national level to enable the identification and preparation of these specific projects to be carried out within the framework of national and regional strategies for agricultural development, in support of the integration process under way in Latin America;
4. That a report be made to the FAO Regional Conferences for Latin America on actions taken specifically under this resolution and that its results be made known.

RESOLUTION 3/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. The fact that a dangerous invasion of the disease commonly known as COFFEE RUST (*Hemileia vastatrix*) was discovered in the State of Bahia, Brazil, at the beginning of this year;
2. That the governments of the coffee-producing countries of the Region immediately stated their concern at this fact, which represents a danger inasmuch as their economies would be seriously affected by spread of the disease;
3. That from 29 June to 3 July of this year a high-level scientific meeting was held in San José, Costa Rica, attended by representatives of the coffee-growing countries of America, the United States,



Portugal and several international agencies, among them FAO, and convened by the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IICA) to discuss a plan of activities at the international level for the coordination of efforts to jointly tackle this problem;

4. That the said plan is now being studied by the respective governments and international agencies which it is assumed can and should cooperate in its financing and development;
5. That, simultaneously, the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division has established an inter-disciplinary technical working party which has been acting effectively on this problem but for which has not been able to mobilise the necessary funds with which to tackle it in all its magnitude and importance;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That FAO collaborate as a matter of priority with the international cooperative programme on coffee rust proposed by the technical committee meeting at San José, Costa Rica, adopting the solution considered most advisable given the means at his disposal so that, as soon as possible and on an emergency basis, effective aid be furnished and unfavourable economic and social consequences are avoided for a large number of the countries in the hemisphere.
2. That he approach UNDP and other appropriate bilateral and multilateral agencies to obtain the necessary resources to finance this programme.

The Latin American Region in the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development and the FAO Contribution to the Second Development Decade

136. The Secretariat introduced the item and drew attention to documents LARC/70/3 and LARC/70/3/Add.1 and to certain recent events not reflected in the documents.

137. In the first place, work during the current year had been directed to carrying out to the letter the recommendations in Resolution 1/69 of the Fifteenth FAO Conference. The basic statistics for supply and demand projections had been significantly improved and brought up to date; the overall growth rates by country which served as a basis for projections of demand for agricultural products had already been determined in close collaboration with ECLA; demand projections for agricultural products were already being prepared by the Trade and Commodities Division, and income redistribution hypotheses were soon to be introduced into the demand projection model, with alternatives and methodological bases supplied by the Joint ECLA/FAO Agriculture Division. The Secretariat was devoting considerable effort to building up a methodology for agricultural supply projections, which should permit the definition of production alternatives and the identification of specific agricultural policies in terms of demand alternatives and objectives, and would form the basis for all the analyses in the Perspective Study. Those objectives were the growth of the agricultural GDP and its better distribution, nutritional levels to be attained by the consumer population, and the creation of new employment opportunities in agriculture.

138. Secondly, a brief review was given of the activities and contacts of the Policy Advisory Bureau during the first three quarters of the present year in regard to work for the Second Development Decade, both with the FAO technical divisions at Headquarters and in the Region and with various United Nations agencies such as ECLA, the ILO, CDP, etc.

139. Thirdly, the Secretariat briefly referred to some of the most important advances that had been made in regard to the Region in initial tasks connected with the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development. Particular attention was drawn to the conclusion of informal agreements with ECLA for the study of various macro economic factors. One of the most serious limitations of the Study was the impossibility of giving proper consideration to intra-sectoral and inter-sectoral analyses as part of a whole picture.

140. Lastly, in connection with assistance to sub-regional economic integration programmes, the Secretariat reported on the progress made through GAFICA in regard to the SIECA countries, and the priority being given to aid to the countries of the Andean Group. It was also announced that two FAO officials would visit the CARIFTA area immediately after the close of the Regional Conference to determine in what form any assistance might be given to that sub-regional integration group.

141. In conclusion, the Secretariat strongly urged the Conference to give due consideration to the importance of establishing practical and effective contacts with the countries of the Region; suggesting that the Conference might discuss a possible recommendation to governments that each should appoint a high-level official to act as liaison between FAO and national authorities for the implementation of Resolution 1/69 and for work on the Second Development Decade.

142. In the debate on this topic, there was generally agreement that satisfaction should be expressed by the Latin American countries with the statement contained in document LARC/70/3. This reflected a receptive attitude on the part of FAO to the Latin American criticisms of the IWP and a definite willingness to adopt their suggestions that the IWP be converted into a perspective study of development with a new orientation. In that connection, several delegations thanked the Director-General for his support of the Latin American countries' position at the Fifteenth FAO Conference, a position that was set forth in Resolution 1/69.

143. There was general agreement that the new Study would have great advantages over the IWP. Those advantages could be summed up as follows: (a) updating of the statistical basis and adoption of 1970 as the benchmark year; (b) the use of a combination of time series and spatial series (cross-sections) as a basic element in demand projections (this was important inasmuch as time series alone did not take account of depressed demand situations, such as occurred, for example, in some countries with regard to meat); (c) determination of income elasticities of demand by income strata; thus advantageously replacing the average elasticities obtained from the time series; (d) the fixing of a minimum growth rate of 6% for the GDP of developing countries as a whole, as one of the basic elements for the projections; (e) the fact that the model which would be used in the exercise would be flexible and not rigid, making it possible to try out alternative projections both of internal demand (by considering the effects of different income redistribution assumptions), of external demand (by envisaging different levels of agricultural exports), and of the supply structure (by

including its effect on employment, nutrition and income of the rural population); (f) the express mention in document LARC/70/3 of the intention to maintain close contact with the various governments during the preparation of the work; (g) the broadening of the geographical scope to cover 25 countries, including Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Trinidad and Tobago; (h) the inclusion of an analysis of the policies of the developed countries in the World Perspective Study; (i) the proposed treatment of the countries of the Andean Pact.

144. Several delegations expressed reservations, in a constructive spirit, concerning the approach adopted in the Perspective Study. The principal cause for concern was the treatment of external demand in document LARC/70/3 which was described as timid in contrast with the emphasis given to income redistribution. It was pointed out that one of the weaknesses of the Perspective Study would be the fact that the macro-economic model on which it was based was not inter-sectoral. That meant that the non-agricultural sector was treated only residually and, hence, that the cross effects of agricultural and industrial growth were not analysed. Similarly, the importance and relationship of the services sector is a spur to the growth rate of the agricultural sector and vice versa was entirely ignored. However, there was general recognition of the fact that that aspect was beyond FAO's possibilities and it should be dealt within the strategy for the Second Development Decade. Another limitation mentioned, although, there too, with recognition that it was virtually unsurmountable in present circumstances, was the fact that the projections were made at constant relative prices.

145. Attention was drawn to the danger of continuing to use the demographic growth rates so far used by international agencies, since there were very good grounds for thinking that the recent censuses in various countries would show markedly lower rates of population growth. There were indications of this in Brazil, Chile and Cuba, for instance.

146. As to the wish for closer relations with countries expressed by the Policy Advisory Bureau, the Conference supported the Secretariat's proposal that each country should appoint a high-level liaison official for the exchange of information and the discussion of provisional results as they became available. It was also suggested that, when circumstances so indicated, technical consultations should be held as an effective way of enabling governments to participate in the preparation of the study.

147. With regard to the question of FAO's limited resources, mentioned in document LARC/70/3, one delegation suggested that less emphasis be given to demand analysis and projection, a question that had already been studied many times by different agencies, and that efforts should be concentrated, more fruitfully, on the analysis of supply and of the technical structure of production.

148. The Conference unanimously approved Resolution 4/70. The delegate of Argentina, however, indicated his reservations on the second considerandum, indicating that, in his judgment, it was sufficient to refer to the need to modify the distribution of income, without specifying the means to achieve this. He objected also to the term "transformation", suggesting that it could be replaced by "evolution" or "development".

RESOLUTION 4/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

1. Having taken cognisance of document LARC/70/3 and heard the statements of the Director-General and of the Secretariat on the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development;
2. Considering that, in most of the countries of the Region, it is essential to redistribute income in benefit of the poorer sections of the population, by means of agrarian reform, fiscal policies and such other measures as each country deems appropriate, to achieve a transformation of the agriculture and national economies;
3. Considering that, besides a change in income distribution, expansion of external demand for agricultural products is a fundamental condition for the achievement of satisfactory growth targets for Latin American agriculture, and that if the current obstacles to exports by countries of the Region persist it will be impossible for their economies to grow at a rate commensurate with the magnitude of their problems;
4. Bearing in mind the desirability of harmonising and coordinating the sectoral policies of countries in order to complete the processes of regional and sub-regional integration, and the specific wish of the countries to move towards the establishment of a Latin American common market;
5. Believing it essential for the Perspective Study to be carried out in close cooperation with the countries;

Resolves:

1. To recognise the efforts made by the Organisation to transform the Indicative World Plan into a Perspective Study that would be genuinely world-wide in character;
2. To recommend to the Director-General that the strategy for bringing about a more equitable income distribution be duly taken into account in carrying out the work for the Perspective Study, consideration being given to different alternative methods for achieving such a redistribution;
3. To recommend to the Director-General that, right from the outset, various alternative growth models for extra-regional exports of Latin American agricultural products be envisaged, especially for exports to developed countries, with a view to estimating the response of the growth of Latin America's agricultural sector to each alternative;
4. To support the proposal of the Director-General and of the Regional Representative that FAO should intensify its collaboration with regional and sub-regional integration agencies wherever necessary or desirable;
5. To recommend to the Director-General that an efficient machinery be established for periodical consultations between FAO and the governments of the Region in the various preparatory phases of the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development;

6. To call on all member countries to establish an adequate liaison with FAO, in order to ensure the operation of the consultation machinery established in the preceding paragraph and to supply the relevant information concerning work on the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development in relation to the Second United Nations Development Decade.

#### Foreign Trade, Problems and Prospects for the Countries of the Region

149. In introducing this item, the Secretariat referred to the pioneering effort made by Latin America to improve the organisation of foreign trade in agricultural products. Nonetheless, even though Latin America was the most advanced of the developing regions as regards the establishment of regional and sub-regional systems of integration, it could not be said that foreign trade in agriculture was contributing in a significant way to the development of the Region.

150. FAO carried out annual studies on the situation of, and short-term prospects for, basic commodities in the world market. Every five years or so, long-term supply and demand projections were presented. Furthermore, under the auspices of the Committee on Commodity Problems, it carried out studies and convened intergovernmental consultations on ten commodities. The technical and economic analyses done collectively in the Study Groups provided the essential background for taking international action on such commodities. They likewise helped governments formulate better programs for production and development. In respect of international commodity agreements, it was pointed out that agreements could be drawn up on new commodities.

151. There were problems, however, that were too deep-rooted to be solved on the basis of single commodities. The case was cited of some temperate-zone products which Latin America exported to industrialised countries and to which such countries applied protectionist policies, such as high support prices and export subsidies. This seriously impeded the output and development of the exporting countries and led to economic losses for the world as a whole because resources were used less productively and consumers had to pay higher prices.

152. Aware of that fact, and also for reasons of cost, some developed countries were modifying their protectionist policies unilaterally. There was a growing realisation that other mechanisms must be found which would be useful not only to importing but also to exporting countries. That would require some kind of international framework for agricultural adjustment policies. For the first time, that question would be dealt with in Rome by the CCP. The role that FAO could play in that field, with the collaboration of other agencies, might be to make an objective analysis of the kind of protectionism that was practised in various countries and the degree of distortion which that produced in the economy. Moreover, FAO could serve as a forum for international discussions based on such information. Current studies of commodity projections and the agricultural sector in developed countries would provide a good starting point for an international discussion of policy adjustments.

153. It was pointed out that countries could request technical assistance, with UNDP financing, in applying FAO's global analyses to their special circumstances. In cooperation with the UNCTAD-GATT International Trade

Centre and UNDP, FAO had established a small export promotion service which was able to deal with modest requests for advice or assistance in this field.

154. The Secretariat then made some comments on regional and sub-regional integration movements. Some dangers inherent to them had been shown by the experience of the European Common Market, specially by the division of the world into too many semi-watertight trading blocks, which were more a check on, than a spur to world trade. FAO could provide various forms of assistance to integration movements, either by supplying information or by giving advice to governments in their handling of the complex problems of the agricultural sector within that process. FAO was considering convening seminar-type meetings of government representatives from regional or sub-regional integration schemes to provide an opportunity for an interchange of information and experience.

155. With reference to the technical assistance provided by FAO to strengthen Latin American integration, the Secretariat gave some explanations about the work of the FAO Advisory Group for Central American Economic Integration (GAFICA). The activities of that group, which was composed of eleven experts, were concentrated on the planning of regional agricultural development and the improvement of the common market for agricultural products. GAFICA collaborated closely with the Trade and Agricultural Development Sections of the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA). Among the activities of the Group could be mentioned its collaboration with the Regional Programme for the Price Stabilisation of Basic Grains, studies of land tenure, the improvement and unification of national systems of agricultural statistics, the promotion of extra-regional exports, etc.

156. From the beginning of 1970, the Group had been concentrating all its attention and efforts on the preparation of the Perspective Plan of Agricultural Development and Integration in Central America. The purpose of the Plan, which was being prepared with the direct help of FAO Headquarters, was to furnish a firm basis for future discussions on the coordination and harmonising of national agricultural development policies.

157. In relation to trade in fishery products, the Secretariat pointed out that there were very favourable conditions for intensification of intra-regional trade and for the promotion of common activities in the exploitation and use of fishery resources, to increase either the internal consumption of Latin America or exports to other regions. Access of fishery products for human consumption to external markets could be promoted by export policies. Finally, it was stressed that effective internal demand for these products depended on real income levels and on a better competitive position for fish proteins vis-a-vis other proteins of vegetable or animal origin.

158. As regards forest products, the Secretariat stressed the importance of the forestry sector because of the excellent opportunities for a substantial expansion of exports earnings. It was regrettable, therefore that Latin America had lagged behind other developing regions in the last decade. The reasons for this relative stagnation were more of an institutional than of a technical or economic character.

159. To date, few countries of the Region had formulated a long-term strategy for the forestry and forest industries sector. Consequently, there were still few national forestry development plans which were integrated

with overall economic development. Only a few countries had an adequate basis for determining the priorities of the different projects designed to develop the sector. Most forestry services were weak, did not have either the necessary authority or autonomy, and were inadequately oriented towards development. These institutional defects represented a considerable obstacle to investment, whether by private capital or by international financing agencies.

160. The Conference was informed of the principal results of the Latin American Meeting on the Development Prospects for Forest Industries, organised in Mexico in May 1970 by FAO in collaboration with ECLA and UNIDO. The most prominent of its conclusions was that technical, economic and political conditions in the Region had developed to the point where it was now possible to consider the establishment of forest industries in the form of mixed multinational or binational enterprises oriented basically towards exports. The Latin American Meeting recommended that this proposal be studied by governments, especially by those that participated in regional economic development. Although there were broad possibilities for industrialisation on the basis of import substitution, it was important that this should not lead, as in the past, to small, inefficient and high-cost plants, because that was the surest way to frustrate the high export potential of the forestry sector.

161. The export of forest products was not the only contribution that the forestry sector could make to foreign exchange income. It was emphasised that FAO increasingly provided the countries of the Region with assistance in the sphere of wildlife management and the creation of national parks and recreation areas. Such action promoted income from tourism and coincided with the urgent need for governments to take measures to conserve and develop their irreplaceable natural resources, which was in harmony with the growing concern with conservation of the environment.

162. At the meeting in Mexico, emphasis was placed on the work of the ECLA/FAO/UNIDO Advisory Group on Forest Industries, and on the collaboration of FAO in studies of forests and forest industries in regional integration schemes. FAO's decision to give priority to its activities in forests and forest industries in Latin America, particularly in the strengthening of forestry institutions and development planning of the forestry sector, was considered valid and entirely adjusted to the needs of the countries of the Region.

163. The Conference discussed the question of foreign trade at some length. There was general agreement on the importance of foreign trade in agricultural products as a strategic factor in the development of the Latin American economy.

164. The majority of the delegations agreed that: (a) the present structure of world markets was inequitable and that international trade should be organised in such a way as to give all countries their due; (b) the present situation of international trade in agricultural products was a serious obstacle to the economic development of Latin America, especially in countries whose economies depended heavily on trade in agricultural products; (c) the future growth of Latin American and world agriculture would depend to a considerable extent on what occurred in the reorganisation of international trade in agricultural products. In this connection, it was stressed that there were technical solutions for production problems which were gradually and increasingly being adopted by various regions; (d) that

an impasse had been reached in the negotiations taking place under the auspices of the United Nations specialised agencies concerned with trade, such as GATT and UNCTAD.

165. The delegations agreed that FAO, as the specialised agency concerned with food and agriculture should play an important role in re-structuring agriculture at the world level. The countries of the Region had confidence in FAO, but they foresaw that if it did not adopt a very decided and vigorous approach to its task, it might become a second-class organisation.

166. Satisfaction was expressed with the Secretariat's statement on the type of aid that FAO could furnish, which, it was felt, would make it possible to break through the above-mentioned impasse. It was stressed that FAO should continue its product by product analysis of basic commodities; that it should apply its scientific research capacity to the preparation of an objective study of the problems caused by the protectionist policies of various countries; and that it serve as a forum for inter-governmental discussions to eliminate the stranglehold imposed by the existing international trade set-up on the economy of developing countries.

167. Criticism was expressed of the results achieved through existing mechanisms to improve trade policies. It was pointed out that UNCTAD was to some extent blocked by the reluctance of the governments of the developed countries to enter into frank negotiations and, hence, it did not produce the solutions hoped for by the developing countries. GATT, on its side, had not helped to create a new order that responded to the development requirements of these countries because it functioned more as an exclusive club than as a world institution. Furthermore, GATT treated trade problems in a piecemeal way and not within the overall development context. The activities of that agency, which had been very effective in trade between developed countries, had been less successful in improving relations between the latter and the developing countries. FAO, on the other hand, was in an exceptional position to help the developing regions. Its overall view of the economic, technical and social aspects of production and trade systems in all countries enabled it to analyse objectively the soundness of the protectionist policies practised by developed countries.

168. Several delegations expressed their gratitude for the efforts made by the United Nations and especially by FAO to promote basic commodity agreements, which not only represented an element of stability in the relationship of supply and demand in world markets but were also testing grounds for international cooperation and economic policy. It was pointed out, however, that despite the fact that seventy underdeveloped countries had supported the conclusion of agreements to stabilise basic commodities at the second meeting of UNCTAD, many of these countries had not participated in such agreements when they had come into force.

169. In respect of some specific agreements, the government of Brazil expressed its concern over the quotas that had been fixed for the 1970-71 period under the International Coffee Agreement, which it considered to be excessive. Nonetheless, it would continue to support the Agreement because it considered it vital to the economy of other developing countries. The success of the Sugar Agreement in achieving its objectives, its provisions having been respected in general by all member countries, was commented upon. Its adjustment mechanisms had functioned efficiently without causing any conflict or endangering its clauses or its very existence.



170. One delegation stated that those basic commodity agreements alone did not solve the many problems affecting international trade, for that, a wide range of measures, differing in each case, was needed. Such questions as perishability and possibilities of displacement of certain products affected any possible price agreement.

171. The Conference unanimously approved Resolutions 5/70 and 6/70. The delegations of France and the United States, however, made reservations regarding operative paragraph 3 of Resolution 5/70.

#### RESOLUTION 5/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

#### Considering:

1. That the countries of the Region earn nearly all their foreign exchange income from exports of basic commodities;
2. That a certain stability is achieved in such income through the regulation of market supply and demand;
3. That basic commodity agreements help to achieve such stability;
4. The agreements of the Ninth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America on trade relations with developed countries and of the Tenth Regional Conference on terms of trade;

#### Resolves:

To recommend to member countries and to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That FAO intensify its work of updating the comparative study of unit export prices of agricultural products and of unit import prices of some selected products and that the FAO Conference and Regional Conferences be informed of the results of that study;
2. That the policy of supporting the conclusion of basic commodity agreements followed by the Region's developing countries should lead to the participation in existing agreements by the countries which have not yet done so;
3. That the developed countries apply a policy consonant with the principles and objectives adopted by the first and second sessions of UNCTAD;
4. That FAO make it its constant concern to support the requests formulated by the developing countries at the first and second sessions of UNCTAD regarding the necessity for changes in the conditions of international trade, and that stress be laid in all FAO documents relating to the Second United Nations Development Decade on the importance of such changes for the developing countries.

RESOLUTION 6/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. The importance of foreign trade in agricultural products for the economic development of the countries of the Region;
2. That the developing countries have had only a small share in the increased international trade in basic commodities, and that this uneven distribution of the benefits of foreign trade reduces their development possibilities;
3. That the policies of agricultural protection adopted by industrialised countries are one of the main factors which explain the situation set forth in the previous paragraph, but that these policies, in their turn, are often due to structural factors inherent in those countries which require careful study and must necessarily be resolved only gradually;
4. That the situation already analysed clearly indicates the necessity for world-wide adjustments in regard to agriculture;
5. That since policies of agricultural protection are rooted in production, and thus have economic, technical, and sociological ramifications throughout agricultural production, FAO is the international body which is competent in this field;
6. That if FAO is to play a decisive role in solving world agricultural problems in the future, it will have to participate in the process of re-structuring international trade in agricultural products;

Resolves:

To recommend to member countries and to the Director-General:

1. That the study of problems and solutions for basic commodities be continued with a product by product, or group by group approach;
  2. That FAO should be used to carry out the objective study of the problems created by the policies of agricultural protection of various countries with respect to the volume of foreign trade in basic commodities;
  3. That the competent bodies of FAO be used as forums for inter-governmental discussions in which, on the basis of studies such as those referred to in the previous paragraph, ways can be sought to help overcome, slowly but steadily, the trade problems arising from the present protection of agriculture.
172. The delegation of Argentina referred particularly to the problem of meat, pointing out that this product was also affected by the general basic commodity problems and that, in view of the proximate decisions in Rome on the proposal for a Study Group on Meat and Poultry, it would be advisable for this group to be established in Latin America. For this purpose, the Argentine government had presented a request to the CCP for the Headquarters

and Secretariat of this group to be located in Buenos Aires, the Argentine government being willing to defray the additional expenses that this would entail for FAO.

173. In this connection, the Conference unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 7/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. The results of the Second Consultation on Meat and Poultry held in Buenos Aires, where it was agreed to recommend that the Committee on Commodity Problems set up a study group for the compilation of complete information on the present position and prospects of these products; for the analysis of programmes on the expansion of meat and poultry production; for the interchange of information on modern production techniques; and, in general, for the analysis and evaluation of the market situation, with a view to studying how to overcome the obstacles to both the expansion of production and the marketing of meat and poultry;
2. That the implementation of the tasks and the achievement of the objectives set out in that recommendation are of prime importance for the economic development of Latin America;
3. That the Republic of Argentina has reached an advanced technological level with regard to the production and processing of meat and possesses up-to-date systems for meat marketing;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That the Study Group on Meat and Poultry proposed by the Second Ad Hoc Consultation held in Buenos Aires be set up as soon as possible;
2. That this Study Group and its permanent secretariat should have their headquarters in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

174. Another point raised during the debate was that some of the European Common Market countries were pressing for the maintenance of trade preferences for their former overseas colonies, which was contrary to the interests of the exporting countries of Latin America. On that point, it was stated that Latin America must firmly maintain its position of protest. In response to that proposition, it was argued that trade between Latin America and the European Common Market had increased more rapidly than trade between the latter and the African countries and that the creation of the European Economic Community had not had adverse effects on Latin America.

175. In connection with FAO support for the economic integration of Latin America, the Conference stressed the need for FAO to maintain and strengthen this assistance. It was suggested that FAO collaborate more closely with LAFTA and that it establish a permanent advisory group for the Andean Group.

176. It was suggested that FAO prepare, for the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference, a special document on the prospects for trade in forest and fishery products. In that connection, the importance of those sectors in the diversification of the foreign trade of the Region.

#### Science and Technology

177. In introducing the item the Secretariat drew attention to document LARC/70/5, "The Contribution of Technology to Agricultural Development in Latin America" and to another document, entitled "Technological Policies and Agricultural Development", prepared by Messrs. Jacobo Schatan and Solon Barraclough at the request of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America.

178. The enormous task facing agriculture in Latin America in the future was emphasised, to enable it to provide food and clothing for an exploding population and at the same time, produce for export to obtain the foreign exchange needed to speed up the development process.

179. The Region possessed vast reserves of land but a great deal of effort and imagination would have to be spent on making that land productive. The cultivated area had been expanding fairly rapidly, but there was little more land that could easily be brought under cultivation.

180. Document LARC/70/5 listed some of the technological processes which could be applied to agriculture, forests and fisheries in order to realise the potential of these resources and obtain higher yields. However, technology had to be adapted before it could be truly useful under the conditions prevailing in the Region. Unfortunately, that point, which appeared obvious, was often forgotten. Latin America appeared to be entering the technological era without prior preparation and without institutions adapted to the new patterns. Hence, technology, which usually came from abroad, was apt to be employed without being adjusted to the physical, economic and social conditions of Latin America.

181. The lack of dynamism of Latin American agriculture was well known, and various sectors had been emphasising for some time that the way to accelerate development must be by change in the existing structures. However, other more influential voices had advocated modernisation as a substitute for change, in the belief that this would redound in well-being for all. In their document, Messrs. Schatan and Barraclough maintained that that was a mistake; their central argument was that technological changes were inseparable from sweeping structural changes. When introduced into traditional patterns, modernisation led to the concentration of wealth or income and thus to increased unemployment and poverty. As there was unemployment in other sectors besides the rural sector, migration was not a solution.

182. On the other hand, genuine agrarian reform must necessarily bring advanced techniques in the countryside, especially if the whole of society was transformed. In a new social framework where repressed mass demand was released through income redistribution, agriculture required the accelerated introduction of technology if it was to meet demand, in both quantity and quality. However, the introduction of new technologies involved prior research, adaptation and extension work. It would certainly call for sizable human and financial resources. In this respect, cooperation between countries of the Region and by international agencies would be a highly

valuable instrument for achieving the regional scientific and technological autonomy which these countries needed to become economically independent. FAO had an important part to play in this task as a transmitting, catalysing and guiding agent for existing or future scientific know-how.

183. Most delegations took part in the debate, and there was general support for the central argument of the Schatan-Barraclough document. Many statements were made which are summarised below.

184. The close connection between technology and social development was particularly stressed by many delegations. Research leading to the introduction of new technologies must never disregard the fact that technology was only the servant of mankind. For that reason, technological progress would be diverted from its real purpose if it did not benefit the underprivileged producers. Nevertheless, these producers, who formed the majority, were generally cut off from the institutional facilities which would give them easy access to technology.

185. Another point that was emphasised was the importance of agricultural planning. Planning should provide the structural framework which allows a technological inventory to be taken on an area by area basis and which, above all, could give the mechanisms and incentives needed in order for the producer to identify himself with the priorities set by the agricultural development plans.

186. Several delegations referred to the countries' need of trained personnel both as investigators and as specialists in the application of technology. Stress was laid on the role of universities and educational institutes which should not forget the importance of scientific research and the extension of knowledge. Those centres of learning should, however, also carefully consider the agricultural development programmes of their countries when they prepared their syllabuses. The need to centralise and coordinate agricultural research and training work at the regional level was emphasised; the efforts of FAO could be particularly valuable in that field, especially in combination with similar efforts by other international and Inter-American institutions. It was also pointed out that technological research must be designed with the provision of services to producers in mind.

187. Several delegations mentioned the need to establish operational programmes for the training of middle-level agricultural technicians who could teach the application of simple technologies. Such technicians should come from the areas where they were to work. For this purpose many centres for research and training in intermediate technology should be established so as to cover areas with similar ecological conditions.

188. The connection between research and extension work was another point on which several delegations commented. It went far beyond the mere establishment of suitable interdisciplinary machinery for communication. Both research and extension must be consonant with the national policy adopted. That called for better organisation and planning of extension agencies. Stress was laid on the importance of providing information, in the sense of selecting the most suitable technologies for a specific activity or area and of working out an appropriate extension scheme for the farmers who would apply them. The application of new technologies therefore depended on extension schemes and on the structural and institutional

systems prevailing, such as land tenure, economic incentives etc. In this connection, a tribute was paid to FAO's work in promoting efficiency in these activities.

189. Several delegations stressed the need to develop the Region's own technological capacity. In this connection, the problems of transferring technology from the developed countries were recalled. A distinction should be made between the requirements of temperate-zone countries, and those of tropical-zone countries. While it was relatively easy to import technology for the former, most technology for the latter must be produced in the same zone. However, the transfer must be selective in both cases. The transfer of technology was often carried out by professionals and technicians who came from developed countries to participate for periods of varying length in research or training activities in the countries of the Region. Unfortunately, this type of action did not always produce results adapted to the technical, economic or socio-cultural conditions of the Region. Another way of transferring technology was by sending technicians from the Region for advanced study at training centres in the developed countries. Although that had produced good results in many cases, lack of adaptation to the new environment was sometimes noted or, more seriously, it had become the principal cause of "brain drain", a problem which preoccupies several Latin American Governments.

190. The Conference unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 8/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That, generally, in the First United Nations Development Decade high priority was given in Latin America to policies of agricultural modernisation based on the introduction and application of new technologies;
2. That in the application of these new technologies, the main emphasis was placed on obtaining increases in productivity and production;
3. That it will be necessary in the future to continue to intensify efforts to apply technology and good management to agriculture, in order to reach the higher production levels required by the expansion of demand;
4. That, however, in these efforts due account must be taken of the structural and social factors of each country, if undesirable effects on the employment and wellbeing of the rural population are to be avoided;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That the technological assistance supplied by FAO to the Region, either directly or in collaboration with other organisations, be guided fundamentally by the conceptual frame of reference relating to

agrarian reform approved by this Eleventh Regional Conference for Latin America, in order to ensure the compatibility of technological and social development;

2. That international staff helping to promote technological development in the Region also possess a suitable attitude and preparation in matters relating to social and structural problems;

191. It was agreed that the employment problem should be considered in conjunction with the problem of introducing technology into agriculture. There were obvious cases where certain technologies displaced manpower, but there were others which economised human effort without generating unemployment. This aspect had so far been treated only very generally and it was highly important for Latin America that serious scientific studies be carried out which would show what the opposing alternatives really are.

192. It was suggested that FAO might create a scientific and technological policy unit which would draw up suitable policies in that field and at the same time serve as an institutional body for coordination with national agencies for planning, science and technology and as a channel for technical assistance.

193. During the debate several suggestions were made by different delegations with regard to possible FAO work in the Region in the field of technology. It was explicitly stated that FAO should cooperate on the regional level by supplying guidance for technological research; that it should collaborate in research programmes with other national and regional agencies so as to avoid duplication and that it should study methods of transmitting and disseminating the new technologies. Finally, one delegation observed that in view of the importance attached by FAO to training, livestock development and rural administration, it should give special attention to the priorities indicated by countries themselves so as to render its assistance really effective.

194. The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank said that the Bank was very interested in technological development and agrarian reform. It has given financial and technical support to nearly all the important programmes of agrarian reform in Latin America. In collaboration with FAO, it was now trying to find new methods of financing. The main IDB loans were based, moreover, on the effective use of modern technology.

195. He fully endorsed the Schatan-Barraclough argument, but he considered that few efforts and resources were being devoted to making their idea a reality. He listed a number of problems to which FAO should devote special attention: (a) specific planning for new cooperative methods of production and services in which consideration would be given to economies of scale with new income distribution patterns and labour participation; (b) special studies to identify possibilities of applying intermediate technologies; (c) low-cost settlement and rural development projects making maximum use of local resources; (d) labour-intensive projects, including agro-industrial complexes; and (e) more effective and imaginative rural training and extension programmes.

196. IDB experience in selecting and designing projects had not always been encouraging as a result of external factors or through poor formulation and orientation of the projects themselves. Hence, IDB was interested in broadening its collaboration with FAO with a view to carrying out studies

to identify more promising investment opportunities, to formulate a more rational programme of pre-investment work and project preparation, to establish priorities for technical assistance, and to create the necessary link between agricultural policy instruments and success in specific projects.

197. The observer from the United Kingdom said that the major challenge to the introduction of technology lay in bringing about a change in the attitudes of farmers. To do that, it was essential to guarantee them a sure market for their products. There was a large margin for increasing production through improved simple management techniques, without the need, in the early stages, for cash inputs.

198. Finally, the Regional Representative made a number of comments. With regard to the link between research and extension, he recalled that the Latin American Technical Conference on Extension convened by FAO would be held in Chiclayo, Peru, between 27 November and 11 December, and that there an attempt would be made to evaluate extension systems and the effects of their application. FAO was aware of the need to overhaul the schemes which had been applied, especially as the extension services had left out the small producers who most needed them. Another aspect which would have to be explored was the link between extension and research.

199. As regards science and technology, he said that that was an important area to which FAO must continue to give close attention with a view to carrying out a thorough analysis of the interrelationship between technology and social development and of the mechanisms whereby technological progress was adapted and transferred in a rural environment. He emphasised that it would be most fruitful if those he called "the statesmen of agriculture" - those who had been outstanding in the advancement of research in their countries and who had done valuable work in that field - could be drawn into cooperating and collaborating with FAO.

200. With regard to the suggestion that FAO should set up a special unit to deal with this subject, it was pointed out that various sections of FAO dealt with science and technology, which was given special attention at the highest level. Although it might not be opportune to create a new administrative unit at present, the time was certainly ripe for fostering awareness and focusing ideas.

201. The Conference unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 9/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That there exist important proposals for the use of financial and technical resources in Latin America and that the collaboration between FAO and international and regional research and credit institutions has produced positive results;
2. That, however, such resources are limited compared with the real needs of the Latin American countries;



Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That in his programmes of cooperation with Latin American countries for the formulation of national policies of technological development and for the study and execution of specific agricultural development projects, and through the Regional Office for Latin America and the pertinent Headquarters divisions, he strive to achieve the greatest possible coordination and collaboration with other international and regional agencies in order to secure a more comprehensive and efficient use of the financial resources and trained personnel available for this purpose;
2. That, for the purpose stated in the preceding paragraph, he consider the possibility of a consultative meeting of authorities on the subject in order to help define a strategy for technology in the rural sector of Latin America.

202. The Conference agreed that it was extremely important to have a supply of seeds that was adequate in both quality and quantity for the distribution of high yielding varieties, for which reason it unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 10/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the Ninth FAO Conference for Latin America recognised that improved seeds are basic resources for the production of food and for the short-term increase of agricultural yields;
2. That the technical meetings of the Pan-American Seed Seminars, which have become the voice of specialist opinion in Latin America, have repeatedly recommended the intensification of research on problems connected with the production and use of improved seeds;
3. That most of the agricultural development programmes of the Latin American countries stress the need to have available, enough high-grade seed of improved varieties;
4. That the increase in the number of experimental plant breeding centres in Latin America, thanks to international aid, has made it possible to increase the number of highly satisfactory species and cultivars available, which must be reproduced in order to make them available to most farmers;
5. That it is of interest to the countries of the Region to find efficient means of solving their common problems which, while not wasting either international aid or their own efforts by duplication of programmes, will lead to regional integration and to complementarity in their agricultural production programmes;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO,

That, jointly with the other international or regional agencies, he collaborate with Latin American countries in equipping national or multinational experimental stations or centres, in order to make it possible to solve the technical problems involved in the production and distribution of improved seeds, supply the necessary specialised personnel in this field, provide technical publications on this subject and, in general, support national programmes for the production of improved seeds and promotion of their use.

Agrarian Reform

203. The Chairman of the Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform presented the Committee's Report, which had been adopted unanimously by this committee on 9 October 1970. The text is annexed to this report.

204. The Conference expressed its satisfaction with the work of the Committee and with the quality of its report; it was agreed that it should be unanimously approved in the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 11/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America recommended that such conferences be preceded in the future by Technical Committees which would prepare basic documents for their Conference;
2. That, in accordance with these instructions, the Eleventh Regional Conference established the Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform which met on 5, 6 and 9 October;
3. That this Committee had the opportunity to analyse in detail the various aspects of the agrarian reform programmes in Latin America;
4. That, as a result of its work, the Committee produced a report (LARC/70/10/Rev.1) containing a summary of the discussions and specific recommendations for future action by the countries and by FAO in the field of agrarian reform;
5. That this report and the recommendations were approved unanimously by the delegations composing the Committee;
6. That there was general agreement on the contents of the report of the Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform;

Resolves:

1. To approve the Report of the Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform, incorporate its text in the Report of the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America, and endorse its recommendations;

2. To recommend to the Director-General that he assign the highest priority to the recommendations endorsed in this resolution and that such recommendations be carried out as soon as possible.

205. The Argentine delegation stated for the record that the Government of Argentina was gratified and happy that all the countries of the Region had agreed on the need for joint action on programmes so that, with the help of FAO and in accordance with each country's special characteristics, they might promote better socio-economic development within the sector, leaving each country free to design its policy to fit its own conditions. He wished to state that the agriculture that had been developing for many years in Argentina had reached a satisfactory level within the conceptual framework expressed in Resolution 12/70.

206. The recommendations of the Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform which the Conference endorsed were as follows:

#### RESOLUTION 12/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

#### Considering:

1. That despite the undeniable progress achieved in the Region in the field of economic development planning during the nineteen-sixties, the transformation of the unsatisfactory agrarian structures that still impede development in Latin America had been slow during this period;
2. That agrarian reforms in the countries of the Region must be considered as the structural dimension for rural development, in preference to other solutions which are only sectoral and tend to limit development to only one or a few of its aspects;
3. That agrarian reforms initiated and/or strengthened by countries can bear fruit only if they are properly integrated with national development policies, with due respect for the decisions which fall within the sphere of national policy in each country;
4. That each agrarian reform programme must be carried out consistently and in harmony with all other development projects and programmes;
5. That the obstacles to achieving the objectives of agrarian reform are closely interrelated and mutually self-reinforcing, so that they must be considered as a whole, although the emphasis on one or another will vary according to the specific circumstances prevailing in each country at each stage of the agrarian reform process;
6. That some of the main obstacles to the agrarian reform process are: the unsuitability of the legal concepts and instruments and of the agencies responsible for carrying out the process; the power of the sectors or interests affected to oppose to the introduction of agrarian reforms or to interfere with their application; the complete lack, or weakness, of autonomous and representative peasant organizations, and the absence of any proper collective awareness of peasant problems;

7. That assistance to agrarian reform requires coordinated action by multidisciplinary teams capable of tackling all development tasks;
8. That the experience of the last decade shows the need to give greater impetus to the process of comprehensive agrarian reform with the purpose of eliminating the latifundio and minifundio systems, of obtaining the keen participation of the peasant in the programming and execution of these reforms, and of integrating agrarian reform programmes with national development plans, all directed towards raising the standard of living and to ensure respect for the dignity of the peasant;
9. That, in order to bring about the overall development of the peasant and make the best use of his productive potential it is essential that all innovations and technological changes should spring from his psycho-social and cultural background, so that he can become the prime agent of innovation in its broadest possible sense;
10. That the utilisation of the potential of forests and forest development for the implementation of the agrarian reform programme is a great help in incorporating some sectors of the rural population in the economic and social life of the countries in the region;
11. That in the rural sector the implementation of programmes designed to create a new peasant culture requires special activities and programmes which, if they are to achieve their purpose, must be in harmony with the socio-cultural background and interests of the rural population;
12. That the seminar on agrarian reform which the Director-General was requested to organise in Recommendation 8/68 of the Tenth Regional Conference for Latin America and which was approved by the Fifteenth FAO Conference has not yet taken place;

Resolves:

To recommend to Member Governments and to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That they adopt the following conceptual frame of reference as a basis for joint action in regard to agrarian reform programmes during the Second Development Decade and that other international agencies be invited to follow suit.
  - (a) Development means more than economic growth with the limited goal of increasing production. It has been repeatedly recognised by the United Nations that development is a much broader concept implying redistribution of income and of productive resources and a broad participation by all sectors of the population in social and political institutions. In Latin America, development must be approached as a process of structural change entailing not only increased production but also institutional changes with the creative participation of the entire population;
  - (b) Strategies which take into account only technological modernisation without structural change limit development to only one of its dimensions and, in the end, impair the effectiveness of both development and technological change, bringing about a state of stagnation. Where technological modernisation is unaccompanied

by social change, it can become a negative influence on development;

- (c) Agrarian reform, as an integral part of the concept of development strategy, is therefore best seen as a process of realigning the basic elements of the relationship between the rural sector and the other sectors of society. Within this context, land tenure must be understood as an institutionalisation of inter-personal and inter-group relationships in regard to land use and the distribution of land-derived advantages and benefits. The latifundio-minifundio system must be eliminated because it constitutes a social structure wherein the large landowners form a group that monopolises power and prestige through its control of most of the land and other resources;
  - (d) The process of reform, which unfolds against a background of conflicting social relationships, is a result of national pressure on the agrarian structure. Certain sectors exercise their influence to achieve an increase in the food supply and in the production of raw materials, to generate new supplies of foreign exchange and to expand the domestic market. On their side, the pressure exerted by the peasant population reflects their own objectives in the process of social change;
  - (e) Since it is part of an overall strategy for change, agrarian reform cannot be carried out in isolation, without corresponding modifications in other sectors of the economic and social structure, such as credit, supply of inputs and the processing and marketing of agricultural products. It is in this sense that agrarian reform is comprehensive;
  - (f) Approached as a determinant of overall development, agrarian reform is directed towards creating and extending new systems of tenure within the context of each country's social structure, to obtain: (i) an equitable distribution of the income derived from agriculture; (ii) full participation of the peasants in the agrarian reform process through the promotion of their organisation and training and their inclusion at the programme planning and execution levels, thus permitting these organisations to make a creative contribution to and modify the process of technological innovation required by social development; (iii) the establishment of holdings and/or of associations of beneficiaries which will make it possible to adopt modern techniques, stimulate investment, raise income levels and generate more employment opportunities; and (iv), an entrepreneurial organisation of the new holdings leading to an increased production and to better use of productive resources;
2. That agrarian reform be regarded as a process which must make technological and social change compatible, not only in so far as policies relating to the agricultural sector are concerned, but also within the context of the economy as a whole;
  3. That in order to initiate or strengthen agrarian reform programmes, countries should create or support peasant associations through which the peasants will have a real instrument with which to defend and protect their interests. FAO should furnish member Governments with

assistance in developing such associations;

4. That technical assistance for agrarian reform should be envisaged realistically as something that will be of help to the peasants and should be provided simultaneously with services such as credit, supplies of inputs, and the processing and marketing of agricultural products as the only way in which such assistance can be effective. International technical assistance requested by countries should include advice on the formulation of strategies and policies and on the implementation and appraisal of the programmes;
5. That FAO and other international agencies should collaborate with interested member Governments to establish special research programmes on agrarian reform and to train administrative and technical officers at different levels in all aspects of agrarian reform, including its planning and implementation, as appropriate;
6. That activities and programmes to encourage and train beneficiaries of the reform should be intensified as the basis for their essential conscientisation, in order to obtain the effective and organised participation of the peasant in the processes of producing, industrialising and marketing agricultural products;
7. That the countries of the Region should adjust their regulations and adopt legal and jurisdictional measures which will ensure that all problems relating to agrarian law are covered by a single system. Such a system should include simple procedures to be complied with within a peremptory period and special courts which will guarantee the rule of social justice in the rural areas;
8. That forest development policies and programmes be coordinated with those of agrarian reform in order to create new opportunities for productive employment and forest enterprise organisation which will help to improve income distribution among the rural population benefiting by this process;
9. That governments should take steps to develop programmes of education and educational research applied to agrarian reform;
10. That the Director-General of FAO take the necessary steps to strengthen the services providing technical assistance to member Governments by ensuring a better distribution of the Organisation's total resources in order to meet the requirements for assistance in the Latin American Region entailed by this resolution;
11. That the Regional Agrarian Reform Project for Latin America presented by FAO to the United Nations Development Programme be expanded in order to increase FAO's ability to furnish assistance to the countries of the Region;
12. That a high level technical regional periodical on agrarian reform in Latin America be prepared and published by the Regional Office in collaboration with member Governments;
13. That the Special Committee on Agrarian Reform set up pursuant to Resolution 5/69 of the Fifteenth FAO Conference, which will begin its activities on 9 November 1970, pay special attention to the foregoing

recommendations, particularly those relating to the conceptual frame of reference in operative paragraph 1;

14. That a Latin American seminar on agrarian reform be organised during the 1970-71 biennium.

#### RESOLUTION 13/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

##### Considering:

1. That the process of agrarian reform requires, as a necessary condition for its success and permanence, the emergence of a new peasant culture, synthesis of its values with the contributions of science and technology, which implies the establishment of a new relationship between the peasant and his environment in the rational use of the tools and services that will foster the development of the new structure;
2. That in the execution of rural education programmes, it is essential for the administrative and technical personnel to possess a clear understanding of their objectives and a suitable training based on the research required for such programmes aimed at cultural change;
3. That the magnitude of the problem and of the resources required to solve it exceeds both the technical and financial capacity of the countries that are proceeding with agrarian reform;

##### Resolves:

To recommend to the FAO Conference and to the Director-General:

1. That FAO, UNESCO and the other international agencies concerned ensure the coordination of programmes of technical cooperation in the field of education, training and applied research on agrarian reform;
2. That, to supplement the resources of each country, financing be obtained from the United Nations Development Programme and other sources, so as to ensure the success of the above-mentioned activities.

207. In relation to this subject, the Conference also approved the following Resolution:

#### RESOLUTION 14/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

##### Considering:

The need to encourage research in agrarian law, technical assistance in this field and the application of coordinated interdisciplinary programmes in order to accelerate the process of economic development in Latin America;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That he give attention to the need:
  - a) to study a system of regional cooperation with a view to the training of technical personnel who will act at various levels in the field of agrarian law;
  - b) to study and analyse the agrarian laws and regulations of the various countries of the region in order to accelerate the execution of programmes of agricultural development or agrarian reform;
  - c) to study the means to achieve collaboration between institutions or between countries of the region for the programming, design, coordination and execution of empirico-social research in agrarian law;
2. That a report be submitted to the Twelfth Regional Conference for Latin America which will serve as a basis for carrying out these studies, which will indicate the budgetary provisions necessary for this purpose and which will evaluate the needs for technical assistance at a regional level in the matter of agrarian reform.

208. The representative of the International Labour Organisation congratulated the Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform on the work it had carried out. He laid particular stress on the fact that there had been agreement as to the conception of agrarian reform within the framework of a policy of human resources and full employment. He referred to the task carried out by the Andean Action in Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and other countries during the last decade, and pointed out that this experience had led to changes in the approach of the ILO programmes. The strategy followed by his Organisation at present is based on the recognition that economic development in itself does not automatically guarantee the creation of sufficient jobs to absorb the rapid expansion of the labour force. The creation of new productive employment opportunities has become a challenge that Latin American countries will have to face in this new development decade.

209. The observer from Poland then referred to this subject. He mentioned the importance assigned to the exchange of ideas and experiences on the economic and social development of the agricultural sector. He followed this with an analysis of the characteristics of Polish agriculture and of the different phases which this sector had gone through in his country before achieving its present degree of development. Agrarian reform, he said, played a very important role, but by itself had not been enough to solve all of the agricultural problems, especially that of overpopulation in rural areas. At present the agricultural sector is in the midst of the social and economic development process, but its starting point undoubtedly was the agrarian reform started in 1944.

210. The Conference noted the offer made by the Government of Peru to hold the Latin American Seminar on Agrarian Reform in the city of Lima.



### Livestock Development

211. The Chairman of the Technical Committee on Livestock Development presented the report which had been unanimously adopted by this Committee on 9 October 1970, the text of which appears as an annex to this Report. In so doing, he reviewed the deliberations and recommendations it contains. He placed special emphasis on the economic and ecological differences that exist in Latin America. In this connexion, he said that the majority of temperate zone countries had no difficulty in meeting the protein requirements of their population and that they were interested in matters relating to production, processing, marketing and health regulations for foreign trade. The tropical-zone countries, on the other hand, must increase their production of animal proteins such as milk, pigs and poultry in order to satisfy the nutritional requirements of their population. He stressed the need to go ahead with research on the establishment of pastures and on animal production systems. He strongly emphasised the importance for both zones of continuing FAO's field programmes.

212. During the deliberations of the Technical Committee, the delegates discussed in a clear and open manner the orientation which in their opinion FAO should follow in its activities in the Region with the objective to assist the countries in acquiring the capacity to solve their technical problems and in the formulation of national and international development programmes. In order to reach these objectives, the Technical Committee agreed on the need for the following actions:

- a) Contact selected institutions for post-graduate studies in the Region, in order to arrange for the strengthening and establishment of regional training and research programmes in pastures, animal production systems, and the processing and marketing of livestock products. The difference between ecological regions will be taken into account in the implementation of this programme;
- b) Cooperate with the Pan-American Health Organisation and national governments in their programmes in the control of foot and mouth disease, zoonoses, meat and dairy hygiene. Priority will be given by FAO to diseases affecting productivity such as parasitosis, and reproductive diseases;
- c) Promote a high level scientific meeting to define the criteria and concepts of disease free areas and the necessary steps needed to establish these;
- d) Study the ways and means in which livestock production can be incorporated in the agrarian reform process;
- e) Study and analyse the current situation and plan the future development, including production, processing, marketing and consumption, of international and intraregional trade in livestock products;
- f) Continue the field programme in the development of animal production. Dairy production will be given emphasis in densely populated areas or where the protein deficiency in the diet is more rapidly satisfied by milk production. Assistance to meat production will also include the development of meat production from minor species, especially poultry and pigs where conditions are suitable. Beef productivity and the grassland resources of the Region will be given particular attention.

213. The Conference unanimously adopted the following Resolution expressing satisfaction with the work done by the Technical Committee and the quality of its report:

RESOLUTION 15/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the Technical Committee on Livestock Development has made a detailed analysis of the situation, problems and perspectives of livestock development in Latin America;
2. That most of the countries of the Region participated in the deliberations of this Committee;
3. That the outcome of the above-mentioned analysis led to the presentation of sound recommendations that will provide positive guidance for action by FAO and by member countries with respect to stock-raising in the Region;

Resolves:

To include the text of the report of the Technical Committee on Livestock Development in the report of the Conference, and to endorse its recommendations as Conference recommendations.

214. It was agreed that if the Committee on Commodity Problems approved the recommendations of the Second Consultation on Meat and Poultry and of the Eleventh Regional Conference, and if, therefore, the proposed Study Group on these products were set up, a joint analysis would be performed of the report of the Technical Committee on Livestock Development, of Resolutions 16/70 to 23/70 of this Conference, and of the proposed terms of reference of the afore-mentioned Study Group, in order to avoid duplication and overlapping of work and enable the Group to consider how these resolutions were to be implemented.

215. The resolutions of the Technical Committee on Livestock Development endorsed by the Conference are the following:

RESOLUTION 16/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. The difficulties in the way of reaching an agreement between meat importing and meat exporting countries on the principles governing preventive measures and the spread of foot-and-mouth disease, and on the extent of the secondary measures that must be taken;
2. That when the same problem has arisen in connexion with endemic and epidemic virus diseases affecting the human population, countries have always reached rapid and unanimous agreement;
3. That the officials responsible for deciding upon preventive measures

and for supervising their application adopt different, and at times contradictory, approaches to the problem of foot-and-mouth disease and other livestock diseases which are an obstacle to exports, depending on the country and market situation;

4. The lack of political willingness on the part of some purchasing countries to open their markets to imports of meat is concealed under a cloak of health and hygiene regulations;
5. That the Conference is of the opinion that only a high-level scientific meeting can define the technical bases for the above-mentioned principles and measures;
6. That the idea put forward by the Director of the FAO Animal Production and Health Division in his statement, namely, that a meeting of top-level experts be convened to consider the definition of disease-free areas and to give technical advice to the member countries on the steps to be taken for this purpose, was supported by the Conference;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That he promote the holding of a high-level scientific meeting to specify the minimum criteria which apply to define a zone or region within a country as a disease-free area;
2. That this meeting should be held in coordination with the regional and world agencies concerned with these problems.

RESOLUTION 17/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

That it is considered especially advisable for the developing countries that the worldwide programmes of FAO include activities aimed at bringing up to date the technical level of health regulations applying to international trade in products of animal origin;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

That he take the necessary measures to keep up to date the international code for the transportation of animals and animal products as approved at the meeting of the International Office of Epizootics in 1968.

RESOLUTION 18/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

That with every passing day, it becomes increasingly obvious that most of the countries of the Region still have to achieve satisfactory levels of animal protein consumption;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Member Governments and to the Director-General of FAO:

That programmes designed to make available cheap sources of animal protein be intensified and that for this purpose all available resources be mobilised.

RESOLUTION 19/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

That the financing of livestock development activities requires each country to invest financial resources in those areas which represent serious obstacles to the achievement of greater efficiency;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

That in order to utilise foreign credits efficiently in programmes for livestock development and in view of the relations of the FAO Investment Centre with the international financing agencies, he approach the latter with a view to getting them to eliminate the requirement that certain fixed percentages of their funds should be invested in given activities. The Regional Conference considers that the allocation of funds for these purposes should be left to the discretion of the countries concerned so that they may assign priorities in accordance with their investment needs.

RESOLUTION 20/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That one of the serious problems affecting livestock development in the Region is the presence of various animal diseases which adversely affect production and productivity in these activities and result in substantial annual losses;
2. That the need to increase the availability of protein in most of the countries of the Region requires an intensification of efforts to reduce the incidence of animal diseases;

3. That in order to obtain effective results from these efforts, the international regional and national agencies must coordinate their programmes;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That FAO continue to collaborate in and support the activities of the Pan-American Health Organisation, not only with respect to the campaign against foot and mouth disease but also to campaigns against other diseases, such as tuberculosis, brucellosis and rabies;
2. That FAO concentrate its activities on the struggle against other enzootics and epizootics which affect the livestock of the Region, such as infestation with parasites, mastitis, deficiency diseases, hydatidosis, equine encephalomyelitis and diseases of the reproductive system, none of which are adequately dealt with in the Region.

RESOLUTION 21/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That in Latin America the livestock industry, especially cattle raising, is based mainly on the abundance of natural pastures and that any increase in production must be largely due to improved management, the conservation and/or replacement of indigenous forages by imported species and to building the necessary infrastructure;
2. That in both the humid and wet and dry tropical zones it has not been possible, except in certain cases, to obtain or to apply a technology that would result in commercially efficient and profitable systems of production;
3. That there are pronounced defects in the Region's systems and methods of marketing products of animal origin and livestock inputs;
4. That there are not enough highly qualified or specialised technical personnel to deal with the above-mentioned problems;
5. That the ultimate objective of technical assistance is to enable the countries to achieve technical self-sufficiency in the fields in which they have requested such assistance;
6. That technical self-sufficiency can only be achieved through professional training covering both technology and business management;
7. That the provision of post-graduate training programmes for Latin America is an urgent and high-priority need;
8. That there is a pronounced difference in livestock production problems as between temperate, tropical and high altitude zones;

9. That there exist in the Region institutions for post-graduate study that would be able to improve the training that they offer if they were granted additional resources;
10. That in formulating their agricultural policy, some countries feel the need to define the systems of production and marketing of their livestock products and inputs in a continuous manner, including the permanent redefinition of the chief factors limiting sectoral development, a task in which they need technical assistance;
11. That in document LARC/70/7 four specific regional projects were submitted for consideration by the Technical Committee and that, despite the fact that the Committee is fully aware of the importance of the proposed areas of activity, it considers that these programmes should be implemented by other means which take into account existing and additional resources according to the Region's requirements;

Resolves:

To recommend to Member Governments and to the Director-General of FAO:

That in the FAO's programme of regional activities for Latin America, first priority be given to the following points;

1. Experts on pastures, animal production systems, technology and the marketing of livestock products and inputs should be assigned to institutions that offer post-graduate courses in the Region so as to strengthen their teaching and research staff and improve the training that they offer;
2. Wherever necessary, sufficient funds should be provided to ensure the effective use of the additional staff;
3. In supplying human and financial resources, FAO should bear in mind the existence of three clearly differentiated zones: tropical, temperate and high altitude;
4. In spite of regional differences, an attempt should be made to concentrate resources in a limited number of institutions, in order to guarantee their high technical level;
5. Experts assigned to the training centres should devote any time not occupied by their teaching duties in providing technical assistance to the countries;
6. A specialist should be assigned to the FAO Regional Office to study and analyse the current situation and to plan the future development of stock raising and of international and intraregional trade in livestock products;
7. The resulting programmes should be coordinated through the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the competent technical divisions at Headquarters, in agreement with regional and national institutions;
8. Countries should indicate their support for the financing of these programmes through the UNDP Resident Representatives.

Note: The Argentine delegation indicated their reservations concerning operative paragraph 8 of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 22/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That stock raising should become a positive factor in the achievement of an equitable income distribution, within the agrarian reform process;
2. That there are limitations to the efficiency of small livestock production units;
3. That it is advisable to set up livestock production units in the form of some type of association in order to permit the adoption of modern techniques and achieve efficient livestock production and the economical use of the inputs for that purpose;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

That he give special attention to supporting projects under which small livestock producers would be organised into economic units that would permit economies of scale and the efficient use of the inputs intended for such production.

RESOLUTION 23/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the territories of the Caribbean Free Trade Area are anxious to promote trade in livestock and livestock products in the Region;
2. The difficulties which have been encountered as a result of differences in animal disease status of member countries;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

That FAO take the necessary steps to assist governments of the area to establish criteria for the guidance of the authorities concerned with the promotion of such trade with the least possible risk of spreading disease in the Region.

Note: The delegation from Guyana indicated their reservations concerning this Resolution.

### Medium-Term Programme

216. In his introduction, the Director of the Programme Formulation Unit referred to the origins, nature and form of the Medium-Term Programme, and stressed its positive aspects in providing a better and more flexible basis for shaping the growth of programmes in accordance with new developments and requirements. The Medium-Term Programme described in document LARC 70/9 (a) was comprehensive, general and global since, at this stage, it reflected FAO's global responsibilities and the totality of FAO's activities. The importance of paragraphs 17 to 20 of document LARC/70/9 (a) was stressed and in this connection it was pointed out that the approval by the Council and Conference of a system of programme budgeting would be extremely helpful in establishing a frame of reference for projecting FAO's work on the basis of programme costs rather than on a purely organisational basis.

217. In determining priorities, some programme or sub-programme objectives should receive more resources than others, some would have to be limited, some perhaps even deferred. This was inevitable since the total demand would always be greater than the available resources, particularly in a period of budgetary stringency such as the Organisation was now facing as a consequence of inflation. It was estimated that the total mandatory increase for the 1972-73 budgetary period might be as much as 20 or even 25 percent. It was for this reason that the Director-General was forced to look upon the immediate period ahead as one of relative stability as far as programme increases were concerned. But this would not be a complete stand-still and some strengthening of regional activity would certainly take place. This was the reason why it was all the more important to know the views of the Regional Conference on priorities for action within the Region.

218. He then referred to the concepts contained in document LARC/70/9. He asked the delegates to express themselves on the choice and definition of the problem areas outlined therein; what they considered to be the priorities between and within them; and on which areas or activities should the countries, international organisations and FAO concentrate their efforts. It was obvious that these problems could not be solved by FAO alone. It was the countries themselves which must tackle them with their own resources coupled with investment and technical assistance from the outside sources. FAO certainly could offer important assistance in the fields of planning, surveys, advice, technical assistance and help in the formulation and operation of projects. If FAO's assistance was to be effective, however, it must be concentrated upon a few priorities.

219. The Regional Representative then gave a brief review of the priorities which had been emerging from the Conference's discussions. There was no doubt of the importance which countries accorded to topics such as agrarian reform, foreign trade and integration, and the need for FAO to support and promote the development of an autochthonous technology in the Region together with the training of local technicians. Due note had been taken of all this. However, there were many fields which had not yet been touched and it would be interesting to FAO to know the priority which countries assigned to them. He requested delegates to openly express their ideas on this matter.

220. As an example he pointed out that the medium-term programme had not concerned itself with the subject of plant diseases or breeding. It was up to the delegations to suggest new problem areas and to indicate to FAO the role which it should play in relation to these.



221. He went on to say that perhaps one of the subjects which merited special attention of the Twelfth Regional Conference was a concentrated and integral review of the problems of production. To some extent, this would be useful as an evaluation of what will have been achieved on the basis of the directions which countries had indicated to FAO at this Conference. Another interesting study would be to know how countries visualised the adjustment of field programmes to their requirements.

222. Next, the Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO called attention to the problems of introduction, breeding, multiplication and distribution of high-yielding varieties of food legumes, cereals and roots and tubers which formed the staple diet of most of the population. He stressed the ever-present necessity of promoting field projects for crop diversification, including multiple cropping, in which the groups of plants previously mentioned would be amply represented. All of these projects could be supported by international, regional and national programmes of plant introduction and improvement.

223. Likewise he recommended the establishment of plant exploration, introduction and conservation centres in the Region, of fundamental importance for preserving precious disappearing genetic resources. The best advantage could thus be taken of plant introduction as the quickest and cheapest means of increasing quality and yields and of plant breeding for the creation of new varieties.

224. Lastly, he drew attention to the urgent need for effective action in integrated pest control as the most efficient means for controlling enemies of cultivated plants and of preventing the danger of contamination to man and his environment. With this in mind, he presented two global projects which were being prepared for submission to UNDP.

225. The general debate which followed these statements centred on two topics: the criteria which should form the basis for the programming of FAO activities, and the identification of priority areas for FAO action.

226. With regard to the first, the Conference recognised the importance of the fact that the member countries of FAO were discussing the priorities which they felt FAO should assign to the various tasks which it performed in the Region. Many delegations mentioned their satisfaction at the Director-General's statement that it was the member countries themselves which oriented the tasks of the Organisation and indicate what they wished to be done and how. It was expressly stated that the inclusion of this item on the Conference Agenda signified a favourable qualitative change in the Organisation.

227. It was considered that medium-term programming not only set priorities for a better allocation of the Organisation's resources but also, through critical retrospective analysis and evaluation of errors and progress in both orientation and action, that it permitted readjustment of the concept and organisation of FAO assistance.

228. Several delegations, moreover, pointed out that medium-term programming of FAO activities could be an effective instrument for solving the present crisis which appeared to be gathering round a given concept of international cooperation. A good deal of technical assistance had been furnished to countries for specific projects, using an approach which could be described as piecemeal inasmuch as it did not sufficiently consider the place of those projects within the overall development of the country nor

their subsequent impact on the economy of other developing countries. Medium-term programming, linked to country programming, would enable this problem to be solved to an important degree. When the Perspective Study, now in preparation, was available, it also would define assistance in terms of its effects on other countries. This would imply, of course, the need for international agreements not now existing, but which would have to be arranged in the medium term.

229. The value of this new form of FAO programming as an instrument to make more efficient use of the resources contributed to the Organisation by the countries was indicated. The countries declared their interest in a substantial expansion of FAO's work in the Region. However, they realised how difficult it was to obtain an increase in budgetary contributions which would parallel the increase in needs. Therefore, the greater efficiency permitted by medium-term programming would prevent the ever more serious budgetary problems to lead to a resurgence of bilateral assistance, with the consequent tied aid, dependence, etc., in detriment to multilateral aid and its recognised advantages. Medium-term programming could even help FAO to obtain part of the resources that some countries otherwise would assign to bilateral aid.

230. At this time, some of what had already been said during the discussions of other items of the Agenda was reiterated to the effect that FAO action, whether direct or in collaboration with other organisations, should be oriented within the conceptual frame of reference on agrarian reform as approved by this Conference. This, in terms of medium-term programming, meant that from now on FAO would have to adapt its programmes in quantitative terms as regards to the resources that would be allocated to the Region, as well as in qualitative terms as regards the assignment of such resources and trained personnel required by this new orientation. The advantage of medium-term programming was that the course of action could be projected in an orderly and rational way, while still allowing for the necessary flexibility to cope with emergency situations, as indicated further on.

231. The Conference was unanimous in its identification of priorities for FAO action. Nevertheless, it was expressly stated that this assignment of priorities should not in any way be considered rigid. Very much to the contrary, FAO programming should be as flexible as its internal organisation would permit. Reference was made here to the case of coffee rust, a pest whose outbreak in Brazil required a rapid and drastic change in the operational programmes of the Organisation in the Region.

232. In addition to the already mentioned agrarian reform, international trade in agricultural products and regional sub-regional economic integration were indicated as other fields for priority action by FAO. The Conference drew attention to the need to intensify the efforts of the Organisation to keep up to date the information about international trade, analyse its development, trends and problems, prepare studies on basic commodity problems and promote and support the arrangement of international agreements on such commodities, insist on the need to modify present conditions of foreign trade development, study the problems created by agricultural protectionist policies in the developed countries, use its facilities as forums for dialogue between the developed and underdeveloped countries concerning trade in agricultural products, and support regional sub-regional integration movements, as well as other items.

233. The Conference mentioned livestock development as another priority area. It was satisfied at the selection of this as the subject of one of the Technical Committees, at the quality of the report that had been prepared and at the resulting recommendations to Member Governments and to the Director-General of FAO. It unanimously agreed that Latin America must make an enormous effort to increase its production of animal protein and that the use of ruminants must be the chief means of achieving this, although this at no time implied any decrease in the importance of pigs and poultry in places where they did not compete with human consumption of grains. Lastly, attention was drawn to the need to intensify cooperating with the Pan-American Health Organisation and to promote a high-level scientific meeting on animal health problems.

234. Although not of equal importance in all countries, the development of forest and fishery activities was also described as a priority area and mention was made of the enormous potential for export to countries outside of the region as well as regional trade in products generated by both sub-sectors.

235. There was general agreement on several additional priority areas for FAO action in the Region, such as: (a) the definition of a policy on science and technology in order to permit the development of national and regional technological capacity; (b) the strengthening and reorientation of extension organisations in order to achieve a widespread awareness of new technological advances among the producers; (c) the improvement of rural education programmes; and (d) the conservation, reclamation and development of the environment and its natural resources, endorsing the Director-General's words in that connection.

236. At all times, over-optimism concerning the possibility of implementing a regional development strategy must be avoided. It was pointed out that document LARC/70/9 overestimated the capacity of FAO and of the countries. It would be necessary to refine future procedures in order to synchronise FAO action and perfect the process of defining agricultural policies of the countries. Some of the difficulties in defining priorities in the FAO action programme probably existed because such priorities were not defined at the level of several of the countries.

237. Various delegations referred to the priorities given in document LARC/70/9. They considered that these were generally correct but in each case they differed on the order of listing. Several delegations mentioned the order which they considered corresponded most closely to the needs of their countries. The Secretariat took due note.

238. In relation to the introduction of new varieties of plants or new breeds of livestock, and the need to preserve the genetic resources of the Region, the Conference approved the following Resolutions. The Argentine delegation abstained from voting on Resolution 24/70.

#### RESOLUTION 24/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

#### Considering:

1. That future improvement of production and productivity in the agricultural sector, covering both animal and crop production, depends

to a great extent on the utilisation of varieties, breeds, etc, with a high productive potential;

2. That these aspects are of world-wide importance and that Latin America possesses an exceptional wealth of genetic material of a great many animal and plant species of economic importance;
3. That Latin America's reservoir of genes is in danger of being lost or diminished because of a lack of foresight;
4. That it is urgent to take measures to avoid this decrease or loss;
5. The advisability of placing all existing genetic material in the region at the disposal of every public or private agency carrying out research or promotional activities in the agricultural sector;
6. The favourable impact that plant germplasm banks of some crops have had on regional production and productivity and the need to expand these in order to include other plant species;
7. That the preservation of animal germplasm, in addition to being urgent is costly and requires international collaboration;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Member Governments and to the Director-General,

1. That the countries and international agencies promote and support action aimed at attaining the preservation, study and improvement of animal and plant germplasm resources existing in Latin America;
2. That they contribute in an efficient manner to establish or strengthen mechanisms for exchange of information and genetic material in order to make accessible to competent agencies all genetic material available in the Region;
3. That they pay special attention to animal germplasm resources and to the establishment of semen banks, breeding herds or other reserve groups.
4. That they continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional reciprocal technical assistance systems and of existing mechanisms for the exchange of experimental results and of research workers.

RESOLUTION 25/70

The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That substantial world experience indicates plant introduction as one of the cheapest and most effective methods of promoting rapid agricultural progress;
2. That thorough application of the method entails the systematic exploration of centres of origin and domestication;

3. That it is urgent, moreover, to preserve genetic material which is being extinguished through displacement by new varieties with higher yields;
4. That Latin America is still a long way from realising the undoubted advantages of this method;

Resolves:

To recommend to Member Governments and to the Director-General of FAO,

1. That plant exploration, introduction and conservation centres be established in Latin America in accordance with the needs of member countries of the Region and as part of the international network of centres proposed by FAO in cooperation with other international agencies;
2. That, through the Regional Office and the appropriate FAO Headquarters division, a consultation be organised among member countries in order to agree on coordinated action on this matter and to examine the steps to be taken for its prompt implementation;
3. That the possibility be envisaged of utilising the next meeting of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Fitotecnia (Latin American Plant Production Association) next November to initiate discussions in this connection.

239. The Chairman of the Programming Committee in his statement praised the text of document LARC/70/9, which considerably facilitated the discussions. He emphasised the importance that from now on the recommendations of the Regional Conference would have because of the reorganisation of FAO, basing this statement on the fact that the Director-General had proposed and obtained a postponement of the start of the Council meetings in order to receive the opinions expressed by the Member Governments at this Regional Conference.

240. In concluding the discussions on this item, the Director of the Programme Formulation Unit made a brief summary of the discussions and indicated his impressions that the countries had taken a consistent position which would be very useful to FAO in guiding its future action in the Region. He added that the presentation described the problems by categories and was not a mere list of possible activities from which it would have been difficult to select the priority items on which the Organisation should base its strategy in formulating programmes for Latin America. He mentioned, moreover, that a high priority had been assigned to agrarian reform and also to certain aspects of science and technology and that all the countries attached great importance to FAO assistance to multilateral actions designed to solve agricultural and especially foreign trade problems. He also mentioned the importance given to the development of natural resources, as well as different aspects of training in which, in his opinion, FAO could actively collaborate. He repeated his satisfaction with the fact that the debate had avoided questions of detail and had, rather maintained broad lines of discussion. Within these general lines, FAO would try to satisfy the requirements of the countries in close collaboration with them.

## CONCLUDING ITEMS

### Approval of Report

241. The Chairman submitted the draft final report to the Conference for approval. The delegates made some observations and amendments which were noted by the Rapporteur for inclusion in the final version. The report was unanimously approved.

### Date and Place for the Twelfth Regional Conference

242. FAO received invitations from the governments of Argentina, Colombia and the Dominican Republic for the Twelfth Regional Conference to be held in their respective countries. The Director-General thanked them for these invitations and informed the Conference that he would decide upon the matter in due time. It was agreed that the date for the Conference would be decided in consultation with the governments once the final decision had been made regarding the place where it will be held.

### Closing Session

243. After hearing about the sad death of the former President of Mexico, Dr. Lázaro Cárdenas, the Independent Chairman of the Council, Mr. Michel Cépède, briefly described the salient features of Mr. Cárdenas' personality and work. The Conference was silent for one minute in honour of the memory of this illustrious statesman.

244. The Director-General then took the floor and expressed his satisfaction with the constructive manner in which the Regional Conference had been conducted. He described this event as one of the best Conferences that FAO had ever had, and thanked the delegates for their positive participation. He also expressed his gratitude for the creative spirit of understanding and faith that had prevailed during the debates. This positive spirit would make it possible to orient the Organization's activities in accordance.

245. He stated that he was convinced that FAO's efforts would be successful as long as its activities were programmed from the base upwards. For this reason, he was pleased that the delegations had established their priorities in such a clear manner. FAO would do everything possible to fulfil the resolutions approved by the Regional Conference, submitting them to the Council and the FAO Conference and then by action in the Region through the Regional Office for Latin America.

246. He thanked the Chairman of the Conference for the warm welcome that had been extended to the participants in the Conference and made special mention of the interest shown by the President of the Republic of Venezuela, His Excellency Dr. Rafael Caldera, in the work of the Conference and the Organisation's activities. He mentioned the efficiency with which the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen had conducted the debates, which had made it possible to carry out the programme of the Conference in minimum time. He also mentioned the work done by the Rapporteur in preparing the final report, as well as the contribution made in one way or another by the entire staff toward the successful completion of the work in an environment of cordial cooperation.

247. He stated that FAO was an organisation to which the countries came with their problems in the field of food and agriculture, which put a great responsibility on the Organisation. On the other hand, the Organisation

had a great potential for contributing to the welfare of nations and in this way fulfilling FAO's ideals. Nevertheless, this required the joint effort of all sectors, and the support - especially moral support - of the member countries.

248. The Regional Representative then took the floor to remind the Conference that this was the International Education Year and to emphasise the close collaboration existing between FAO and UNESCO in their respective activities in the region.

249. His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture of Peru, General Jorge Barandiarán, made a statement on behalf of the delegations. He thanked the Chairman and, through his intermediary, the Government and the people of Venezuela, for the generous hospitality offered to the delegations participating in the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America. He referred to the success that had been achieved by the Conference where the problems of agricultural development in the Latin American countries had been freely discussed and analysed in depth.

250. He emphasised the results achieved by the Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform and, especially, the contents of the Resolution establishing a conceptual frame of reference for the action of governments, FAO and other international agencies in this field. He described the contents of this Resolution as revolutionary and he believed that because of its importance it deserved to be known as the Declaration of Caracas in the future.

251. Finally, His Excellency Mr. Jesús López Luque, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Venezuela and Chairman of the Regional Conference, took the floor. In the first place he drew attention to the volume of work carried out during the Conference, the positive results that had been achieved and the team spirit that had predominated among the delegates, technicians and FAO Directors. The delegates, he said, had worked very hard without thinking of their countries individually, but of America and its common problems.

252. He then thanked the delegates for their presence and enthusiasm, the Officers of the Conference for their valuable collaboration and the Secretariat for the devotion with which they had worked. Finally, he declared the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America closed.

APPENDIX A

AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Director-General's Introductory Statement

II. SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
IN LATIN AMERICA AND FAO's ACTION IN THE REGION

5. Statements by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme
6. Statement by the Regional Representative on FAO's activities in the Region and on the application of FAO strategy under the conditions peculiar to Latin America.
7. General debate on:
  - a) Situation and prospects of food and agriculture in the Region
  - b) FAO's activities in the Region, including assistance activities
8. The Latin American Region in the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development, and FAO's contribution to the Second Development Decade.

III. SECTORS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE  
REGION IN RELATION TO THE AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

9. Agrarian Reform (consideration of the conclusions of the Technical Committee)
10. Livestock Development (consideration of the conclusions of the Technical Committee)
11. Foreign Trade. Problems and prospects of the countries of the Region.
12. Contribution of technology and research to agricultural development in Latin America.



IV. FAO PROGRAMMES IN THE REGION

13. Orientation of FAO's activities in their application to the Region.

V. CONCLUDING ITEMS

14. Consideration and adoption of the Report.
15. Date and Place of the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America.
16. Closing of the Conference.

APPENDIX B

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Series LARC/70</u>		<u>Agenda Item</u>
LARC/70/1	Agenda	3
LARC/70/1 (a)	Annotated Agenda	3
LARC/70/2	General Report on FAO Action in Latin America	6, 7 and 13
LARC/70/3	The Latin American Region in the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development and the FAO contribution to the Second UN Development Decade	8
LARC/70/3 Add. 1	Perspective Plan of Agricultural Development and integration in Central America	8
LARC/70/4	Foreign Trade. Problems and prospects of the countries of the Region.	11
LARC/70/5	The contribution of technology to agricultural development in Latin America	12
LARC/70/6	Agrarian Reform in Latin America (Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform)	9
LARC/70/7	Technical Committee on Livestock Development	10
LARC/70/8	Present Conditions and Future Prospects for Food and Agriculture in Latin America	6, 7 and 13
LARC/70/9	Medium Term Programme (Supplementary Paper for the Latin American Regional Conference)	13
LARC/70/9 Rev. 1	Medium Term Programme (Replaces paragraph 36 of Document LARC/70/9)	13
LARC/70/9 (a)	Proposals for Medium-Term Activities and Programmes (Note by Director-General)	13

		<u>Agenda Item</u>
LARC/70/10 Rev. 1	Report of the Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform	9
LARC/70/11 Rev. 1	Report of the Technical Committee on Livestock Development	10
<u>Series LARC/70/CONF</u>		
LARC/70/CONF/1	Director-General's Introductory Statement	4
LARC/70/CONF/2	Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America	5
LARC/70/CONF/3	Statement by the Executive Director for the World Food Programme	5
LARC/70/CONF/4	Statement by the Regional Represen- tative on FAO's activities in the Region and on the application of FAO strategy under conditions pecu- liar to Latin America	6
LARC/70/CONF/5	Introductory Statement by the Director of the Animal Production and Health Division, FAO, Rome	10
LARC/70/CONF/6	Statement by his Excellency Mr. L. M. Robinson, Ministry of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago	
LARC/70/CONF/7	Statement by Mr. A. H. Boerma, Director-General at the Inaugural Ceremony	
LARC/70/CONF/8	Statement by Mr. José Emilio G. Araujo, Director-General of Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Science of the OAS on "IICA and FAO - Cooperation in the service of the same commander: The Peoples of America"	
LARC/70/CONF/9	Address by Mr. Michel Cépède, Independent Chairman of the FAO Council	
LARC/70/CONF/10	Statement by Mr. Jack C. Westoby, Director, Programme Coordination and Operations, Forestry Department, FAO, on Foreign Trade: Problems and Prospects	11
LARC/70/CONF/11	Introductory Statement by Mr. E.M. West, Director, Programme Formulation Division, on Medium-Term Programme	13

Agenda Item

- LARC/70/CONF/12 Statement by Mr. E. M. Ojala,  
Assistant Director-General,  
Economic and Social Department,  
FAO, on Foreign Trade 11
- LARC/70/CONF/13 Statement by Mr. Felix Albani,  
Director of the Plant Production  
and Protection Division, FAO

Series LARC/70/INF

- LARC/70/INF/1 Information Note
- LARC/70/INF/2 Provisional Timetable
- LARC/70/INF/3 List of Documents  
Rev. 2
- LARC/70/INF/4 Recommendations made by the Tenth FAO  
Regional Conference for Latin America  
and Action Taken
- LARC/70/INF/5 Report on United Nations/FAO World  
Food Programme Activities in Latin  
America
- LARC/70/INF/7 Account of Proceedings and Recommenda-  
tions of the Regional Consultation on  
the Development of the Forest and Pulp  
and Paper Industries in Latin America  
(Organised by FAO, ECLA and UNIDO,  
Mexico City, 19-26 May 1970)
- LARC/70/INF/13 Letter from Mr. Carlos Manuel Castillo  
Secretary-General of the Permanent  
Secretariat of the General Treaty on  
the Economic Integration of Central  
America.
- LARC/70/INF/14 Letter from the Director of the Plant  
Production and Protection Division of  
FAO.

APPENDIX C

OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

Chairman of the Conference	His Excellency Mr. Jesús López Luque (Venezuela)
Vice-Chairmen	His Excellency Mr. J. Emilio Valderrama (Colombia) His Excellency Mr. Carlos Rafael Rodríguez (Cuba) His Excellency Mr. Vicente Burneo (Ecuador) His Excellency Mr. R. Shankar (Netherlands-Surinam) His Excellency Mr. Jorge Barandiarán Pagador (Perú) His Excellency Mr. L. M. Robinson (Trinidad and Tobago)
Rapporteur	Mr. José Olivares (Chile)
Director-General of FAO	Mr. A. H. Boerma
Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Latin America	Mr. Juan Felipe Yriart
Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department	Mr. E. M. Ojala
Secretary-General of the Conference	Mr. Pedro Moral López
Assistant Secretary of the Conference	Mr. J. Castellanos
Reports Officer	Mr. F. Fuenzalida

FAO COUNCIL AND FAO PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Independent Chairman of the FAO Council	Mr. Michel Cépède
Chairman, FAO Programme Committee	Mr. G. Bula Hoyos

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7. FAO STAFF

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E. M. Ojala	Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department
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E. H. Hartmans	Director, Area Service Division
H. A. Jasiorowski	Director, Animal Production and Health Division
H. Watzinger	Director, Fishery Industries Division
E. M. West	Director, Programme Formulation
J. Westoby	Director, Forest Industries and Trade Division
K. C. Abercrombie	Deputy Director, Economic Analysis Division
V. Heymans	Chief, Latin American Area, FAO/IBRD Cooperative Programme
A. Posada	Chief, Agrarian Reform and Rural Sociology Service, Rural Institutions Division
E. A. Asselbergs	Chief, Food and Agricultural Industries Service, Agricultural Services Division
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J. H. Moser	Freedom from Hunger Campaign Development Officer
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F. Piraud	Interpreter, Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs
F. Gibelin	Translator, Publications Division
M. A. Ivereigh	Translator, Publications Division
L. Jiménez-Herrera	Translator, Publications Division
C. Lafrance	Translator, Publications Division
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Mrs. M. de la Fuente	Documents Clerk, Development Department
Mrs. S. Occhipinti	Secretary, Area Service Division
Miss M. F. Brossard	Secretary, Publications Division

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F. Peritz	Regional Animal Health Officer
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Mrs. T. Clark	Secretary to the Assistant Director-General for Latin America
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Mrs. M. Hales	Stenographic Group Supervisor
Miss C. Palza	Secretary

FAO/IDB COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME

A. Domike	Coordinator of the Programme
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APPENDIX D

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON

AGRARIAN REFORM

(Summary of Discussions)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform of the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America held meetings in Caracas (Venezuela) on 5, 6 and 9 October, 1970.

Inaugural ceremony

2. The meeting of the Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform was opened by Mr. Pedro Moral López, the FAO Deputy Regional Representative for Latin America, who, on behalf of the Director-General of FAO and the Regional Representative for Latin America, extended a welcome to delegates and observers and thanked the Government of Venezuela for its hospitality.

3. Mr. Moral López said that the Eleventh Regional Conference would be conducted according to the recommendations of the Tenth Regional Conference, held in Jamaica in 1968, at which it had been agreed that the Conference itself should be preceded by meetings of technical committees which would carry out a study in depth of specific agricultural problems affecting the Region and the recommendations of which would be submitted for the consideration of the Regional Conference as a whole. With regard to the present Conference, he indicated that the special topics to be considered were agrarian reform and livestock development, which accorded with the interest shown by governments during the period between the two Conferences.

Election of officers

4. The Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform elected Mr. Víctor Gimenez Landínez, of the Venezuelan Delegation, as its Chairman, and Mr. Guillermo Figallo, of the Peruvian Delegation, as its Vice-Chairman. Mr. Antonio Corvalán, of the Chilean Delegation, was appointed Rapporteur.

Programme of work of the meeting

5. The Committee approved the following programme of work:

A. Agrarian reform in Latin America during the nineteen-sixties.

(1) Agricultural production and structural problems

(2) Policies and trends in agrarian reform

B. Lines of action for the nineteen-seventies

(1) Basic elements for agrarian reform action



- (2) Strategy for agrarian reform
  - (3) Action at the national level
  - (4) Technical assistance and advice to countries
  - (5) Coordination with other agencies
- C. Concluding items
- (1) Any other business
  - (2) Examination and approval of the report of the Technical Committee.

#### Participants

6. The following countries were represented at the meeting of the Committee:

Argentina	Jamaica
Brazil	Mexico
Chile	Netherlands
Colombia	Peru
Costa Rica	Trinidad and Tobago
Cuba	United States of America
France	Uruguay
Guyana	Venezuela

7. The following countries sent observers:

Denmark  
Federal Republic of Germany  
Grenada (United Kingdom)

8. Representatives of the following United Nations agencies were also present:

United Nations  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
International Labour Organisation (ILO)  
World Health Organisation (WHO)

9. The following independent organisation was represented by an observer:

World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations.

10. The names of the delegates, observers and FAO officers present appear at the end of this Report.

#### II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

11. The discussions of the Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform centred on document LARC/70/6, "Land Reform in Latin America", which was presented by Mr. Antonio J. Posada, Chief of the FAO Agrarian Reform and Rural Sociology Service. This document summarises briefly the principal policies and trends of land reform in Latin America during the nineteen-sixties and

suggests lines of action, including a conceptual frame of reference, for the seventies. The proposals contained in this document met with general acceptance.

12. Delegations presented the experiences of their countries in the field of agricultural development and agrarian reform during the sixties. These statements indicate that different strategies and policies for tackling the agrarian problem have co-existed in the region, related to the particular conditions and characteristics of each country. In an attempt at synthesis, these experiences may be grouped into three types of processes:

- (a) Processes directed fundamentally at the modernisation of agriculture which give priority to the introduction of modern techniques and capital in order to increase production and productivity and which make change conditional on the requirements of modernisation and, hence, do not alter structures and power systems;
- (b) Processes involving gradual change of the agrarian structure which combine the introduction of modernising techniques with the change of structures, thus opening the way to the gradual inclusion of the rural population in the distribution of economic and social benefits. In some cases, these processes have favoured and promoted the establishment of associative forms of land tenure and farming based on the free organisation and participation of the peasant;
- (c) Radical processes involving changes in the structure of the agricultural sector with simultaneous modification of the structure of society as a whole. This approach calls for the introduction of technological innovations and the creation of new entrepreneurial units with different types of participation.

13. There was agreement by the Committee that agrarian reform is essentially a social change which must be complemented by the modernisation of agriculture. It likewise considered that if technological modernisation was not accompanied by social transformation, it might become a negative factor in regard to development.

14. The Committee felt that agrarian reform must be closely related to plans and programmes for other sectors of the economic and social structure and that it must be regarded as the structural dimension of rural development.

15. The concept that agrarian reform must be comprehensive was emphasised by the Committee, it being specifically stated by several delegates that it is not enough to transform the structure of land tenure but that sweeping reforms must be simultaneously effected in the structures of credit, technical assistance, marketing, supply of inputs, processing of agricultural products and other services which today are concentrated in a few hands as a consequence of the present inadequate land tenure structures. That is, the peasant masses must be given opportunities for work and for access to the means of production, support services, and marketing of their produce.

16. The Committee was unanimous in its opinion on the basic requirements for effective agrarian reform which are: (a) political decision of governments to carry it out, which must be expressed not only in the promulgation of the relevant legal measures but also in total and continuous State

support, in both the financial and the administrative fields; and (b) active and conscious participation by the peasants in the reform process and corresponding concern on the part of the other sectors of the population. Only if these two requirements exist can the negative action of the pressure groups opposed to reform be adequately checked.

17. Participants agreed with the statement that the chief objectives that must be pursued in agrarian reform are:

- (a) The creation of a new structure, whether of individual, family or associative type, which ensures, both in land tenure and in enterprises of the agro-industrial or service type, the effective participation of the peasant and an equitable distribution of resources and income;
- (b) The generation of greater employment opportunities;
- (c) The organisation of the rural population and its full participation in each country's political, cultural, economic and social life.

In short, the agrarian reform process must aim at raising the standard of living and at bringing dignity into the life of rural people.

18. The Committee devoted close attention to the main obstacles to achieving the objectives of agrarian reform, many of which are interrelated, which tends to make them stronger. Among others, the following obstacles were identified:

- (a) The existence of inadequate institutions and legal instruments and the absence of court and jurisdictional systems covering agrarian law problems;
- (b) The lack or inadequacy of a free, organised, and coherent peasant movement generating definite pressure on the social system;
- (c) The power enjoyed by the groups and interests affected by agrarian reform to oppose its implementation by all means at their disposal in virtue of their political, economic and social control, in particular of the mass media;
- (d) The diversity of the State agencies responsible for agriculture and the lack of understanding shown by many of their officials in regard to a strategy of social change;
- (e) The lack of sufficient financial contributions to meet the various commitments of the agrarian reform programme;
- (f) The lack of understanding and solidarity on the part of other sectors of the population in regard to the importance of agrarian reform and the nature of rural problems; and
- (g) The unfavourable power and trade relationships between under-developed and developed countries.

19. Several delegates made special mention of the fact that agrarian reform experience on forest land and in forest industries is scanty and stressed the necessity of providing forest development with a structure that would ensure the equitable distribution of the income it generates. Such a structure would constitute an important means of creating new sources of employment in view of the forest capability of large tracts of land in Latin America.

20. The Committee voiced its concern about the need to intensify research programmes to collect information and analyse as objectively as possible the socio-economic background of agriculture in order to guide decision-making in agrarian reform matters and serve as a basis for training programmes of the officials responsible for implementing reform, as well as for the beneficiaries themselves. It was particularly stressed that such training programmes should be intensified.

21. The Committee was also in favour of urging a re-orientation of the regular educational curricula of countries, especially as regards technological innovation and changes in social relationships, both of which govern human behaviour and the emergence of values which facilitate the process of change.

22. On the basis of the considerations summarised in the previous paragraphs and of document LARC/70/6, the Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform unanimously approved two draft recommendations which it submitted for consideration by the Regional Conference.

23. The Technical Committee on Agrarian Reform, at its closing meeting, discussed and unanimously approved the preceding Report and agreed to request the Regional Conference that it be included as an Appendix to the final report of that Conference.

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Delegate	Carlos PEREZ DEL CASTILLO Permanent Representative to FAO	Rome
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APPENDIX E

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON

LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

(Summary of Discussions)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Technical Committee on Livestock Development of the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America held meetings in Caracas, Venezuela on 7, 8 and 9 October 1970.

Inaugural ceremony

2. On behalf of the Director-General of FAO, the Deputy Regional Representative for Latin America opened the meeting and briefly reviewed the importance of the livestock sector in the agricultural development of the Latin American Region. He emphasized the seriousness of the ever-growing protein imbalance and stated that, with a few notable exceptions, the countries of the Region were importers of products of animal origin.

Election of officers

3. The Technical Committee on Livestock Development elected as Chairman the delegate from Uruguay, Dr. Carlos Pérez del Castillo; as Vice-President, Dr. Arturo Bonnet of Colombia; and as Rapporteur, Professor Pelegrín Torras de la Luz, of Cuba.

Programme of work of the Committee

4. The Committee approved the following programme of work:

- A. Importance of livestock development in the Region. Population growth and protein shortage; need to diversify production in the agricultural sector: increase in exports.
- B. The most suitable policy measures to stimulate livestock development. Marketing, price and institutional policies; investment financing (the role of financing and promotion agencies, both domestic and foreign).
- C. Technical requirements to overcome existing limitations. Animal nutrition and health, genetic improvement; livestock management; evaluation of available basic resources. Analysis of international markets and export prospects for the Region. The FAO Regional Livestock Development Group and the coordination of technical assistance.
- D. Concluding items. Any other business. Study and approval of the report by the Technical Committee.

5. The following countries were represented at the Committee meetings:

Argentina	Jamaica
Brazil	Mexico
Chile	Netherlands
Colombia	Peru
Costa Rica	Trinidad and Tobago
Cuba	United States of America
France	Uruguay
Guyana	Venezuela

6. The following countries were represented by observers:

Denmark	United Kingdom
Germany (Federal Republic of)	- U.K. Grenada

7. Representatives of the following United Nations organizations were present:

United Nations  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
International Labour Organisation (ILO)  
World Health Organisation (WHO)

8. An observer of the following non-governmental organisation was present:

World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations

9. The names of delegates, observers and FAO officials participating in the Committee are included at the end of this Report.

## II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

10. The Director of the FAO Animal Production and Health Division presented and expanded on document LARC/70/7, in which the different points of the Committee's programme of work were briefly summarized. In his introduction, the Director emphasized the primary importance that must be given to ruminants in the use of the grassland resources of the Region, while at the same time recognizing the potential importance of pig and poultry raising where this does not conflict with the availability of grain for the human population. He summarized the various activities that his Division carries out in the Region, invited the delegates to express their views, and made suggestions on the role FAO might play in the various aspects involved in livestock development.

11. Several delegations participated in the discussion on the item "Importance of livestock development in the Region". The cardinal importance of promoting the production of animal protein for domestic consumption in the Region was underlined, in particular, the nutritional needs of children and nursing mothers were mentioned. Several delegates indicated that in programmes of livestock development all sources of protein, and especially of milk, should be taken into account and that minor livestock and fish should not be forgotten.

12. It was stressed that local conditions have a preponderant influence on the type of livestock product that should be developed. For example, some countries still have available extensive underdeveloped areas that are suitable for meat production, whereas in others it may be more advisable to carry out an intensive system of milk production or pig and poultry development. It was also indicated that replacing the consumption of beef with poultry and other proteins of animal origin for domestic consumption will make additional quantities of beef available for export; this applied especially to poultry products, which can be used as an adequate substitute for beef.

13. It was considered that milk and beef are the principal sources of animal proteins. In general, the combination of high population density and limited pasture area, as occurs in the Caribbean, tends to emphasize milk production whenever this is carried out in conjunction with the training of personnel in dairy management, inasmuch as beef production requires more extensive land resources, which are only present in such countries of the Region as Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela. Priority is also given to milk production in the countries of the Region where the population suffers from a greater protein deficiency in their diet, because it is possible to increase the production of milk more rapidly than that of meat.

14. It was pointed out that once domestic needs for milk products are satisfied, further expansion is not usually profitable, whereas beef production, even in such a case, can go on expanding because of growing export possibilities.

15. It was mentioned that poultry and pig production depend on the availability of cheap feeds, some of which are also used for human consumption. It is hoped that an increased use of high-yielding varieties of grains will contribute to the development of these livestock species.

16. The subject of marketing was introduced by the Regional Marketing Officer, who remarked on the interrelation between livestock production and the marketing and consumption of livestock products. For this reason, development programmes should cover all three points if they were to achieve the final objective of increasing consumption.

The total mark-up in the sale of meat in the Region appears to vary from 50 to 200 percent over the amount received by the producers: it is possible to improve the efficiency of meat marketing considerably so as to benefit both producers and consumers.

17. With respect to cost of production, the prices of beef are often relatively low compared to other meat, which discourages beef production and promotes the consumption of beef rather than other meats. There is a lack of assembly markets and also of standardized livestock and meat grading. There is also a lack of information and general obfuscation in the markets. The system of numerous municipal slaughterhouses hinders the development of slaughterhouses that are more modern, hygienic and efficient. There is a lack of meat packing plants which would permit a greater development of retail sales in a self-service system. Finally, there is a lack of well developed and efficient marketing institutions. The Junta Nacional de Carne de Argentina could serve as an example to other Latin American countries.

18. The above subject was referred to by several delegations who expressed their agreement with the foregoing. It was stated that monopolies in the marketing of meat exist at the expense of producers and consumers. Nonethe-

less, it was indicated that the principal problem lies in the lack of well trained government personnel to deal with the complicated problem of marketing animal products.

19. Other delegates referred to the problem of prices. In this connection, it was indicated that prices to the producer could be improved without necessarily raising prices to the consumer by reducing marketing margins and eliminating unnecessary middlemen, or through greater efficiency on the part of the refrigeration industry. Quality production should be stimulated through higher prices for choice meats. Promotion of livestock development based exclusively on a price policy may frequently lead to inefficient production and be reflected in higher prices to the consumer and reduced competitiveness on international markets.

20. Mention was made of the problem of lack of sanitary control in municipal slaughterhouses. A system of replacing the latter with refrigerated slaughterhouses was described in order to ensure adequate control and produce greater efficiency, it included a system for reimbursing municipal taxes to compensate municipalities for the loss of income. The import restrictions imposed by certain countries were also mentioned as one of the constraints on the livestock development of meat-exporting countries.

21. Reference was made to the importance of stock-raising and its close links with the agrarian reform process in some countries. Priorities in the development of the various livestock species differed according to conditions in each country. One delegate remarked that, in his country, it was necessary to effect a rapid improvement in the protein supply and, to achieve this, livestock development activities had been planned with the following order of priorities: milk production, followed by the raising of poultry, pigs, cattle and sheep.

22. Another delegation stressed the importance of marketing in poultry and pig production, especially when an increase in production has been achieved: in such a case, the lack of adequate vertical integration between the various stages and sectors of the production and marketing process creates serious production problems, some of which are due to faults in the supply of inputs. It was stressed that small producers are the most vulnerable to these faults in development plans.

23. One observer, referring to the marketing of poultry products, pointed out that production flexibility and the capacity to react rapidly to market changes make an adequate market forecast system particularly necessary.

24. It was agreed that marketing, price and income distribution problems were of a political nature and must be solved by each country individually. Associations of producers can greatly assist in the improvement of their income, and the encouragement of such associations is therefore a favourable field for government action. Marketing boards could stimulate the development of incentives for quality production by promoting systems of standardized classification.

25. The subject of investment and credit requirements was introduced by the Chief of the Latin American Section of the FAO/IBRD Cooperative Programme. He pointed out that in 1964 a special cooperative programme had been set up between FAO and the World Bank, and later another with the Inter-American Development Bank.

26. In Latin America livestock development has traditionally been one of the more important activities of international financing organizations. Many countries of the region have programmes for livestock development financed either by IBRD or IDB. FAO, through its IBRD/IDB Cooperative Programmes, has had an important role in many of these loans. One delegation mentioned that, on the basis of a programme financed initially by, and later continued with additional support from IBRD, it has been possible to improve pastures, resulting in self-sufficiency in seed supplies and the establishment of 1,221,000 Has. of pastures under this plan with an annual rate of increase of 250,000 Has.

27. Reorientation of international livestock development loan projects is necessary. These should not be restricted only to the development of production, but embrace the inputs required for marketing animal products and the formulation of a coherent price policy for them.

28. Several delegates criticized the restrictions imposed by international loan agreements in relation to prerequisites and farm disbursement; local conditions often require more flexibility. It was pointed out that the amortization and servicing charges on the loans place an increasingly heavy burden on the economies of the developing countries, having increased in the case of Latin America to more than double since 1962. This has already brought about a situation in which these payments exceed the annual inflow of new loans.

29. The subject of technical requirements to overcome existing limitations was introduced by the Director of the Animal Production and Health Division of FAO. He drew the attention of the Committee to the need for farmer education, utilising mass media, and emphasised nutritional needs in relation to the low average livestock productivity in the Region. In this respect technically advanced intensive feeding programmes are not always the solution, therefore low cost techniques should be considered where they are suitable. The genetic potential of local stock should not be overlooked in improvement programmes.

30. In relation to the assistance FAO can provide with UNDP financing, the Director of the FAO Animal Production and Health Division considered that more emphasis should be put on education, training and research in the fields of animal production, grasslands and animal health. He drew attention to the possibility of assistance through the International Dairy Development Scheme, and reminded the delegates of the proposals contained in document LARC/70/7.

31. In the ensuing discussion support was expressed for the strengthening of training activities, specially at existing centres. Another problem of importance is the quality control of veterinary biological and therapeutic products, and also diagnostic methods and other disease control aspects. It was pointed out that the high cost involved in creating the necessary infrastructure for the control of foot-and-mouth disease could be justified if it was also used for the control of other livestock diseases. The maintenance, expansion and recognition of "disease-free areas" also needs Regional consultations, particularly with existing inter-american organisations. The problem of tickborne diseases was brought up in connection with imports of breeding stock. In relation to lower cost of feed, particular reference was made to the need for FAO assistance in forage plant selection, specially of tropical legumes for pasture improvement.

32. The Codex Alimentarius Committee and the Special Committee were thanked for their speed and efficiency in preparing the draft hygiene standards for refrigerating plants, which will be submitted to Member Countries next November.



33. Based on the foregoing discussions, the Technical Committee on Live-stock Development unanimously approved eight draft recommendations which were submitted for consideration by the Regional Conference.

34. At the closing meeting on 9 October 1970, the foregoing report was unanimously approved and it was decided to submit it to the Regional Conference, with the special request that it be included in the Final Report of that Conference.

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