

Report of the

TWELFTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

Cali, Colombia, 21 August-2 September 1972



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
Eleventh	– Caracas, Venezuela, 12-20 October 1970

FAO Member Nations in the Latin American Region (at 1 November 1972)

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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Rome, 1972

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INTRODUCTION

1. At the generous invitation of the Colombian Government, the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America was held in Cali from 27 August to 2 September 1972. Advance meetings were held from 21 to 25 August 1972 by two Technical Committees, on International Agricultural Adjustments and Food and Nutrition Policies, respectively, and by an ad hoc group which met to examine the Perspective Study of Agricultural Development for South America (EPDASA) and the Perspective Plan for Agricultural Development and Integration in Central America (PACA).

Inaugural ceremony

2. The Conference was opened on 27 August 1972 in the Town Hall of the City of Cali in the presence of His Excellency the President of the Republic, Mr. Misael Pastrana Borrero. The Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Argentina, Mr. Ernesto J. Lanusse, took the floor on behalf of the delegations present and conveyed the greetings of the delegations to the Colombian Government and people. He underlined the importance of the Regional Conference in the quest for genuine and practical solutions to the many different problems facing the development of Latin American agriculture.

3. He mentioned the Region's agricultural problems and said that they could not be considered in isolation from the various internal problems of the countries or from their integration but should be regarded on a level with general economic development. He indicated the necessity for the Conference to outline an agricultural development strategy that, while designed with a view to integration, and heavily social in content, would preserve each country's freedom of action. He believed that, though the attainment of a high rate of economic growth should receive first priority, it should be regarded as a means toward the full satisfaction of human needs and, hence, toward improving the general well-being of the population through a just distribution of income.

4. FAO, he added, could and should play an important part in promoting the introduction of profound changes in the internal conditions of the countries of the Region, such as would lead to the implementation of a suitable strategy for rural development.

5. He concluded by saying that any plan formulated should be focused on the Latin American man, who expected much from his leaders.

6. Mr. A.H. Boerma, the Director-General of FAO, then spoke. He opened his statement by thanking the Colombian Government for its invitation and for the excellent facilities made available for holding the Regional Conference, and the President of the Republic for honouring the inaugural ceremony with his presence.

7. He emphasized the dynamic spirit of the Colombian people, as reflected in, among other things, its Development Plan, which revealed the efforts the country was making to increase productivity and at the same time to improve the social conditions of the population. He was particularly interested in the strategies drawn up to increase exports and improve agricultural productivity and the distribution of the factors of production, especially land. He also expressed interest in the bill that had been drafted to increase credit resources and strengthen credit institutions so as to make them more effective.

8. He called attention to the fact that the Conference was being held in Cali, the capital of Cauca Valley Department, which, in addition to its celebrated fertility, was well-known for its Corporación Autónoma (CVC), a highly successful pioneering enterprise which with vision and public spirit was planning and promoting the integrated development and the conservation of the available resources of the area for the sake of the prosperity of the local population.

9. He concluded by praising the efficient combination of technological progress, enterprise and deep love of the land that prevailed in Cauca Valley and which, he trusted, would in future be seen to flourish throughout Latin America.

10. The inaugural ceremony was closed by His Excellency the President of the Republic, Mr. Misael Pastrana Borrero. After extending a warm welcome to the delegations attending the Regional Conference, he referred to the report presented by FAO on the situation and prospects of agriculture in Latin America. He stressed that, among the priorities associated with a domestic policy for promoting agricultural production and rural change, income redistribution was to be regarded as an irreplaceable means of removing the bottlenecks that limited or delayed the development of agriculture. Of the ten products accounting for 73 percent of the physical volume of Latin American agricultural production only 26 percent was exported, which showed that it was necessary to promote the expansion of domestic consumption as one of the key mechanisms capable of stimulating agricultural development most effectively in the Region.

11. Explaining his Government's agricultural policy, he said that the intention was to implement it in an integral form because the policies for the rural and urban sectors would then be interwoven into a coherent development policy; because it sought to mesh the domestic process with the processes toward multinational integration to which the country was committed; and because it urgently called for the execution of an agrarian reform programme that would abolish injustices associated with land, but also bring about a rationalization of marketing and give the peasant classes access to credit, health, education, basic services, and recreation. This was a comprehensive policy in that it aimed for efficiency and justice, at making use of the soil and conserving it, for increased employment and, in general, for the fulfilment of rural and urban man.

12. As a concrete illustration of this, he referred to the agrarian reform bill now passing through Parliament, and which, he said, reflected this idea of treating rural problems as integrated wholes since it was designed to achieve not only high productivity, but justice in land distribution and more harmonious participation of labour as well. Specifically, the bill contained a number of social objectives, some of which were fair wages, better housing and educational opportunities for the worker and his family, etc., and these social objectives were suitably complemented by technical and economic objectives such as the conservation of natural resources and orderly compliance with tax obligations.

13. He concluded with a proposal for the creation of a Latin American agency for preservation of the environment and methodical promotion in the exploitation of natural resources in order that the Region's natural patrimony might be jointly preserved, especially from outside exploitation.

Opening of the Conference

14. Mr. A.H. Boerma, the Director-General of FAO, opened the meetings of the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America.

Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur

15. The Conference, with the delegation of Cuba abstaining, elected Mr. Hernán Vallejo, Minister of Agriculture of Colombia, as its Chairman. As Vice-Chairmen the Conference unanimously elected Mr. Ernesto J. Lanusse, Minister of Agriculture of Argentina; Mr. Felipe Orellana, Minister of Production of Ecuador; Mr. Keble Munn, Minister of Agriculture of Jamaica, and Mr. Guillermo Figallo, Head of the delegation of Peru. Mr. J.M. Ruiz de Gamboa, of the Brazilian delegation, was appointed Rapporteur.

16. The Minister of Production of Ecuador sent a cable of thanks for his election but advised that he was regretfully unable to attend the Conference owing to the press of official business. The Cuban delegation made a point of stating that its abstention from voting for the Chairman was no personal reflection on the Minister of Agriculture of Colombia but simply in compliance with the general policy laid down by the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations in regard to representatives of countries with which no diplomatic relations were maintained.

17. Thanking the Conference for appointing him, the Chairman briefly reviewed the importance that he attached to the debates of the Regional Conference at a time when FAO was facing serious financial problems due to the international monetary crisis. He urged delegations

to express their views openly and to give FAO clear, precise and objective guidance for preparing its next biennial budget and restructuring the FAO Regional Offices, and on the country studies of agricultural development prospects and the Medium-Term Plan. He concluded with an expression of his gratitude for the work done by FAO in Colombia.

Adoption of the Agenda

18. The Conference approved the provisional Agenda and Timetable. With regard to the Agenda, the text of which is presented as an appendix to this report, approval was given for the inclusion of an introduction on the item Regional Structures of FAO before the start of the general debate (agenda item 7). Approval was likewise given for the creation of a working group composed of representatives of the delegations of Argentina, Colombia, Chile, France, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America and Venezuela to make an analysis in depth of the FAO Medium-Term Plan before its consideration by the Conference. Instructions were issued to the Secretariat that, before consideration of item 11 (the protein deficit and the green revolution), a summary should be made of the discussions of these topics by the Technical Committees before and during the Conference. Lastly, approval was given for the setting up of a drafting group to assist the Rapporteur in preparing the final report. This group was composed of representatives of the delegations of Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico and Panama.

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

19. Mr. Boerma began with a reference to the major topics of interest to Latin America that had been discussed at the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference in November 1971. In particular, he referred to the review on that occasion of the persistent unbalanced state of world agriculture today and the need to correct it through a wide-ranging process of international agricultural adjustment; the slow growth of agricultural development in the face of the target growth rate of four percent a year set in the International Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (DD2) and the various ways in which the rate of increase could be accelerated; the discussions on the FAO Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium-Term Plan and, following the signs that appeared very soon after the Conference ended, on the insufficiency of the Budget adopted and the need to concentrate the priorities for FAO's work in the short and medium term.

20. In 1971, he added, the agricultural production of the developing countries rose more slowly than in preceding years and, regrettably, that of Latin America declined in absolute terms. This situation was partly due to bad weather conditions in some countries of the Region. The gravity of the situation, however, lay in the lack of any visible uptrend in the growth rates of agricultural production that might suggest the possibility of reaching the target regarded as essential to attainment of the general objectives of the Second Development Decade.

21. The perspective studies of agricultural development that FAO was carrying forward in different parts of Latin America recognized that the principal limitation on agricultural growth had been the dynamism of demand, mainly on domestic markets, because of the prevailing low levels of income and, most notably, its uneven distribution. FAO's concern with this aspect, he said, was a reflection of the growing tendency of the countries to relate their general development to a process of dynamic integration of their industrial and agricultural sectors. Such integration could lead to greater equality of incomes as between the two sectors and to an overall rise in domestic demand. This, in turn, might prove to be the real answer to many of the presently unsolved problems of development. Recognition of this might help governments to find their own solutions to the urgent pressures that now beset them because of inequalities in the distribution of income.

22. He then mentioned other general factors important for the growth of agriculture and on which FAO had been focussing its attention since its last Conference in November 1971. Technology was clearly one of those factors, he said, and everything possible had to be done to step up agricultural research in the developing countries. He mentioned the establishment of the Consultative Group on Agricultural Research, in which FAO was cooperating with several countries and institutions. This Group had started a systematic review of research

needs in the developing world which had led to the setting up or expansion of certain research centres or programmes in different parts of the world. Another enterprise being supported by members of the Group was the Computerized Agricultural Research Information System - or CARIS - devised by FAO to inform research workers on the latest developments in agricultural research programmes elsewhere. He then reported on the progress made toward the installation of a centre for Latin America in cooperation with the IICA. He also referred to the efforts made to create an International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS), which, it was hoped, would improve the dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge in agriculture and related fields.

23. The behaviour of external demand, he went on, was another major factor affecting the development of agricultural production. He made a brief analysis of the results of the third session of UNCTAD which, though not a failure, had not lived up to the expectations of the developing countries and of FAO itself. One constructive result was the agreement that the developing countries should participate in negotiations - such as those on monetary reform and GATT - hitherto reserved to high-income countries, and on the negative side there was the reluctance of the developed countries to give practical effect to some of the commitments they had already subscribed to in the International Development Strategy. He emphasized the decision of FAO to strive for a better deal for the developing countries in their foreign agricultural trade.

24. He then said that, while the developed countries could and should do much more to open their markets to agricultural exports from the developing countries, these, too, had a responsibility to take advantage of market opportunities when they did exist. As an example he mentioned the case of beef, for which there was a strong current external demand of which, for one reason or another, many countries of the Region had not yet taken advantage.

25. FAO, he made clear, also had to show understanding for the situation in the developed countries. This meant searching for policies that would help reduce the present disparities and distortions of world agriculture. He referred to the study on agricultural adjustment in the developed countries, recently finished by FAO, and which unavoidably, in dealing with the aspects relating to the expansion of world agricultural trade, touched on many matters of interest to the developing countries. As an example he noted that, if the high agricultural self-sufficiency ratios of the developed countries were reduced by as little as about two percent, there could be an increase of about 4 thousand million dollars' worth of agricultural exports a year from the developing world. However, the problems that called for adjustment would not, he said, be solved overnight. Many of them were long-term problems, and adjustment was going to be a long-term process.

26. He then turned to the social aspects of agricultural growth and rural development - principally agrarian reform, rural employment and income distribution. He cited the active participation of the Latin American delegations in the discussions at the last FAO Conference on the Report of the Special Committee on Agrarian Reform, prepared under the leadership of Colombia's former President, Dr. Carlos Lleras Restrepo. He shared the view of many statesmen, politicians and technicians of Latin America that agricultural growth and rural development might not always be the same thing, for the claims of social justice might have to take precedence over mere production objectives. After all, he added, it was investments in human beings which ultimately yielded the highest returns. What was needed, therefore, was a redoubled effort to increase production as fast as possible and at the same time to remove obstacles in the way of social progress.

27. More than once, he went on, he had indicated that the solution to most of these problems lay in the policies of the developing countries themselves, except for those relating to foreign trade. At the same time, he had also referred to FAO's capacity to be of assistance to those countries in partnership with them. This association for mutual benefit should be further strengthened. The more FAO knew about the problems of the countries, the more effectively it would be able to help them in their national policies and planning in the agricultural sector. He then announced that these activities would be made much more country-oriented through country perspective studies.

28. Modelled on the South American Perspective Study and prepared in full consultation with the governments, these studies would now go much further and include working notes on the various subsectors, identification of the major development problems and constraints in the different countries, and a critical review of existing programmes and projects, and would put forward alternative strategies that might be followed.

29. He then turned to the situation of FAO and to his decision that there would have to be an immediate and stronger sharpening of its priorities, partly because, as had been suggested at the FAO Conference, the Organization was trying to do too much with its limited resources - a view which FAO itself shared to some extent - and partly because of the serious financial crisis it had had to face recently.

30. The outlook of the financial crisis was still uncertain, but failure to take economy measures would result in a deficit of 7 million dollars on the budget of 86 million dollars voted for the biennium. This was due to two factors beyond FAO's control: the devaluation of the dollar and the acceleration of inflationary pressures more rapidly than had been estimated. FAO was now threatened with the possible loss of a further 5 million dollars if the United States Congress decided to reduce the American contribution to the United Nations and its specialized agencies to 25 percent; moreover, the Organization would be facing a growing deficit on its agency costs from the UNDP and FAO's Trust Fund overheads.

31. The Organization was thus compelled, as a matter of prudence, to take urgent and rather drastic action, most notably the imposition of a 10 percent cut in the allotments to Headquarters' divisions and Regional Offices.

32. However, although it could not have anticipated the full dimensions of the crisis, FAO had not been taken entirely off balance by it. There had been an awareness that financial pressures were building up and would burst into the open sooner or later. Accordingly, certain economy measures on such items as travel, purchases of equipment and so forth, had already been started. And more important, the review of priorities had already been undertaken.

33. Early in 1972 a Group on the Objectives and Policies of the Organization had been set up and had done intensive and useful work that had made it possible to reassess priorities on the assumption of a 10 percent cut in real terms of the resources available for the next biennium. The main objective was to achieve a degree of flexibility that would enable the Organization to respond to the main challenges of the future in a realistic and efficient manner, that is, that when economies had to be made, they would affect programmes of lower priority.

34. In concrete, but very general terms, the 10 percent cut would entail a reduction of some programmes because the Organization would be unable to keep on staff with short-term and fixed-term contracts when those contracts came to an end.

35. The future of the Regional Offices, he said, had to be viewed in terms of priority functions rather than purely financial considerations. Since taking office as Director-General, he had followed a clear policy designed to enhance the influence of the Regional Conferences in the selection of the Organization's priorities and the formulation of its programmes. For this purpose the Regional Conferences required the support of the Regional Offices to assist in analysing the definitions of problems and problem areas. He felt that the Regional Offices should be strengthened to perform this function, but that they should correspondingly give less emphasis than in the past to direct technical assistance activities.

36. These activities, he added, could be supplied with other resources at the call of the Organization as long as provision was made for them in Country Programming. This would imply a revision of the structure of the Regional Offices. They would need to have fewer technical specialists, but more high-level people skilled in policy and planning matters. These, he made clear, were his own personal views. However, a study on the role and functions of the Regional Offices was being prepared by former Deputy Director-General Mr. Pierre Terver, which Mr. Boerima would like to see in final form before proceeding further.

It was very important, he said, that the Latin American delegations express openly their views on this subject so that the decisions taken would reflect their interests.

37. He said that a review of priorities should not be regarded as an acknowledgement of possible errors in the past but as part of a constantly needed process of organizational adjustment to the ever-changing conditions of our time. This entailed a confrontation with problems - either new in themselves or new by reason of their increasing magnitudes, urgency or complexity.

38. From the standpoint of their importance, priority allocation was closely related to the areas of concentration or emphasis of FAO. In addition to those already mentioned, he referred to a fourth area of emphasis that was now particularly important: the problems of the environment; while these problems had always been of major concern to FAO, the recent Stockholm Conference had given new impetus to the search for solutions to this grave world threat.

39. The Stockholm Conference had been a real success. In particular, he cited its recognition of the link between the environment and development, and the ample understanding that had emerged of the need for the developing countries to accelerate their development in order to solve their environmental problems and improve the quality of life of their peoples. He recalled his statement at that Conference in which he had stressed that everything had to be done to increase the production of food in these countries, which implied the full and proper use of modern technology, adequate to the conditions and requirements of each country, without forgetting the threat to the soil and seas. There was no doubt, he added, that the search for a solution to this dilemma was going to have considerable repercussions on some of FAO's programmes. FAO's Regional Offices would be prepared to assume the part of the responsibility that devolved upon them. Their cooperation with the Regional Economic Commissions of the United Nations, already very close in economic and social matters, would now extend to problems of the environment. He expressed his personal pleasure at the presence of the new Executive Secretary of ECLA, Mr. Enrique Iglesias. Not only did he foresee increased importance in the work of the Joint FAO/ECLA Agriculture Division, but he also greatly valued Mr. Iglesias' well-informed interest in environmental problems.

40. As to the other priority orientations in the structure of FAO's own work, he reverted to the importance of the country focus through the country perspective studies. He referred to his decision to centralize responsibilities for coordinating policy analysis on all aspects of agricultural development in the Economic and Social Policy Department through the new Policy Analysis Division, comprising elements of the former Economic Analysis Division and the Policy Advisory Bureau. Moreover, in response to the high priority that the governing bodies of FAO had given to the mobilization of human resources, the Rural Institutions Division was being strengthened and would be renamed the Human Resources and Institutions Division.

41. He also mentioned the establishment of a Field Programme Review Board to direct the study of measures to improve project delivery and execution and to review the field programme, its problems and the policies guiding it.

42. Finally, he considered the question of priorities in terms of the Medium-Term Plan. The financial difficulties besetting the Organization had necessitated a reordering of the priorities previously established in that Plan, which had emerged, for the most part, from recommendations of the Regional Conferences. Now the countries of the Region had a new opportunity to state their views, bearing in mind their important influence on the revision of the structure of the Regional Office.

43. He then referred to the change in the leadership of the Regional Office. He commended Mr. Juan Felipe Yriart who, after four years of brilliant service as Regional Representative, had moved up to more general duties at Headquarters, and Dr. Armando Samper who would succeed him as head of the Regional Office for Latin America. There was no doubt that Dr. Samper, with his great reputation and experience, would effectively guide the process of strengthening the Regional Office so that it would serve the interests of the countries in the Region to the fullest extent possible.

44. He closed with the remark that this Conference came at a critical time for the developing world as a whole, for Latin America in particular, and for the agencies of the United Nations system such as FAO. Now more than ever, he said, efforts had to be pooled in the pursuit of common objectives and in the confidence that they would ultimately be achieved because, quite simply, they were right.

Statement by Mr. Enrique V. Iglesias, the Executive Secretary of ECLA

45. The Executive Secretary of ECLA opened his statement by conveying the greetings of United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Kurt Waldheim. He said he was pleased to be present at the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference and to be able to communicate ECLA's views on the important items on the agenda.

46. He referred to the common experience of FAO and ECLA throughout a quarter of a century of mutual cooperation and of aid to Latin American countries in the quest for ways out of underdevelopment. During those 25 years the world had undergone striking changes and an economic expansion unprecedented in history. However, this expansion had created and was still creating extremely serious problems both for the developed countries and for the whole international community. In the developed countries an uncontrolled application of new technologies was producing tremendously dangerous imbalances in urban-industrial concentrations and in man-nature relationships which were generating new problems affecting the environment and quality of life of those countries and the whole planet. The distortions of industrial society were being projected on to the whole system of prevailing values and were severely calling in question the way of life of a frequently irresponsible society thrust into unrestricted consumption. The younger generation had become a severe judge of the present and future of that society in terms that the governing classes could scarcely ignore.

47. At the same time, he added, serious contradictions had arisen between an unprecedented global expansion that benefited a very small segment of the world's population and a worsening of problems that continued to have a painful effect particularly on the populations of the Third World: problems of massive poverty, misery and even survival.

48. He then referred to the changes experienced by Latin America over the previous 25 years. He told how the Latin American countries had taken many different political and economic paths in their endeavour also to accelerate their growth rates and extend the benefits of progress to their peoples. He mentioned the enormous responsibility of the countries and international agencies, which were confronting a growing number of experiments in the economic and social fields. The greater level and growing development which the Latin American countries had attained were making them much more exacting in the help they expected of us with their development policies.

49. He went on to consider searchingly the position occupied by agriculture in the present Latin American picture. He mentioned the diversity of situations obtaining in the Region in regard to the resources available, cultural traditions, degrees of development and the different economic and political systems of the countries. It had to be recognized, therefore, that each country had its own individuality and special solutions and was defining or would have to define a development strategy through its own political, economic and social agents.

50. One clear fact emerged, however, from observation of each of the economic models arising out of the rich experience of the last few years, namely, that the development of agriculture continued to be an essential component of all of them and to excite the growing interest of politicians, economists and sociologists and of everybody who in one way or another was concerned with the economic and social development of Latin America.

51. Reality was leaving behind the attitudes and myths which for many years after the war had led to agricultural activity being regarded as the poor relation of the economy in most countries.

52. Nevertheless, experience had clearly and sometimes harshly demonstrated that quantitative, and even more so, qualitative advances in agriculture were essential for overall economic development in the stages at which the countries of the Region found themselves.

53. Responding to this concern, the Latin American countries had put into effect with varying success all types of measures for accelerating their agricultural progress. In some cases, this action had been direct and fundamental, aiming at an entire recasting of the structures of agrarian land use and tenure; in other cases it had been preferred to resort to programmes for settlement, resettlement, the mobilization of financial incentives, the improvement of farm prices relative to non-farm prices, etc.

54. It was evident, however, that agricultural growth in the Region had not reached satisfactory rates over the previous decade despite the abundance of Latin America's natural and human resources.

55. Continuing his statement, the Executive Secretary of ECLA voiced his concern about the limitations on both the external and internal demand for agricultural products. These limitations restricted the possibilities of faster growth of the sector and of the economy as a whole.

56. With regard to external demand, he endorsed the views expressed by the Director-General of FAO concerning the need for substantial adjustments at the international level in order to achieve a more equitable apportionment of the fruits of progress between the industrialized countries and the countries of the Third World.

57. In regard to the limiting factors of domestic demand, he adduced many arguments to demonstrate the dynamic role of growth in the demand of the broad masses, whose income was very modest, in the economic and social development of the Latin American countries.

58. His concerns on this subject centred on three fundamental points: problems of income distribution, employment and the massive poverty afflicting part of the Latin American population. With regard to the first, he mentioned ECLA's anxiety, which coincided with that of FAO, to examine the characteristics of income distribution in the countries of the Region and the factors causing the high degree of concentration prevailing in many countries, and to help in the quest for solutions appropriate to each country's circumstances. He stressed the need for an appreciable income redistribution both within the agricultural sector proper and between it and the urban sectors. This could be accomplished by thorough structural reforms embracing the whole of the economy; he stressed that the agrarian reform process would have to be accompanied by reforms in systems for marketing and processing foods and other products of agricultural origin, about none of which much was known.

59. He added that there were a few other unanswered questions regarding agrarian reform as implemented in various countries, to the extent that it did not always fully settle problems of distributive justice such as those affecting seasonal agricultural workers. There was not always a clear idea about the type of agricultural enterprise that was to replace the traditional one, nor about relations between reformed units and other agricultural enterprises.

60. With regard to problems of rural underemployment and unemployment, he stressed that they could not be solved in isolation but only in the setting of an overall development strategy. Contrary to opinion in some circles, he harboured serious doubts about the ability of agriculture to create more jobs than had been generated over the past few decades. He reaffirmed that solutions should be sought in the entire complex of economic and social activity with regard for the problems of applying new production methods both inside and outside agriculture. In this connexion, he stressed once again how greatly an increase in demand could help activate the sector and thereby generate new employment opportunities.

61. With regard to problems of massive poverty, he said that it would be an essential goal to eliminate them in periods of time and on conditions that should be fixed by each country. He said that it was advisable that the countries clarify what they regarded as minimum standards of social well-being, and that those standards be associated with policies likely

to achieve them. Policies of this sort would necessarily have to give priority to the countryside. First, because it was in the rural areas that the greatest problems of unemployment, malnutrition, housing, health and other major hindrances to the attainment of a minimum of social and economic well-being were to be met with, but also because suitable policies in the agricultural sector, when directed at food production, the generation of employment, the use of proper technologies and the promotion of agro-industrial activities, were key points in a strategy intended both to increase the growth rate and to tackle qualitative problems of great importance to a planned elimination of the more unbearable aspects of poverty.

62. He referred further on to current anxiety in the world about environmental problems, whose solution would require close cooperation between FAO and ECLA. He said that the problems involved actually concerned the very survival of the human race, in itself an indication of the crucial importance of the subject. He emphasized the significant contribution made by the Latin American nations to this subject at the recent Stockholm Conference.

63. He went on to say that all these questions posed a challenge to the imagination of Latin Americans and of international officials to improve conditions in the rural environment. He suggested that the response to that challenge could be planned regional development. To that end it was necessary to learn much more about planning techniques, which should be adapted to the circumstances of each country.

64. He concluded by reaffirming his intention of strengthening the already close bonds of cooperation between ECLA and FAO, and particularly the activities of the Joint Division, which should result in fresh contributions to knowledge of agricultural conditions in Latin America, and in a solution to the problems bedevilling this sector. He addressed a special greeting to Mr. Armando Samper, the new FAO Regional Representative, with whom he hoped to maintain continuous and fruitful contacts.

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

65. Mr. Aquino started by stressing the constant increase in WFP assistance to Latin America. In the last four years there had been a fourfold rise in levels of aid for the economic and social development of the countries of the Region, besides the numerous projects which were under technical examination or in the preliminary discussion phase, and those for emergency aid. In the same period, the WFP had trebled its activities at the world level, which meant, on the one hand, a dynamic growth and on the other, an appreciable increase in the relative importance accorded to Latin America.

66. Although the increase mentioned was encouraging, there was still a great unsatisfied demand which could lead to a significant increase in WFP activities if additional resources were available. Moreover, the proportion of protein-rich foods which it received was too small for the Programme to make an important nutritional contribution. This was happening at a time when several European countries were using around 1 million tons of milk powder for livestock feed every year. He likewise stressed the relatively meagre contribution of the developing countries. Latin America, he indicated, had accounted for less than 1 percent of the WFP's resources even though some of the countries were major food producers. A greater contribution by the developing countries would make the Programme more effective in its efforts to raise the contributions of the industrial countries to a more satisfactory level.

67. The Latin American countries, he added, had preferred to concentrate WFP activities in the social field, especially the feeding of vulnerable population groups. The contribution to agricultural development had therefore been relatively modest, far from what the WFP would have liked to achieve, and in contrast with what had occurred in other regions where agricultural projects had absorbed the bulk of the aid. The Programme would be interested in cooperating in projects which, besides modernizing farms, lead to the creation of new and permanent sources of employment in rural areas and in activities related to agriculture. This would be a contribution to containing the flow of rural migration to urban centres and thus to alleviating the problems of massive unemployment and social alienation, which were growing to almost uncontrollable dimensions in the great cities of Latin America.

68. He concluded by emphasizing the opportunity presented to governments to utilize the instrument that the WFP offered to speed up the development of the agricultural sector in their respective countries.

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

69. Mr. Araujo began his statement by remarking on the complementarity of the work of FAO and the IICA. The joining of the efforts of both institutions was becoming particularly significant in the current decade and international technical assistance agencies would have to produce new mechanisms and action strategies in the quest for alternative solutions to meet the aspirations of all countries. As an example of this complementarity he mentioned the joint preparation of a conceptual framework aimed at the definition of an agrarian reform process specifically tailored to the requirements of Latin American development. The world agency and the inter-American agency were steadily approaching real unity of thought and action.

70. He mentioned the current negotiations with the countries that had not signed the original IICA convention with a view to their admission to membership in the Institute. This would make it possible to put the finishing touches on the action strategy that IICA had been planning since 1970. To this end, a protocol of amendments to the IICA convention was being drafted.

71. He then outlined the basic points of a doctrinal understanding between the two institutions to guide the joint action in the Region. Until now the world had been divided into rich and poor countries, which had resulted in an international division of labour in which the latter had to be content with the status of producers of raw or semi-processed materials and suppliers of cheap labour. The agricultural sector in Latin America had become the rural pole in a process of frustrated capitalistic development in which management of the land and the productivity of the sector had largely been left in incompetent hands that could do little to enliven the production and distribution of the agricultural product.

72. A lack of entrepreneurs and monopolistic control of the factors of production had led to the formation of a rigid rural society whose principal features were cultural domination manifested in a qualitative monopoly of education and in the exclusion of much of the rural population from all political and economic activity.

73. Every objective indicator suggested that rural underdevelopment had not been significantly relieved in the previous decade. At the root of these problems, which were aggravated by soaring population growth, lay the fact that very few governments were promoting any restructuring of agriculture. In most cases, agrarian reform had not gone beyond the stage of legal pronouncements. In the countryside there persisted a framework of social, economic, political and cultural relationships based on the predominance of a minority hostile to change over the majority excluded from development opportunities.

74. There was a growing awareness that such a situation could not be rectified by development strategies centred exclusively on economic manipulation and technological innovation. Physical growth and material progress had to be regarded only as instruments for achieving what was dearest to the human being: dignity, justice and liberty.

75. He went on to refer to the reform of systems of land use and tenure which, in his view, constituted the high road to the reorganization of rural society from the bottom up. Factors that should be regarded as complementary to agrarian reform were the implementation of land settlement programmes that would push out the agricultural frontier, the promotion of autonomous peasant organization and the reform of out-of-school peasant education. At the same time, a greater effort had to be made to consolidate and expand the new community and cooperative forms of land tenure and use. None of the foregoing would be effective or worthwhile if a great effort were not simultaneously made to increase employment in the countryside, to contain the soaring growth of population, to raise nutrition and health indices and to distribute income more equitably. Special stress should be laid on organizing a home market capable of absorbing the supply of semi-manufactures or manufactured products as a means of generating employment for unskilled labour.

76. Such tasks required a firm political resolve and a state apparatus capable of carrying out precise and realistic plans. IICA was accordingly attaching great importance to education and research on the principles and methods of rural development planning and the administration of agricultural institutions. In addition, it was expanding its decentralized structure in the countryside so as to have units in all Latin American countries; it was refining its system for detecting the needs and requirements of countries and its programming and budgeting system, and was supporting the strengthening of national institutions.

77. In conclusion he was confident that the links between FAO and IICA would soon be perfected and strengthened as the two agencies approached doctrinal unity in their quest for tangible solutions to the problems of the American countryside.

Statement by Mr. Michel Cépede, Independent Chairman of the FAO Council

78. The Chairman of the Council referred firstly to the nature and composition of the governing body he chaired, with special reference to the Programme and Finance Committees. He cited the utility of the discussions in Cali for the work of the Council. Later on he referred to the fact that peasants were everywhere victims of the market economy and of those who sought to enrich themselves by meeting only effective demand and thereby created scarcities to make products valuable at the cost of depriving the poor consumer of food. He added that malnutrition had obvious effects on human beings, and was creating a situation in which non-inherited physical and mental defects were becoming 'socially hereditary', which gave a much more ominous dimension to the problem and affected the community as a whole.

79. Later, referring to the effects of food exports, he emphasized that they were frequently injurious to rural populations because of acutely disadvantageous terms of trade, which, he pointed out, destroyed the national capital embodied in soil fertility and the human capital of the poor, underfed population sectors. Though middlemen earned good profits and governments acquired foreign exchange, the loss to countries was usually too great and, what was more serious, the victims proved to be the poor peasants and future generations to the extent that natural wealth was plundered. In contrast with modern exporting agriculture, traditional peasant agriculture could, as had been historically proven, not only conserve natural resources, but also improve the environment and, at the same time, yield unfailing abundance.

80. The 'green revolution' was essentially in line with peasant agriculture, since it afforded greater production in an improved environment; a higher volume of farm employment better spread over the year and, lastly, utilization of external factors of production capable of generating non-farm employment. He felt that the green revolution should be associated with service to the peasants which implied an agrarian reform.

81. In closing, Mr. Cépede referred particularly to the supposed comparative 'advantages' of the developing countries which, he pointed out, derived in most cases from underdevelopment and overexploitation of human labour, two circumstances that made it possible to produce at low cost from the standpoint of the enterprise, but not from that of the workers or society. It would be necessary, he concluded, to replace the economy of competition with one of cooperation that sought the reciprocal advantages of human solidarity.

Statement by Mr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Chairman of the FAO Programme Committee

82. The Chairman of the Programme Committee advanced a few considerations on the proposals relating to the Medium-Term Plan and related activities. He expressed to the Conference his hope that, when drafting the Programme of Work and Budget, 1974-75, it would make an effort to adopt regional priorities that would have an impact on global priorities.

83. He then added that every gain in this direction would be of use to the Director-General and the governing bodies of FAO.

Statement by Mr. Daniel Mesa Bernal, the Representative of the Latin American Free Trade Association

84. The LAFTA Observer referred to the new institutional situation adopted by the Association in signing the Protocol of Caracas in 1969, and particularly to the Plan of Action established for studies and research during the decade 1970-80.

85. In relation to the agricultural sector, he cited the obstacles and objections to promoting the liberalization of reciprocal trade, and outlined the efforts and progress made in this field.

86. In regard to the programme of studies of the agricultural sector in the short and medium term, he outlined the major approaches and features of the research to be done by 1973 and 1980.

87. He emphasized the importance that the Permanent Executive Committee and Secretariat attached to FAO's cooperation through the Joint FAO/ECLA Agriculture Division, which LAFTA hoped to go on enjoying in future, and he identified the objectives, strategies and goals that could be discerned in the treatment of the subject by both organizations.

Statement by Mr. Gilberto Avila Bottia, Representative of the Latin American Parliament

88. He began by conveying to the Conference the greetings of the Senate of the Republic of Colombia and of the body he represented. Thereupon he referred to the First Continental Seminar on Agrarian Reform and Land Settlement held in Bogotá in June 1972 and attended by parliamentary delegations from several countries in the Region and from the European Parliament; it had benefited by guidance from FAO and ECLA, and observers from other international agencies had been present. He said that the parliamentarians of Latin America, as the legitimate spokesmen of public opinion, regarded agrarian reform as an effective way to overcome the arduous and precarious conditions of life of the peasants and as an essential stage in the accomplishment of national economic development.

89. He reported to the Conference that the above-mentioned Seminar had issued concluding recommendations reflecting the identity of its views with the current thinking on agrarian reform of FAO and the other specialized agencies operating in the Region. He made the document containing those conclusions available to the delegations.

Statement by Mr. Tomás de J. López, Representative of the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC)

90. The observer from the Board of the Cartagena Agreement referred to the growing importance of integration mechanisms as an effective tool for international agricultural adjustment.

91. He pointed out that joint action had been undertaken within the Andean Group in respect of mechanisms for international agricultural adjustment, among them those relating to the Common Regime for Foreign Investment, export promotion, harmonization of foreign trade instruments and policies, rationalization of the importation of technology and coordination vis-à-vis third countries.

92. The results of these efforts and the experience gained by the Andean Group in its years of operation could be very useful to those responsible for preparing the report on international agricultural adjustments. He therefore offered all the collaboration required to ensure that those experiences were analysed by FAO with a view to obtaining further information for preparation of the report to be submitted to the Seventeenth Session of the Conference in 1973.

93. He mentioned the objectives and mechanisms of agricultural integration in the Andean Group and made particular reference to the significant cooperation of FAO, in conjunction with other international organizations, in carrying out the studies which had made it possible to advance toward the formulation of criteria and policies for sub-regional development.

94. Lastly, he stressed the importance that, in analyses toward the formulation of agricultural policies and programmes by FAO and other international agencies, and by national agencies in the individual countries, the integration variable be regarded as fundamental. In this connexion, he mentioned the urgency that FAO, in its follow-up studies on EPDASA, give priority attention to joint analysis of the Cartagena Agreement member countries.

Statement by the Representative of the Organization of American States, Mr. Augusto Correa

95. He conveyed to the Conference the thanks of the Secretary-General of his Organization, Dr. Galo Plaza, for Dr. Boerma's invitation to attend this Conference, and his apologies for being unable to attend personally.

96. He emphasized the fruitful progress made in the sphere of cooperation between the OAS, through the IICA, and FAO in important aspects such as agricultural research, agricultural extension, and agrarian reform. He also recalled the accomplishments of the Inter-American Committee on Agricultural Development (CIDA) in its preparation of land tenure studies.

97. Referring to future joint operations between the two organizations, he cited the importance of the perspective studies for South and Central America as a frame of reference for the studies of the present situation and short-term trends of the agricultural sector that the OAS was conducting in the countries.

Statement by Mr. Luis F. Verano P., Representative of the Latin America Peasant Federation

98. He began by saying that, because of the shortcomings of the agrarian reform programmes carried out in the Region, the various forms of land tenure prevailing in the Latin American countries had not been properly reshaped in accordance with the requirements of economic and social development, and it was particularly manifest that the extreme poverty of the peasants was continuing and, in many cases, had actually grown even worse.

99. There was no sign that this situation might be corrected, he added, so long as the peasants and the working classes in general had no part in the political, economic, social and technical aspects of the formulation and preparation of the development process in an integral conceptual setting that embraced and harmonized all its parts.

100. He closed with the assertion that the Latin American would not realize his legitimate aspirations until he was released from the situation of external dependence and internal domination that so profoundly affected his economy and development.

Statement by the Ad Hoc Observer of the Holy See, Mgr. Alfonso López

101. The Ad Hoc Observer started by saying that the Holy See was following the work of the Regional Conference for Latin America with particular admiration and liking and that the Church wished to give its decisive support to those who were endeavouring to grasp and steer the future responsibly.

102. Referring to the statement by the Director-General of FAO and to the reports and working papers of the Secretariat that showed a real decline in agricultural production in Latin America, he said that this trend was deepening unmerited misery and that if the tendency were to continue unchanged the existing gap with respect to the rich countries would widen.

103. He quoted from the recent message of Pope Paul VI to UNCTAD III the paragraph that runs: "In many cases it is the very structures of power and decision-making that must be changed if improved participation in responsibilities at the political, economic, social and cultural levels is to be improved everywhere". He went on to refer to the need for reforms that would be significantly facilitated by a just conception of private property, which, far from constituting an unconditional and absolute right, was strongly connected with the common good.

104. After pointing to the slow awakening of the developed countries to the problems inflicted upon the developing world by the non-fulfilment of contracted obligations, he said that much could be expected from the salutary action of FAO in the Region and hoped that the agency's financial problems would not affect its programmes. He also said that the Latin American countries were displaying firm confidence in their historic vocation to make the continent a worthy abode for man.

Statement by Mr. Michael Sapir, Representative of the World Bank

105. He began by mentioning that the rapid expansion of his Bank's lending for agriculture highlighted a dynamic evolutionary trend. He referred to a few leading policy issues facing the Bank in agriculture all over the world: the weakness of the organization and management of agriculture; the limited access of developing economies to the markets of the capital-exporting countries; inefficient use of resources in the sector owing to distortions of relative prices; the use of capital-intensive methods in agriculture at the expense of the creation of new employment opportunities; the serious problems that beset small farmers generally, and the usually high cost of agrarian reform, the need for which the Bank recognized.

106. He described the growing share of its resources that the Bank had been allocating to agriculture, which had risen from 9 percent of the total during the period 1948-1963 to 17 percent today, with the expectation that this lending would double in absolute terms over the next five years. This, apart from other lending that indirectly supported agriculture, such as access roads, education, agro-industries, etc. The earlier emphasis on lending for heavy infrastructure works like irrigation was shifting toward on-farm activities, technical services and rural development, the latter preferentially aimed at small farmers.

107. He also referred to the special priority given to loans for livestock and pasture development, and also for land settlement projects of limited size, and he cited several projects as examples.

108. He mentioned the fact that Latin America had been receiving in recent years about 20 percent of the Bank's total lending to agriculture and anticipated that this proportion would rise to 25 percent in the coming years, with mounting importance being given to its still modest efforts of financial and technical support to forestry and fishery development projects.

109. With reference to the establishment of the Consultative Group on Agricultural Research, he cited the joint work of the Bank, FAO and the UNDP, and pointed out that the six international centres in operation were doing highly useful work both in research and practical operations. He said that the Bank was supporting a great many other research activities concerned with "new frontier" problems, such as the effects of various types of agricultural development investment on employment and productivity, income distribution, etc.

110. Looking toward the future, the Bank expected to remain the largest provider of external capital, supplying perhaps as much as 50 percent or more of the world total, although this would still be only a small fraction of the requirements for agriculture in the developing countries. It expected to intensify its aid to small farmers and continue its economic support to well-conceived agrarian reform programmes, excepting land transfers. It would be increasingly concerned with the employment and income distribution aspects of rural development and the relations of these aspects to overall growth of the economy. He closed with a mention of the equally increasing importance that the Bank was giving to nutrition as a basic problem of development.

Statement by the UNICEF Regional Director for the Americas, Mr. Roberto Esguerra-Barry

111. The UNICEF Representative reported on the excellent working relations between the UNICEF Regional Office for the Americas and the FAO Regional Office in the joint programmes of both Organizations in Latin America. He stressed that this cooperation extended even to the level of project initiation, with close contact between the FAO Country Representatives and the UNICEF Area Offices. As an example of this fruitful work, he mentioned the regional

inter-organization group on food and nutrition policies in which FAO and UNICEF were collaborating. The group's action would take the form of subregional conferences on these policies, which would be held in succession for the countries of the Cartagena Agreement, the southern cone of South America, and Central America and the Caribbean, as well as for Brazil.

Statement by the UNDP Representative, Mr. David Hartzog

112. Mr. Hartzog opened his statement by citing the collaboration between FAO and UNDP during the last 20 years, including the activities of a precursor body, the Technical Assistance Board. The year 1972 also marked 20 years of fruitful cooperation in the execution of Special Fund Projects. During those two decades, experience had been accumulating that enabled technical assistance to be adapted to the changing development pattern of the countries of the Region. FAO had contributed greatly to the satisfactory guidance of UNDP activities for the agricultural sector - including forestry and fisheries - in the face of requests for assistance from other economic sectors. Thanks to that contribution, an inter-sectoral balance existed which had enabled FAO to take charge of the UNDP technical assistance programmes in Latin America in 1971.

113. Active participation by many competent scientists, economists and technicians in the planning and execution of development projects in the countries resulted in a much more thorough approach to problems in comparison with the efforts made during the First Development Decade. The improved definition of problems relating to the growth of population and its spatial and age distribution, as well as to employment and other factors to be considered in macro-planning, brought out that agriculture would have to be modernized rapidly if it was to produce the foods needed by a growing population. This important question, in conjunction with problems of employment, the improvement of rural living conditions, the selection of suitable technologies and the accompanying social reforms, were being considered by the planners as part of a single whole.

114. He also indicated that, as a consequence of these advances, both the UNDP and FAO had to meet new requests by the countries directed increasingly at solving specific problems within the framework of the overall planning of development. These greater needs, to which future assistance would have to respond and which constituted the challenge of the Second Development Decade, demanded that both the UNDP and FAO adapt the selection and formulation of projects to the requirements and objectives of government plans.

115. He ended his statement by saying that he shared the concerns and viewpoints contained in the agenda proposed for this Conference because it accorded with the thinking of his organization on the important issues to be discussed. He accordingly announced that the UNDP would duly welcome the recommendations drawn up by the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference.

Statement by Mr. Pedro Moral López, Acting FAO Regional Representative for Latin America

116. He began his statement by recalling that, at the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference held in 1970, that is, at the beginning of the Second Development Decade, the rural world had been facing serious tensions as a result of the continuing poverty of large population groups demanding an immediate improvement in their level of living. He said that, regretably, this situation had not appreciably improved during the past two years, because large segments of the Latin American population were still sunk in despair.

117. After alluding to the persistence of the factors impeding the development of agriculture and the improvement of diets, he observed that evaluation of the physical volume of production demonstrated the inability of the sector to make an effective contribution to the economic growth of the countries or to absorb the growth of their labour forces. The thinking of the Director-General of FAO, therefore, was still valid, namely, that it was essential to provide those impoverished masses with more opportunities for productive work if they were to find their way out of the blind alley of poverty - the cause of hunger and malnutrition.

118. He went on to say that the working hypotheses presented by the Secretariat to help the Regional Conference analyse the sources of agricultural underdevelopment reaffirmed the importance of income distribution and underscored the problems of employment.

119. In FAO's view, there was need of greater diversification of production and more import substitution coupled with increased exports and encouragement to the domestic consumption of those products which the ecology of the Region supplied in abundance. It had to be borne in mind that, while low purchasing power was still slowing down production, an inability of domestic supply to meet present or potential demand was apparent in certain lines, which made it necessary to increase imports or restrict the domestic consumption of dietarily important foods.

120. With reference to diversification of exports and international agricultural adjustments he said that the member nations should think about the effort that would be required of them, since their strategies for immediate action would have to be adjusted to the harsh reality of competition for markets in today's world.

121. On the subject of requirements for increasing and improving agricultural production, he underscored the role that devolved upon scientific and technological development. The latest specialized meetings on this topic held in the Region had evidenced the will of the countries to attain a scientific and technological level that would enable them to introduce new technologies and innovations of their own inspired in a thorough familiarity with regional conditions. The Conference, when it analysed the priorities of Latin America in this field, would be in possession of the reports of the representatives of the countries in the Region selected to represent the position of Latin America on the Advisory Group on International Agricultural Research.

122. On the subject of the machinery promoted by FAO for the exchange of information, he referred to the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS), and the Computerized Agricultural Research Information System (CARIS), and asked the Governments to express their views on setting up a main input centre for Latin America under the AGRIS system.

123. He then indicated that it was essential to harmonize, in coherent agricultural development policies, the potential represented by the vast natural resources of the Region and the new technologies now available with the compelling necessity to solve the serious structural problems that afflicted Latin American agriculture. He mentioned that for working out appropriate strategies in this context the Region possessed the conceptual framework of agrarian reform and other guideposts provided by specialized meetings, and the document presented on agrarian law, which proposed a revision of legal rules on the basis of criteria adapted to the many exigencies of the present hour.

124. In regard to the search for measures through which agricultural development might lead to the improved feeding of a growing population, he asserted that this development would have to be supported by the creativity of the Latin American population and redound to its benefit. He described as serious the warnings of the Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies that the efforts made so far had not produced any improvement in the food situation and nutritional status of populations, so that it had become necessary to develop suitable policies for the solution of this chronic problem of Latin America.

125. The aggregate food supply would have to be considerably increased by the end of this decade, he said. To that end, special attention would have to be paid to the implementation of measures that would help stop the large losses of food already produced and the serious damage to its quality between harvest time and ultimate consumption, through the application of measures to increase the efficiency of supply systems to the benefit of consumers and producers. After rounding out the picture of agriculture and underscoring its principal problems, he said that the agenda of the Conference, prepared under the personal direction of Mr. Juan Felipe Yriart, had been designed to continue the systematic and integrated examination of the problems of food, agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries in the Region.

126. Regarding FAO's activities in the Region in the 1971-72 biennium, he especially emphasized the interdisciplinary approach with which FAO had been adjusting its regional activities. He also underscored the important part played by the regional projects financed by the UNDP; the greater flexibility afforded to the Regional Office by the availability of a Consultants' Fund, which had made it possible to reinforce the permanent regional technical team as needed; the carrying out of various interdisciplinary missions; the results of the technical meetings organized in the past in various countries of the Region, and the importance of the Perspective Study of Agricultural Development for South America and the Perspective Plan for Agricultural Development and Integration in Central America.

127. He then referred to FAO's cooperative work with other international agencies and cited its cooperation with ECLA, mainly through the Joint FAO/ECLA Agricultural Division, as the best example of this kind of work. With the United Nations Development Programme the Organization had made over the biennium the adjustments needed to adapt its services to the various stages of country programming. He also mentioned FAO's fruitful working relations with UNICEF and the setting up in 1971 of the FAO/PAHO/Unesco/ECLA/UNICEF Group on Food and Nutrition Policy. In addition, he referred to the work of the FAO/IDB Cooperative Programme and to the activities of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. In closing his presentation the highlights of the work done, he gave credit to those who had done it in a tribute to the memory of Mr. Pier Giovanni Brunori, the FAO Representative in Colombia who had given his life on a service mission.

128. Turning to the future orientation of FAO's programme in the Region, he recalled the general consensus on the effectiveness of the method by which the medium-term action of FAO had been evaluated in the discussions of the Regional Conference at Caracas in 1970, and the unanimity of the Governments on the identity of the priority problem areas on which the Organization should concentrate. Such agreement was no coincidence, he felt, but derived largely from the existence in Latin America of a variety of machinery that facilitated the convergence of ideas and objectives in regard to food and agriculture, made possible the identification of regional problems on the technical level and facilitated the formulation of strategies for agriculture, forestry and fishery development.

129. In view of the importance of consultation machinery for adjusting the priorities and strategies of the Plan to the needs of the Region, he briefly described the components of the system configured by that machinery. Firstly, he mentioned the specialized meetings held by the Organization, generally jointly with the UNDP or with bilateral technical assistance programmes and permanent regional technical agencies such as the Latin American Forestry Commission and the Regional Advisory Commission for the Southwest Atlantic. He also included among the important components of this machinery ECLA, the UNDP, UNICEF and other agencies of the United Nations family and the inter-American system; among the latter he particularly cited the IICA, the CIAP and the inter-American conferences on agriculture sponsored by the OAS.

130. Within this complex network of general and special-purpose consultation agencies for the formulation of agricultural policies, he also mentioned the national agencies that enabled the Organization to participate in the renovating activity of the main poles of scientific, cultural and technical development in Latin America.

131. The Regional Representative felt that the existence of this machinery gave FAO an opportunity continuously and flexibly to adapt its policies, strategies and priorities for action as had been recommended at the previous Regional Conference. Hence, he felt it was important that FAO go on refining in this way its means for monitoring the ever-evolving Latin American situation. The Regional Conference, as the highest policy body for the sector at the regional level, would then have available the information needed for its recommendations to reflect the priorities that ought to be considered in the formulation of FAO's programmes in the Region.

132. Referring to proposals that would be helpful in formulating recommendations on priorities for Latin America in FAO's Medium-Term Plan, he suggested that the Regional Conference take account of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm last June.

133. On the subject of ways in which it might be possible to improve systems for the formulation of regional development strategies, he recalled that at the previous Regional Conference the countries had felt it was necessary to refine the procedures for synchronizing the action of FAO with the process of agricultural policy definition in the countries, since priorities had not yet been defined in some of them. Along these lines, Regular Programme activities on the regional or national level should be coordinated with those financed from external sources, particularly the UNDP. As much should be done in regard to regional technical assistance projects. This examination could aim at obtaining data to enable the UNDP to programme its technical assistance on the regional level in the light of the priorities that the Regional Conference would establish for FAO's programmes in the Region.

134. Expressing his concern over the fact that all too often the identification of problems and formulation of strategies to solve them was not followed up by action vigorous enough to change the unfavourable trends of Latin American agriculture, he voiced the hope that this Conference would succeed in detecting the inadequacies in the action taken by the Member Nations or their international agencies so that strategies on which there was consensus could be implemented.

135. In closing his statement, the Regional Representative reiterated his conviction that the Regional Conference would remain the most authoritative and enlightend forum for the proposal of solutions that would make possible the development of the sector. He also affirmed that to cooperate with the countries in the quest for such solutions was the very reason for being of FAO.

Statement by Mr. Juan Felipe Yriart, Assistant Director-General of FAO, Development Department

136. Mr. Yriart referred to the topic on the regional structure of FAO, soon to be developed for presentation to the FAO Council together with the report of the Consultant, Mr. Pierre Terver, and the reports of the Regional Conferences and the Programme and Finance Committees. The Director-General expected that those reports and the discussions and deliberations of the Council would supply the guidance needed to develop concrete definitions of the mission and functions of the Regional Offices, the Country Offices and Headquarters as interdependent entities, in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

137. The restructuring process, he said, was not confined to FAO, for the entire regional system of the United Nations was now under review. The UNDP and the World Bank had adopted structures that divided their headquarters on a regional basis. He then stated some points on which the Director-General had clear views based on the experience of the Organization.

138. A regional structure was indispensable to an organization like FAO to be able, among other purposes, to work with regional organizations, and most particularly with the Regional Economic Commissions. The UNDP's country programming experience had shown that FAO's Regional Offices and country representatives did not duplicate its efforts, but that the Regional Offices assisted the governments with the experience of the Regular Programme, prior to the programming for the UNDP, in the definition of sectoral priorities.

139. Perspective studies similar to those done for South America would be basic to the dialogue between FAO and the governments, in which the Regional Offices and those parts of them that were essential for the performance of those studies would be important partners.

140. FAO's experience in medium-term programming showed the inescapable need to start such exercises on the regional level with the establishment of objectives that would later be integrated on the world level. These objectives were defined by the Regional Conferences, to which the Regional Offices were major contributors.

141. In spite of this, he added, the Director-General and his associates felt that the mission and functions of the Regional Offices should be described more clearly than they were at present and that their operating limits should be specified. It would be useful to make clear how they should participate in country programming and to decide the extent to which they should render technical assistance to governments, for which they had to resort

to the limited resources of the Regular Programme, when that purpose would be best accomplished within the financial possibilities of the UNDP and governmental programmes carried out by FAO. In his view it was clearly useful that the Regional Offices participate in putting together multidisciplinary working groups to help governments define and solve complex problems.

142. He closed with a reference to the need for more intensive study of the duties and functions of the Regional Offices in the identification, formulation, and perhaps in the implementing of regional projects as important bridges between the Regular Programme and the Field Programme.

Letter sent by Mr. Carlos Sanz de Santamaría, the Chairman of the Inter-American Committee of the Alliance for Progress, to the Director-General of FAO

143. In his letter to Mr. Boerma, the Chairman of the CIAP said that farming and livestock raising were still the greatest generators of employment and foreign exchange in most Latin American countries. In the future, however, despite the rapid urbanization that the Region was undergoing, agriculture would continue to play a basic part in employment, and particularly in the earning of foreign exchange because while the countries were rightly making strenuous efforts to find ways to increase exports of manufactures, it seemed clear that, with few exceptions, they would not be in a position to profit from the growth of world trade in manufactured products.

144. Mr. Sanz de Santamaría described the domestic and foreign marketing structure as a major limiting factor on faster growth of the agricultural sector. In regard to the former, he emphasized the importance of creating domestic marketing instruments that performed vigorously the function of guaranteeing minimum prices and providing adequate storage and, on the international market, of agencies to facilitate purchases at stated prices and reasonably long terms - five years, for example. Both kinds of measures would make possible considerable and continuous increases in the agricultural production of Latin America.

Statement by the Director of the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau, Dr. Abraham Horwitz

145. Dr. Horwitz sent a statement to the Regional Office reaffirming his decision to continue collaborating with other United Nations agencies in assistance to countries in regard to food and nutrition policy aspects. He also said there was no doubt that the deliberations of the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference would help to strengthen food and nutrition programmes in the future and thus enable the Latin American population to reach higher levels of well-being.

Installation ceremony for the new Regional Representative

146. On Wednesday, 30 August, the proceedings were interrupted so that the oath of office could be administered to Dr. Armando Samper as the new Assistant Director-General, FAO Regional Representative for Latin America.

147. Upon the conclusion of this ceremony, the Director-General expressed his gratification at Dr. Samper's acceptance of the position, which had been offered him on the strength of a high reputation, experience and personal standing that made him a worthy successor to Mr. Juan Felipe Yriart.

148. Dr. Samper expressed his appreciation and said that he was vividly aware of the responsibilities he was assuming, not only because of the importance of the position, but also in view of Mr. Yriart's brilliant record. He said that he was no stranger to the functions of international service, and he knew that the main reward was the opportunity to serve the governments faithfully, and to help them advance along their own roads toward development and the well-being of their peoples. He closed with an expression of satisfaction at assuming the regional representation of the Office in Santiago, Chile, the capital of a country that was generous, noble, cordial and full of achievements.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

General debate

149. Several delegates took the floor to comment on the opening statements. The topics of greatest interest to the delegations were: FAO's operations since the Eleventh Regional Conference at Caracas; the role and functions of the RAO regional and country offices; the financial situation facing the Organization, and the situation of and recent developments in Latin American agriculture.

150. In regard to FAO's operations in the Region over the last two years, the consensus of opinion was that the report contained in document LARC/72/2 and the statement by the Regional Representative gave an encouraging account of accomplishments. Stress was laid on the importance that the countries of the Region attached to the perspective studies of agricultural development carried out by FAO for South America and for Central America, the latter including the hypothesis of subregional economic integration. Some delegations underscored the utility of these studies and the need that they be made a permanent part of the Organization's activities, that they be periodically updated in consultation with the respective governments and that their coverage be extended to the entire region.

151. In this connexion, the Conference adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 1/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the delegates of the Latin American countries are aware of the efforts of FAO in preparation of perspective studies of agricultural development and, as stated in the report to this Conference of the Ad Hoc Meeting on the Perspective Study of Agricultural Development for South America (EPDASA) and on the Perspective Plan for Agricultural Development and Integration in Central America (PACA), the participating countries regard the studies presented as a first effort toward the elaboration of a frame of reference for the formulation and analysis of agricultural development policies within the compass of national plans;
2. That FAO is making great efforts to develop a methodology adaptable to the countries of the Region and which could be fitted to the information available in the countries and be used to analyse more deeply the aspects of greatest interest to each of them in accordance with its own priorities;
3. That working relations on the technical level between the groups charged by FAO with performance of the aforementioned studies, and the national and international specialized agencies, such as INCAP, CELADE, and so forth, have afforded major benefits on specific matters, as in the case of Central America, where GAFICA, working through the PACA in close collaboration with INCAP, has arrived at a definition of concrete policies in matters of food and nutrition;
4. That the perspective studies can provide meaningful orientation to subregional and regional integration schemes once they have been adopted by these countries, and be effectively useful in bilateral and multinational discussions for the formulation of regional trade policies;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That FAO make the perspective studies a permanent activity and that they be periodically updated in close collaboration with specialized national and multinational agencies, including the countries of the Region where these studies have not yet been made;
2. That a special programme of advisory services and training be drawn up for the countries in connexion with the preparation of perspective studies and their utilization in national planning, the formulation of agricultural development programmes, and the preparation of specific regional production and development projects in the countries;
3. That negotiations be opened toward enlisting the participation of technical and financial institutions such as the UNDP, the IDB, and the World Bank in the implementation of the programme of perspective studies of agricultural development in the Region.

152. The Conference considered useful the work done by the World Food Programme as much for the increasing importance it was giving to its activities in Latin America as for its prompt response to requests from countries in the Region. The Conference felt that the Executive Director of the WFP was right to exhort the Latin American countries to increase their contributions to the Programme as a way to encourage the developed countries to increase theirs. It was pointed out that the foods provided should be suited to the nutritional habits and cultural mores, and be within the means, of the different recipient populations.

153. The Conference adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the World Food Programme has been doing effective work for the benefit of the developing countries;
2. That many countries of Latin America maintain with the World Food Programme major projects whose execution redounds to the considerable benefit of the economic and social development of those countries;
3. That the present and potential commitments of the World Food Programme greatly exceed its available resources, whose level has not been high enough to meet stated targets;
4. That the Latin American developing countries would benefit more from the World Food Programme if its resources were increased;

Resolves:

1. To recommend to the Director-General of FAO that he issue an appeal to all the governments of the world, and especially to those of the developed countries, to meet their commitments and increase their contributions to the World Food Programme, to which the Twelfth Regional Conference for Latin America tenders its fullest support;
2. To invite the countries of Latin America to participate as effectively as they are able in the activities of and contributions to the World Food Programme;
3. To recommend to the Executive Director of the WFP that its food aid be granted primarily for the purpose of bolstering the development of the beneficiary countries and that it not have the effect of displacing on their markets the traditional export products of countries in our Region.

154. The Conference emphasized the importance of the forthcoming World Forestry Congress, to be held in Argentina with the participation of delegations from all the countries of Latin America.

155. Mention was also made of the importance for the Region of FAO's work in the field of basic commodities and foreign trade, and of the advisory services being rendered to regional and subregional integration schemes.

156. It was agreed in general that FAO had complied with the recommendations of the Eleventh Regional Conference of Caracas. Two delegations voiced reservations about the action taken to meet the threat of coffee rust. In its response on this point, the Secretariat reported that FAO had made every possible effort to carry out a proper prevention campaign. Reference was made to the rapid response given to the Brazilian request, which, with UNDP financing, made it possible to hire pathologists and award fellowships for the advanced training of local technicians in the United States and Portugal. The projects for Mexico, Central America, Panama and the Andean countries were progressing slowly because of budgetary problems in the UNDP. In addition, the UNDP felt that all activities of this kind should be national, so that only the coordination of national plans could be on the international level. In this connexion, it was reported that the UNDP intended to authorize 18 man/months for technical assistance experts in 1972.

157. The report in document LARC/72/3 on the role and functions of the Regional and Country Offices and their relation to Headquarters, and the opening statements of the Director-General and the Assistant Director-General, Development Department, contained clear expressions of concern over certain signs that the functions and resources of the Regional Offices would be curtailed. On this point the speakers were agreed that the regional structure of the Organization should be strengthened and the Consultants' Fund increased. It was pointed out that only a strengthened and flexible Regional Office could provide the technical assistance needed by the countries. Centralization would make for tardy action by FAO in the regions.

158. In regard to the Country Offices it was hoped that the Regional Office would find means to strengthen them, with preference in the relatively less developed countries that were prepared to undertake structural changes such as to further the integrated development of their peasant populations.

159. It was remarked that Mr. Boerma had been the first Director-General to implement a policy of strengthening the Regional Offices, and the countries could not see why this should not continue, or even be accentuated. Besides, it was pointed out, the Regional Office for Latin America stood out among those in the other regions for its efficiency and performance, so that there was no justification for a general approach, as seemed to be implied.

160. One delegation asserted, however, that it was not feasible to divide up all FAO's operations among five Regional Offices, and it was therefore justifiable to set limits to their functions and, concurrently, to strengthen the Country Offices.

161. Some delegations also expressed concern because the suggestions to restrict the functions of the Regional Offices had issued from the internal FAO Committee known as the Think Tank, in which only four of a total of about 28 FAO officers were from developing countries, and only one of those was a Latin American. To this concern the Director-General replied that that Committee had no geographical representation, was only a working team, that all FAO officers had had a chance to express their opinions, and, in fact, most of them had done so. Everything drafted by this Committee or decided by the Director-General would be submitted for consideration by the Council and the Conference.

162. Another delegation shared the views expressed about the work done by the Regional Office for Latin America and favoured its reinforcement provided that this did not imply an excessive allocation of permanent posts, because of the financial difficulties FAO was experiencing.

163. The Conference adopted the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION 3/72

Considering:

1. That the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America recommended to the Council and the Director-General of FAO that he delegate to the Regional Representative the widest powers to enable him to work effectively, without bureaucratic hindrances and with full responsibility, while remaining answerable directly to the Director-General;
2. That the same Regional Conference recommended that the Regional Office of FAO be given an effective function of centralizing technical reports in the field of its responsibilities for the purpose of meeting the needs of the evaluation of financial and development projects;
3. That, in compliance with Recommendation 2/70 of the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference, the Regional Office for Latin America has been assuming more responsibilities in the identification and preparation of specific development projects, and in participation in missions and technical meetings in collaboration with national planning agencies and regional and world external financing organizations;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Council and to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That the policy of gradual and orderly decentralization be steadily broadened to include the progressive delegation by Headquarters of additional technical and administrative functions to the Regional Office for Latin America;
2. That when drafting and adopting the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1974-75, priority be given to strengthening the Regional Office for Latin America so that:
 - (a) It may be endowed with more technically qualified staff to enable it to go on performing, among others, the important functions referred to in the preamble of this resolution, and
 - (b) It may maintain and augment the Consultants' Fund available to the Regional Representative.
3. That, in the event that budgetary obstacles should stand in the way of allocating more technical staff to the Regional Office and the establishment of representatives in the countries under the Regular Programme, personnel now in Rome be transferred to the Region to perform the aforementioned functions.

Note: The United States abstained because of its position in favour of the strengthening of the Country Offices as well as the Regional Offices. It considered the resolution to be highly restrictive in its overall allocation of resources for FAO. The delegation of France felt that it would be more appropriate to state the final position of its Government on this question when the Director-General were in possession of the conclusions of the study on this subject entrusted to Mr. Terver. Accordingly the delegation of France abstained.

RESOLUTION 4/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America:

Considering:

1. That the obvious interdependence between the various socio-economic activities affecting rural development renders unsuitable and virtually impossible an isolated approach to matters involved in agricultural production, marketing and food consumption;
2. That because of this interrelationship it is more effective to regard the rural environment as one of the basic units on which to act to bring about economic and social development through coordinated treatment of matters such as agricultural production, agrarian reform, marketing and agro-industries;
3. That in most Latin American countries there is a striking lack of personnel specializing in the integrated treatment of rural development;
4. That the Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies has stated that it is desirable for FAO action in the Latin American countries to take place in a framework of integrated rural development;
5. That the lack of proper human technical resources constitutes a powerful limiting factor which makes it impossible to fulfill integrated rural development programmes, in particular for agro-industries and the marketing of products of soil and sea;
6. That in view of FAO's present financial difficulties it is particularly important to determine the work priorities of the Organization in the light of the basic needs of its Member Nations;
7. That it is desirable and salutary to increase the exchange of experts working in Latin American countries in order to supplement international technical assistance, and so bring about the coordination of methods, systems and experiences in keeping with the requirements and policies of each country;

Resolves:

1. To recommend to the Member Nations:
 - (a) That they give the necessary support to the request being made to UNDP and FAO to organize and implement a coordinated medium-term Regional Technical Assistance Project in the field of integrated rural development, which must be available first and foremost to countries that adopt this type of overall treatment of problems in the rural sector;
 - (b) The implementation of an expert exchange programme that will permit the transmission of experience and knowledge of mutual value on particular aspects of integrated rural development as specified by interested countries. FAO should cooperate in drawing up the terms of reference of this exchange;
2. To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:
 - (a) That he bring to the attention of UNDP the importance of according priority attention to the organization and implementation of a Technical Assistance Programme in integrated rural development aspects in coordination with FAO, allocating the necessary economic and financial resources;

- (b) The speedy establishment, in the Regional Office for Latin America, of an interdisciplinary group on rural development covering planning, agrarian reform, production, agro-industry, cooperatives, credit, marketing, food and nutrition aspects. This group would perform, among others, the following concrete tasks:
- (i) Formulation of a general FAO strategy in the aforementioned disciplines for the medium-term programme, taking into account the economic and social development needs and plans of the countries of the Region;
 - (ii) The programming of technical assistance and the formulation of integrated rural development policies;
 - (iii) The organization of national or regional seminars in which subjects contributing to the approach to integrated rural development would necessarily be covered;
- (c) That he make the necessary arrangements with UNDP, United Nations agencies and other international agencies with a view to obtaining the help of experts and financing for the working group on integrated rural development.

RESOLUTION 5/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That analysis of the food and agriculture situation of the Latin American countries points to the persistence of a strong socio-economic imbalance in the different strata of the population of the Region;
2. That the improvement of the general well-being of the rural population of Latin America is a regional imperative whose attainment cannot and must not be postponed;
3. That the chief limitation on the agricultural development and social well-being of the countries of the Region, particularly those of relatively less development, is the inadequate growth of domestic demand due to the prevalence of low income levels and unjust income distribution;
4. That the growth of the agricultural sector depends basically on the adoption of policies of structural change, which this Conference has identified within the concept of integrated rural development;
5. That it is necessary to support programmes of thorough, continuing and stable technical assistance in the relatively less developed countries as an encouragement to the effecting of concrete changes that can reduce differences in growth and general development between the countries of the Region;
6. That the international technical assistance and vocational training offered by FAO to Latin America represent an outstanding effort which must be strengthened and channelled toward the slowest growing countries in the Region;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That the Regional Office, regional projects and Country Offices of FAO in all countries of the Region, preferably in those of less relative development, be strengthened, and that such strengthening be directed at the planning and programming for integrated rural development in those countries;

2. That an integrated rural development demonstration project be established for the benefit of the Region, and that it be started in countries that have adopted policies of structural change aimed at favouring the rural population;
3. That the training and technical assistance agencies existing in the Region be apprised of the desire of this Conference that they seriously consider the need to orient and expand their activities in terms of integrated rural development.

164. There was a consensus that the Director-General had acted efficiently and opportunely in the financial crisis facing the Organization, concentrating his action on the areas of highest priority and instituting certain economies of dispensable expenses until a bigger budget were available.

165. In response to a query about the mechanics of the assignment of proportional contributions from the countries for the financing of FAO, the Director-General had to say that he had no authority to change the national contributions and that the possible reduction of the United States contribution to the agencies of the United Nations family was not yet official, as all that was known was that different versions of a bill to that effect had been approved by the Senate and House of Representatives and had not yet passed Congress. There was nothing to be done about this. If the reduction went through, the problem would be discussed in the United Nations General Assembly.

166. Several delegations referred in highly laudatory terms to the statement by the Executive Secretary of ECLA, whose points they regarded as clearly put, perceptive, and realistic. There was general agreement on the fitness of the approach contained in the documents presented by the Secretariat in the sense that the growth rate of foreign and domestic demand, and primarily of the latter, was the key determinant of the rate of expansion of agricultural production. It was further pointed out that price incentives could help generate an increase in production. It should not be forgotten, however, that on the supply side there were rigidities hampering increases in the production of certain items, particularly in certain regions.

167. There was also favourable comment on the concept of a plurality of roads to development which, in the view of one delegation, represented a shift from ECLA's former attitude to a more realistic position today.

168. In concurrence with the views expressed by the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of ECLA, it was pointed out that the agricultural sector weighed so heavily in the balance of the overall economy of the countries in the Region that special importance should be given to it in the formulation of a development strategy. The concept of agricultural development needed to be recast, however, for an overall strategy could not be conceived merely as a concentration of effort on increasing agricultural production, but should take a broader and more realistic view and approach to rural development as a whole and give it an eminently social content.

169. Some delegations cited figures which showed that the prospects of Latin America in the Second Development Decade were anything but encouraging, and expressed their conviction that this end-of-decade picture was not inevitable; to avoid it, however, would entail radical transformations of socio-economic structures in most countries on our continent, so that only those that really entered upon genuine revolutionary processes could escape this gloomy destiny.

170. There was a general expression of support for the work done by the Director-General of FAO in his management of the Organization. Emphasis was placed on the attention he had given to the problems of the Region, and his opening statement was regarded as candid, constructive and direct.

171. The Conference was also unanimous in its praise for the performance of Assistant Director-General Juan Felipe Yriart during his three years as Regional Representative for Latin America now that he had assumed more general functions as the head of the Development

Department at Headquarters. Mr. Pedro Moral López was also commended for his efficient work as acting Regional Representative in the last few months. It was the consensus that Dr. Armando Samper was a wise choice as Mr. Yriart's successor, and he was wished the best of success in the discharge of his functions as the new Regional Representative.

172. One delegate voiced the wish that FAO name in due course a Senior Agricultural Adviser as Representative to his country, and thought that others should be posted to all countries that did not yet have them. He added that, in his judgement, the present relationship between FAO representatives and the UNDP was not workable as it restricted their freedom of action in the assistance they rendered to the countries.

173. It was also mentioned that it would be advisable to integrate the perspective development studies for South and Central America and extend them as soon as possible to the countries of the Region not yet covered by them.

174. Several delegations referred to the need to strengthen the machinery for coordinating the work of FAO in the Region with that of other international agencies of the United Nations family, the inter-American system, and bilateral and private agencies rendering assistance to countries in the Region.

175. One delegate dissented from certain judgements expressed in the Director-General's statement and in some of the documents presented by FAO to the Conference. Specifically, he did not share the view that the social aspects of development could take precedence over objectives of higher economic efficiency; the two objectives had to be considered concurrently if the former were to be attained.

Increase of the population's purchasing power

176. Most of the delegates who spoke on this subject supported the thesis of LARC/72/4 that a lack of purchasing power of the population resulted in a sluggish demand for agricultural products, which was the chief obstacle to increased production. The majority of the delegates also agreed with the proposition advanced in that document that income redistribution was a strategic device for improving the purchasing power of the economically weak strata of the population. At present, it was pointed out, income was highly concentrated in most of the countries in the Region, and the fruits of economic growth also tended to be distributed very unevenly, in both absolute and relative terms, a phenomenon that would tend to perpetuate itself if the present picture held.

177. Several delegates looked upon income redistribution as essential to sustained economic development and hence as irreplaceable, though it could be complemented with such measures as tax or credit incentives. More study was needed, however, of the influence of other factors on income distribution, such as inflation, monopolies and technology transfer.

178. On the other hand, another delegate thought the Director-General's statement and several of the documents presented to the Conference over-emphasized income redistribution as an activator of domestic demand and thereby of production. Income distribution, he said, was a grey area of which little was known, and the statistics available as a basis for the analyses that had been made were still incomplete. He was of the view that redistribution policies should not exclude the consideration of other devices of similar effect on demand and production such as the application of appropriate policies on prices to producers and consumers and correction of the shortcomings of current marketing systems which, by lowering costs, had an effect equivalent to a general increase in purchasing power.

179. Production, the same delegate went on, was an economic fact, and income redistribution a political decision. Inequalities could be corrected on the basis of economic efficiency if what was wanted was to improve the apportionment of the fruits of growth through suitable redistribution schemes.

180. The simulation exercise contained in the perspective part of LARC/72/4 shows an advance with respect to the former Indicative World Plan, but as a result of the dialectical process, it also exhibited a bias in regarding income redistribution as inevitably wedded to massive agrarian reform. He shared the view on comprehensive agrarian reform and said that in his country it had to be understood in functional and not geographic terms. This was why areas of priority had been established, as otherwise it would have been impossible to obtain the real resources needed to benefit hundreds of thousands of peasant families.

181. Another delegate agreed with the propositions advanced in LARC/72/4 and said that in his country income redistribution was being implemented at full intensity and had already succeeded in energizing demand very strongly and, by extension, agricultural production and the economy in general. What is more, the increase in agricultural demand had exceeded earlier calculations, with a resultant generation of heavy pressure to import foods.

182. It was pointed out that, while FAO's perspective studies on agricultural development were admittedly useful and valid, they fell into a degree of generalization which, by failing to distinguish between the situations of countries at very different development levels, amounted in the end to discrimination. It was suggested that in those studies the countries should be classed more in accordance with their relative degree of development.

183. One delegate disagreed with paragraphs 25 to 29 of document LARC/72/4, which stressed that the only possible way to ensure the development of agriculture in the Region was to raise the domestic consumption of, particularly, products that were normally in surplus. He added that what was needed was to formulate and apply policies and programmes to reorient and reorganize food production in agriculture and fisheries in such a way as to incorporate the necessary changes in the structure of marketing and consumption in accordance with the type of resources available in the Region and the nutritional levels needed for its population and consumption patterns.

184. The Secretariat answered some questions put by delegations. In relation to the bias mentioned in connexion with agrarian reform, it was noted that the income redistribution hypotheses was for the economy as a whole. However, because of the weight of the agricultural population in the total population, it was necessary to harmonize income redistribution within the agricultural sector so that the targets proposed for the various strata on the general level could also be met in the agricultural sector in view of the foreseeable increase of the Gross Agricultural Product. From this harmonization it was found that:

- a) in the hypotheses of change in income distribution, changes in the terms of trade between agriculture and the rest of the economy would have to be posited to different degrees;
- b) instruments for increasing employment and raising wages, while useful for income redistribution purposes, were insufficient for increasing the real income of the peasant masses to levels consistent with the overall redistribution hypotheses. From this followed the ineluctable necessity of carrying through far-reaching agrarian reform programmes.

185. In response to an inquiry on the capacity of the agricultural sector to meet the alternative demands posited in the document in question, it was pointed out that this harmonization had indeed been carried out in the perspective studies of agricultural development. It was further noted that, while those studies were presented in regional terms, the analysis and projections had been done on a country basis.

186. In regard to the effect of changes in patterns of distribution on the rate of saving, it was pointed out that redistribution was seen in terms of private consumption expenditure and not of gross income. In this way, redistribution would not affect the rate of saving because the proportion between consumption and saving would be compatible with projected rates of economic growth.

International agricultural adjustments

187. The Vice-Chairman of the Technical Committee on International Agricultural Adjustments presented the Report approved by that Committee to the Conference on 25 August 1972. He briefly summarized the work done and conveyed the unanimous opinion of the participants that

a major readjustment was needed to rectify current disequilibria in agricultural trade and production. He also noted the special significance of current problems for the developing countries. The Chairman of the Conference submitted the Report and recommendations approved by the Committee on Agricultural Adjustments to the Plenary for consideration.

188. The Conference considered some of the major aspects of international agricultural adjustment. It was generally agreed that this topic was of the utmost importance and suitable for consideration by the FAO Conference in 1973. The topic proved fairly controversial. It was felt that the approach adopted by the Secretariat in preparing the report to the Conference was the right one, although one delegation suggested that alternatives should have been offered rather than a single set of propositions. Several delegations stressed that the studies on international agricultural adjustments could be used as a basis for the negotiations within GATT and UNCTAD, and they further suggested that FAO should provide support to the developing countries at the forthcoming negotiations, scheduled to be held in 1973 within GATT.

189. The participants expressed interest in the changes that had taken place in the approach to agricultural adjustment. At first, this term referred only to internal measures taken by countries to adjust production to demand and improve rural income. Now, however, the concept was much broader and included, in addition to internal aspects, those relating to trade and other matters of international compass such as technology transfer.

190. Some delegations underscored the need that the subject of agricultural adjustment be treated on two levels and in two stages: first with regard to the developed areas and later in regard to the whole world. Economic integration schemes and institutions could play a dynamic part in the promotion of international agricultural adjustments and in the regulation of foreign investment. Reference was also made to the urgent need to dismantle the existing tariff and non-tariff barriers in the developed countries as part of the international agricultural adjustment process. For instance, a small change in the self-sufficiency ratio for agricultural products of the developed countries would expand these markets enough to open new prospects for the developing countries and for the whole of world trade.

191. The representative of the Director-General was particularly interested in the studies proposed in the resolutions on the topic. Those studies were an index of the Region's concern which should be taken into consideration as much as possible in FAO's current and future work on this subject. However, the limitations on resources, a circumstance known to and discussed by the Conference, might prevent the performance of some of those studies or their completion within the stated periods of time.

192. The Conference unanimously approved, with some amendments, the Report of the Technical Committee, the text of which is included as an appendix to this Report.

193. The Conference approved the following resolutions in the manner stated after each of them, in cases where the vote was not unanimous:

RESOLUTION 6/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Taking note:

Of the deterioration in the relative position of the developing countries in the world economy, the deterioration in the terms of their trade, their insufficient growth rate, their limited external purchasing power and the growing rigidity in the volume and composition of their exports;

Considering:

1. That it is becoming increasingly clear that the objectives envisaged by the General Assembly of the United Nations in the International Strategy for the Second Development Decade are going to be frustrated, and that immense and growing inequality among nations will be inevitable if efforts on behalf of international cooperation do not coalesce into concrete results;
2. That this state of affairs has been brought about by a wide range of causes relating to the very nature of the production and exports of the countries in the area, to the small number of products involved, to the low elasticity of consumption, to the negative influence of the great breakdowns observed in international trade from the application of policies of self-sufficiency and discriminatory practices and demand-restricting regulations and charges, which exert a direct and seriously disturbing effect upon Latin America;
3. That the prospect for the coming years in the absence of far-reaching corrective measures is discouraging and casts doubt upon the possibility of sustaining an orderly and normal economic and social life;
4. That from all this it appears necessary to review concepts and institutions without preconceptions and to set in motion machinery that will change the present direction of the trend.

Resolves:

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

1. That a basic objective in the design and implementation of adjustments in agriculture be the adoption of measures which, being based on international cooperation, enable the developing countries to attain the growth rate proposed in the International Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade;
2. That these measures in the developing countries be designed to promote the full utilization of their production capacity, to increase the productivity of their resources, to apply national strategies and programmes for production diversification, to increase domestic demand, to enhance the efficiency of the distribution system and, lastly, to foster agro-industrial development as a basis for better utilization of agricultural production, expansion of the domestic market and the diversification of exports;
3. That these measures be so applied in the developed countries as to permit national adjustments in production and trade that will make it possible gradually to reduce all kinds of subsidies and other devices for the protection of uneconomic agricultural operations;
4. That in international trade these measures be such as to permit a gradual elimination of barriers to the trade in agricultural products between countries in different states of development, especially to facilitate better entry on the market of increasing volumes of the agricultural products from the developing countries and, similarly, that they favour intraregional trade in areas of low per caput income.

Note: The delegation of France abstained, pointing out that it had no fundamental motives for opposing this resolution, but considered that there were other aspects to the present disequilibrium on world markets that had not been mentioned; it indicated that it wished to place on record the important role that devolved upon FAO outside the framework of international trade negotiations - which did not fall within its field of competence - especially in the work of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems and its working groups.

RESOLUTION 7/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That, according to the projections of FAO and if observed trends of world agriculture continue, the end of the present decade will be marked by profound disequilibria in world agricultural trade. There will be on the one hand, great surpluses, mainly of wheat, coarse grains, rice, and fats and oils, and, on the other hand, acute shortages of other commodities, particularly meat, milk, fish and newsprint;
2. That this situation runs parallel with other equally serious disequilibria of particular importance to developing countries, which are:
 - (a) The rural population of the developing regions was 75 percent of their total population in 1970 and will be slightly less than 70 percent in 1980; of the increase in the total labour force during the present decade, about half, or 170 million persons, will come from the rural sector;
 - (b) The considerable increase in the agricultural population of the developing countries will further aggravate the problems deriving from the high rates of unemployment and underemployment in agriculture;
 - (c) The high-income countries account for 70 percent of world agricultural production and the developing countries for the remaining 30 percent though they have 50 percent of the world's population today and will have about 60 percent in 1980;
 - (d) The International Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade asserts the need for an annual increase of at least 4 percent in the agricultural production of the developing countries, whereas FAO projections point to an increase of only 3.3 percent, an assumption based on an actual growth of only 2.9 percent over the last decade;
 - (e) In consequence of the inadequate growth of agriculture in the developing countries, by 1980 there will be 42 countries, with an aggregate population of 1.4 thousand million, in which the national average calorie intake will be below minimum nutritional requirements.
3. That a key measure for the redressing of agricultural trade imbalances would be to curtail, in the developed countries, the production of crops in surplus trend, which would be equivalent to a reduction of the subsidies paid to support those crops;
4. That it would be desirable that the imbalances of world agricultural trade be rectified at the same time as those others that are most harmful to the agriculture of the developing countries, such as their high level of rural unemployment, their small share in world production, the low rate of their growth in recent years, and the incidence of malnutrition;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That FAO prepare, and present to the Seventeenth Session of the FAO Conference in 1973, a study of the implications and repercussions of creating a "Fund for the Redress of World Agricultural Imbalances" with the following principal characteristics:
 - (a) Administration by the international financial agencies to be agreed upon by the community, and with the technical participation of FAO;

- (b) The resources would be additional and originate in the appropriations that developed countries made for the credits and other domestic outlays that would be discontinued under a policy of reducing subsidies to agriculture to be undertaken by those countries;
 - (c) The resources would be applied in the form of loans to developing countries in critical sectors to favour the equilibrium of world trade, particularly in the production of meat, milk, fish, newsprint, and other commodities in which trends indicate the need to stimulate production;
 - (d) The loans would be granted with 10-year grace periods and total terms of amortization of 35 years, with low interest rates suited to the peculiar conditions of agriculture in the developing countries;
2. That this resolution, being of general interest to the developing countries, be distributed as an information document at the next session of the FAO Council and also at the FAO Regional Conferences to be held in the developing regions this year.

Note: The delegation of Cuba abstained from voting and indicated that it agreed with the spirit and objectives of the Resolution but was not satisfied with the text of point 1 (a) in the body of the document. The delegation of the United States abstained because it considered that the developed countries were changing their price support programmes so as to discourage some lines of production and were increasing their contribution to food aid programmes; because it was of the view that trade had to be liberalized by eliminating all restrictions, and because it considered that the developing countries should adjust their domestic agricultural policies in addition to meeting the rising needs of the underfed segments of their populations. The French delegate declared himself opposed to the resolution and said that proposals to create funds with specific appropriations for specialized uses were tending to proliferate rapidly, which necessarily led to overlapping, duplication and dissipation of effort. He recalled the responsibility falling on international financing agencies like the IBRD, the regional banks and the UNDP. He also stressed the large share of the French farm budget allocated to the solution of social and structural problems in order to redress imbalances in the agricultural and rural sectors and guide agricultural production, which on the national level helped to meet the fundamental concerns being voiced on the international level.

RESOLUTION 8/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

- 1. That the world agricultural economy is characterized by a series of disequilibria deriving largely from the protectionistic policies of the industrialized countries;
- 2. That this has provoked maladjustments between agricultural production and commercial demand without the small agricultural proportion of the populations in the industrialized countries having been able to attain income levels equivalent to those of other sectors;
- 3. That the agricultural production of the industrialized countries is greater than that of the developing countries, despite the gains in productivity achieved by the latter;
- 4. That domestic demand in the developing countries is not enough to absorb all that could be produced and, paradoxically, the spectre of hunger persists;

5. That negotiations in GATT have been disheartening, with the result that the growth of agricultural exports from the developing countries has been exceedingly slow;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Member Nations:

1. That they ratify the importance that the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference attached to the need of arriving at international agricultural adjustments on the world level;
2. That they consider this as one of the principal subjects to be taken up at the Seventeenth Session of the FAO Conference in 1973;
3. That they support the approach suggested by the FAO Secretariat from its study of this important subject, as summarized in the following points:
 - (a) That adjustments be conceived as a series of processes of change in world agriculture;
 - (b) That emphasis be placed on the incidence of world trade on the development of agricultural production;
 - (c) That the problems of resource allocation also be considered along with the analysis of aid and technology transfer programmes;
 - (d) That the structural and political factors be examined which impede the adaptation of the agricultural sector to changes in demand and in the conditions of production; and
 - (e) That its primary purpose will be to recommend measures responsive to the needs of the developing countries as viewed in the context of the International Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

Note: The delegations of France and the Netherlands voted for the body of this resolution but against the preamble. The delegation of the United States abstained.

RESOLUTION 9/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That despite its importance in the Region, the agricultural sector persists in a slow growth that is out of keeping with the rapid pace demanded for the harmonious development of its economy;
2. That this situation largely derives from the existing disequilibria on the world agricultural market, particularly in regard to the behaviour of that market toward the products exported by Latin America;
3. That it is of considerable importance to bring about international adjustments of agriculture on a world level, toward which end the FAO Secretariat has undertaken the preparation of a report to the Seventeenth Session of the Conference in 1973;
4. That joint regional action is needed to improve the position of Latin America in the setting of world agricultural development;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That, on the basis of the report on international aspects of agricultural adjustment on the world level, and of the complementary study on the conditions affecting agricultural adjustments in the developed countries, a study be prepared, for the next Regional Conference, on the strategy that Latin America ought to pursue to offset its disadvantageous position on the world agricultural market;
2. That the study concern itself with the problems of allocating the financial and technical resources of the Region, along with the better distribution and utilization of its human and natural resources;
3. That as a corollary to resource allocation, the study emphasize the programming of agricultural development in a regional way and endeavour to take every possible advantage of subregional integration machinery with a view to strengthening the positions of the individual countries in their negotiations on the world market for agricultural products.

Note: The delegation of the United States abstained from voting on this resolution.

RESOLUTION 10/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the technological advantage of the developed countries is such as to enable them to produce with a view to greatly increasing their self-sufficiency and even their share of the foreign market for agricultural products;
2. That those countries are faced with the problems of adjusting their agricultural sectors to meet the needs of sizable numbers of their farmers whose relative income level is very low;
3. That, viewing agricultural development in isolation from the other sectors of the economy, the developing countries would be in a position to compete to advantage on the international markets mainly because, for the time being, their aspirations are modest. In terms of the whole economy, however, the developed countries are in a position to raise their subsidies and place their products on the world market on advantageous terms, which the developing countries are unable to do;
4. That the barriers which the developed countries raise against the marketing and/or increased consumption of articles originating mainly in the developing countries, affect the levels of the international demand for them;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That the Organization undertake a study of the consequences of alternative policies of self-sufficiency in developed countries on the agricultural exports of the developing countries;
2. That a study be made of relative production costs, including the various levels of costs deriving from the direct and indirect subsidies applied as much in the developing as in the developed countries. There is a real need for this study, which lies within the competence of FAO. However, its character and the importance that it

reflect actual production costs in the countries make it necessary that it be performed jointly with the countries. It would hence be recommendable that the countries of the Region designate liaison officers for performance of the study with a view to arriving at a common working methodology and, to the extent possible, obtaining results early enough to be used in the next FAO Conference.

3. That a study be performed to analyse how the demand for the agricultural exports of the developing countries might be affected by elimination of the various barriers raised in the developed countries, whether of centrally planned or market economy, against the marketing and/or increased consumption of articles - such as tropical products - whose production is concentrated in the developing countries.

Note: The delegation of France voted against the resolution which, in its views prejudged the outcome of the GATT negotiations to be held in 1973. The delegation of the United States abstained.

RESOLUTION 11/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That analysis of document LARC/72/5 "Trade prospects and problems: the setting for international agricultural adjustments", presented by FAO to this Conference, yields the following salient points:
 - (a) The agricultural exports of Latin America are confined to a limited number of products;
 - (b) Latin American agriculture has a limited capacity to react to changes in external demand;
 - (c) Most of the countries in the Region are still largely dependent on agricultural exports for their foreign exchange earnings;
 - (d) Exports from the developing countries will have to increase an average of 7 per cent per year during the decade 1970-80;
 - (e) Quality, production volume and price are key factors in expanding the foreign trade of the Region;
 - (f) The governments of the Region should give much more attention to the promotion of exports;
 - (g) Every existing and potential market must be made the subject of continuing and separate study; and
 - (h) There is a multitude of foreign market opportunities for non-traditional products.
2. That, in view of the above, there is a need for:
 - (a) Diversification of agricultural production oriented toward exports;
 - (b) A thorough understanding of foreign market opportunities;
 - (c) Establishment of domestic machinery for planning, organizing and offering exportable production on a real and concrete basis;
 - (d) Application of adequate technologies to meet the requirements of external markets;

Resolves:

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

1. That the Organization give priority attention to requests from the countries of the Region for technical assistance in this field;
2. That the United Nations Development Programme be asked to give due attention to the financing of technical assistance projects requested in this field, in accordance with the priorities established by the receiving country for the use of its indicative planning figures;
3. That in country programming and in requests by the countries of the Region for technical assistance from FAO and the UNDP, they give the aspects relating to agricultural adjustment a priority consonant with their importance in national development.

RESOLUTION 12/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the Codex Alimentarius is endeavouring to compile international food standards for the purpose of protecting the health of the consumer and insuring adherence to fair practices in the food trade;
2. That the aim of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission is the adoption of a code of food standards recognized by all importing and exporting countries, and which may contribute toward the harmonization of definitions and requirements applicable to foods and so facilitate international trade;
3. That Principle 11 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm last June, emphasized the need that governments and international organizations try to reach an agreement on the means required to meet the national and international economic consequences of applying human protection measures;
4. That the fact that some countries are the suppliers of traditional products very well known on the international market does not have to mean that the similar products now beginning to be exported by the developing countries have to be labelled with or described by different names and classifications than their traditional counterparts, which would be tantamount to using the Codex Alimentarius as a real non-tariff barrier to the exports of developing countries;
5. That it is needful to reaffirm Principle 23 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which says that, without prejudice to the general principles on which the international community may agree or to the criteria and minimum standards that will have to be established on the national level, it will be essential in all cases to consider the value systems prevailing in different countries and the applicability of standards that are valid for the more advanced countries but may be unsuited, and entail high social costs, for the developing countries.

Resolves:

1. To draw the attention of the Council and the Director-General of FAO to the danger of the Codex Alimentarius becoming a non-tariff barrier based on classifications and designations that imply a discriminatory distinction exclusively favourable to certain traditional products, and to request that the Director-General convey this concern to the Director of the GATT;

2. To recommend to the Governments of the Region that they participate regularly and on a coordinated basis in the meetings of the Codex Alimentarius committees, bearing in mind that adherence to the international standards will facilitate their access to world markets and with a view to preventing the rejection, or reductions in the prices, of the agricultural products of the Latin American countries in international trade in consequence of international classifications discriminatorily applied.

RESOLUTION 13/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the General Assembly of the United Nations, clearly aware of the needs of the developing countries and by the unanimous agreement of all its members, has set goals for the annual growth rate that they must attain during the Second Development Decade;
2. That, nevertheless, the worsening of the relative position of those countries in the world economy clearly indicates that these goals can scarcely be attained until the developed countries fulfil their solemn promises of international cooperation;
3. That the gradual elimination of barriers to international trade and of policies tending toward an artificial expansion and competitiveness of the basic commodities of the industrialized countries is a legitimate aspiration of all developing countries, especially those of Latin America;
4. That the power of the countries in the Region to purchase abroad the goods and services essential for their development diminishes as the terms of their trade deteriorate and the share of their exports in the international agricultural trade contracts.
5. That this sombre picture demands immediate action to put an end to the growing preponderance of the industrial countries in the international trade in basic commodities, and so help to reduce the growing inequality among nations;
6. That the coming round of negotiations in GATT is to be held in 1973 with the possible participation of representatives of the developing countries;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Member Nations:

1. That they send representatives to the coming meeting of GATT in 1973 in order to participate fully and actively and thereby assure the expansion and liberalization of world trade, and the improvement of international cooperation, trade and the level of living of the peoples in the developing countries;

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

2. That the studies on international agricultural adjustments be accelerated so that the relevant documentation may be delivered to the countries of the Region well in advance of the aforementioned GATT round and be used by them as a basis for negotiation, since it will give them a better and deeper understanding of the problems and needs of their countries in the context of the existing relationship between the regional and extraregional economies;
3. That the developing countries be given advisory assistance, on the basis of these studies, during the negotiations;

4. That close coordination be established between FAO and GATT to ensure that the studies on agricultural adjustments are used in the negotiating round planned for 1973 and duplication of tasks is avoided;
5. That this resolution be communicated to the other FAO Regional Conferences to be held this year.

Note: Mexico indicated that it was not a member of GATT and reserved its opinion on operative paragraph 1. The delegation of France declared that it was satisfied with the operative part of the resolution, which fell fully within the competence of FAO. However, it had reservations about preambular paragraph 2, since the European Economic Community and, hence, France, had been among the first to apply the principles adopted by UNCTAD concerning access to developed countries for manufactures and semi-manufactures from developing countries. With regard to preambular paragraph 3, it welcomed the wording of the first sentence, which emphasized the gradual nature of the elimination of barriers to international trade, but had reservations about the rest of the text.

Scientific and technological development

194. There was a general consensus that science and technology were major inputs for integrated agricultural development, but by no means the only ones. Although much emphasis had been put in the past, and was still being put, on the contributions of science and technology to the increasing of production, this aspect was considered inseparable from the social aspects of a true integrated development. Little scientific attention had been given to these latter aspects so far.

195. In the drive to increase production, careful attention should be paid to the viewpoint of the producer, who works within the economic and social setting of the real world. Purely biological responses to technological inputs were always subject to economic and social restraints in their application to production. The response of the large commercial producers to technological innovations, which required mainly capital inputs to be put to use often differed from that of the small and marginal producers who lacked capital and relied mainly on their own labour. Each group was important in the total agricultural development of a country, but special efforts might be required to develop technologies that were adapted to small and marginal producers and allowed them to raise their level of living.

196. Several delegations mentioned the difficulties and special requirements of developing countries involved in the promotion of research adapted to their needs. Much technology was imported and the major share of financial support for research came from developed countries. It was considered that the developing countries should have a bigger voice in the councils that decided on financing for agricultural research in such countries. The Conference approved, on this subject, the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 14/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, to which FAO is a party, decided at its second meeting that each of the five developing regions would be represented by one single country;
2. That this decision, which was not supported by the representatives of Latin America in the group, gives the developing countries only five seats in this group, against twelve for the developed countries;

3. That it is an internationally recognized principle that a fair apportionment among countries of responsibilities for the execution of international projects presupposes a correspondingly equitable participation by the same countries in the preceding stage of decision-making and project selection;
4. That the next meeting of the Consultative Group will consider the composition of the "external review groups" that will visit the existing agricultural research centres of Latin America;

Resolves:

1. To state its dissent from the criteria prevailing in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research in regard to the slight participation and decision-making power of the developing countries;
2. To recommend to the Member Nations and to the Director-General of FAO:
 - (a) That at the next meeting of the Consultative Group, they support, in coordination with its sponsoring organizations, the need for broader and more equitable participation for the developing countries;
 - (b) That they request the developed countries that are members of the Consultative Group to review those criteria and increase the representation of the developing countries to a total of twelve full - not alternate - members;
 - (c) That they propose to the Consultative Group that representatives of FAO's Regional Office in Latin America be included in the "external review groups" that will visit all the centres in the Region;
 - (d) That the FAO Regional Conferences be informed of this request, which is of interest to all developing countries, in order that the Consultative Group, in turn, may be informed of the position of the developing countries on the subject of their participation in it;
 - (e) That authorization be given for the distribution of this resolution as an information document to the Regional Conferences to be held in the developing regions in 1972.

197. The determination of research priorities was another field of discussion. This was largely a matter of national concern, varying according to the individual needs and circumstances of each country. Cassava, potatoes, fast-growing tall species for timber and pulp, and foot-and-mouth disease, were some of the problems mentioned by different delegates as requiring scientific attention. The Conference approved the following resolution as reflecting the main priorities in research at the regional level:

RESOLUTION 15/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That Resolution 9/71 of the FAO Conference places emphasis on intensifying attention to, and support for, agricultural research, including research on end uses for primary products, taking also into consideration regional needs;
2. That the same resolution states as an objective the harmonization of the greater emphasis devoted by FAO to agricultural research with the tasks of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research;

3. That it was agreed in the resolution that the research priorities established in the Regional Conferences should be regarded as guidelines for choosing regional projects to be financed by the Consultative Group;
4. That such guidelines become more essential because of the inadequate representation of the underdeveloped countries in the Consultative Group;
5. That in a study carried out by the IDB on agricultural research requirements, maize, wheat, rice, plantains, potatoes, cassava, kidney beans, and meat and dairy cattle are noted as priority lines of production;
6. That, although the Consultative Group has sponsored research programmes on maize, wheat, rice and potatoes, due attention has not been given to the problems of low yields and production efficiency that beset several crops of basic dietary and economic importance to the countries of America.
7. That the FAO Conference in its Sixteenth Session urged the Organization to devote more attention to grain legumes and recognized the importance of roots and tubers, especially cassava, as staple foods in tropical regions;
8. That efficient cattle farming would help to increase the utilization of large areas of Latin America, without competing with man for food, would help to meet the nutritional needs of the Region, and would possess considerable export potential;
9. That many of the agricultural production units of Latin America are small farms operated under traditional production systems and concerning whose efficiency and prospects for improvement little information is available;
10. That very little is known about the ecology and production potential of humid tropical regions, despite the fact that they cover extensive areas whose efficient utilization could substantially help to increase the supply of foods and forest products;

Resolves:

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

1. That, in the selection and adoption of new regional agricultural research projects to be financed by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, priority be given to the items and problems noted hereafter without prejudice to existing projects:
 - (a) Latin American staple foods, on which little information is available or which face serious problems of low productivity, namely:
 - Beans
 - Cassava
 - Plantains
 - Beef cattle
 - Dairy cattle
 - Research on these lines must include the end use of the products, especially the industrial processing of cassava, and meat and milk technology;
 - (b) Technology for small-scale producers with a view to maximum exploitation of natural conditions and labour;
 - (c) Research on the ecology of humid tropical soils and possibilities of using them efficiently;
 - (d) Research on production of fast-growing and quickly utilized forest species;

- (e) Animal health research of great economic impact, in foot-and-mouth disease, for example.
2. That the agendas of FAO Regional Conferences include an item relating to the part played by the research centres of the Consultative Group in the development of the agricultural sector in the Latin American countries;
 3. That the Consultative Group be informed of the great importance that Latin America attaches to further resources to priorities specified in paragraph 1 of this resolution;
 4. That this resolution be transmitted to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research as well as to the members of its Technical Advisory Committee and that it be distributed as an information document to the FAO Regional Conferences to take place in 1972.

198. Many countries had high-level coordinating bodies to guide research and development, but several references were made to difficulties in making them work. The existence of inter-disciplinary working groups on FAO at Headquarters level was noted and the point was raised that such working groups should have their counterparts at the Regional Office level to assure proper consideration of the needs of the several regions. The contributions of marketing and agro-industrial development were considered important in this respect.

199. It was noted that FAO was not the only international organization working in the field of scientific and technological development. Stress was laid on the need to coordinate activities with existing regional groupings such as IICA, and with international research centres located in the region (CIAT, CIMMYT), or outside it, doing research and generating data of interest to the countries of Latin America, although there was some doubt as to how far many of the large international research institutes reflected the special needs of developing countries. There was mention of the need of faster distribution of results, especially in the field of improved varieties of crop plants, to avoid costly duplication of effort.

200. In this connexion, support was voiced for FAO's work to set up a prompt-response service for the retrieval of information on research in progress and on its results through the AGRIS and CARIS systems. The possibility of even more efficient approaches to the dissemination of technical and scientific information was brought up. It was considered important that one of the major input centres of the AGRIS system be located in the Region and support for the existing documentation centre of IICA/CIDIA was requested to allow it to perform this function. This was expressed in the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 16/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That documentary information on the agricultural sector is of primary importance for the integral development of agriculture;
2. That cooperation and coordination of information among international and regional agencies is essential if the countries are to obtain the greatest benefits from more efficient use of resources;
3. That the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference supported the gradual development of AGRIS - an international information system for the agricultural sciences;
4. That the Third Inter-American Meeting of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists welcomed with interest the establishment of AGRIS and attached fundamental importance to the designation of a main input centre and that the IICA/CIDIA Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Centre is the centre with the requisite potential and conditions to act as the AGRIS subsystem for Latin America;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That he grant the necessary priority to supporting the development of AGRIS;
2. That, in accordance with the will of the Member Nations, the IICA/CIDIA be designated as coordinating point (main input centre) for Latin America in the AGRIS system.

201. Regarding the request made to the Regional Conference that it express its views on the terms of reference for a regional consultation of experts in the field of science and technology for agricultural development, stress was laid on the need to make technological innovations compatible with the social needs of the rural population in Latin America. The question of the inevitability or necessity of migrations from rural areas to urban centres was largely a matter of national and local conditions and policies, but the fact remained that large rural populations would continue to exist in most Latin American countries. Their social and economic welfare should be an important consideration. In the regional consultation of experts, and in action thereafter, special attention should be given to identifying the kind of technology that was transferable to developing countries, and to the strategy for bringing about that under existing social and economic conditions in those countries, within the context of integrated overall rural development.

202. The Conference approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 17/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That, in a world in which science and technology are developing at headlong speed, the indiscriminate and belated adoption by the developing countries of imported technologies and techniques generally helps widen the gap between them and the developed countries;
2. The need of far-reaching changes in economic and social structures to enable the developing countries to achieve stable development processes and make effective use of more advanced technologies, as had been pointed out in the resolutions and recommendations made to this effect in the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Seminar on Agrarian Reform and Land Settlement held in Chiclayo, Peru in 1971;
3. That mere average economic growth is not development so long as there are acute disparities in the purchasing power of the various social groups, the redistribution of income being essential to activate domestic demand in the developing countries and improve their economic situation;
4. That most of the countries in the Region have indicated that their development is being held back by extensive unemployment and underemployment;
5. That the effects of the more advanced technologies on the different social classes depend on the socio-economic structures of the individual countries and that, although they have contributed to raising unit yields and, on occasion, to increasing overall agricultural production in the Region, in many cases they have also accentuated the process of income concentration and increased rural unemployment;
6. The conclusions of the Seminar held by the Joint FAO/Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences in 1971;

Resolves:

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

1. That adoption by the developing countries of the most efficient technologies in the field of food and agriculture be indissolubly united to far-reaching structural changes in the economic and social sphere - with due regard for the distinctive characteristics of each country - if it is desired to promote to the full a sustained pace of development and the effective utilization of those technologies;
2. That FAO carry out studies on:
 - (a) The transfer and development of technologies, covering the following aspects:
 - (i) Transfer costs and mechanisms and ways in which FAO can help make them less onerous;
 - (ii) Adaptation of technologies to conditions in the Region;
 - (iii) Vocational training plans for the more rapid and effective utilization of technological progress;
 - (b) The ways in which inadequate utilization of more advanced technologies can work against development, particularly by contributing to income concentration and unemployment;
3. That the foregoing studies be performed with resources from the Regular Budget of the Organization for presentation to the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America.

Note: The Secretariat serves notice that, because of the complexity of the study requested and the current budgetary limitations, FAO could find it difficult to carry out this Resolution as recommended in operative paragraph 3.

Better utilization and end use of agricultural production

203. This agenda item aroused considerable interest throughout the Conference, which led to the adoption of various resolutions and culminated in the assignment of priorities for the Medium-Term Plan.

204. Noteworthy references were made to the topic in the addresses by the Minister of Agriculture of Argentina, the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of ECLA, and in the letter sent by the Chairman of the Inter-American Committee of the Alliance for Progress to the Director-General. Significant allusions to the item were also made in the Technical Committees on International Agricultural Adjustments and on Food and Nutrition Policies, which adopted various resolutions designed to strengthen activities toward the development of marketing and agro-industries within the framework of integrated rural development.

205. Several delegations were gratified to see that the item had been included in the Conference's agenda and congratulated the Secretariat on the quality of LARC/72/7, the document provided as a basis for discussion.

206. There was agreement on the judgements expressed in document LARC/72/2, in which FAO referred to the growing interest of Latin American countries in agricultural marketing and agro-industrial promotion, which the participants saw as matters of great importance for the economic and social development of Latin America because of their influence on agricultural production and food consumption.

207. Integrated rural development was frequently stressed throughout the discussions as an approach already adopted by various Latin American governments to achieve a more balanced social and economic development and to check the disorderly migration of peasants to the large urban centres and the harmful economic, social and political effects thereof. For this reason one delegate dissented from paragraph 8 of document LARC/72/7 and several delegates from paragraph 13. Two of the resolutions adopted (4/72 and 5/72) referred exclusively to different aspects of the work programmes on integrated rural development, and other resolutions included partial aspects of this topic.

208. One delegate voiced his dissent from paragraph 14 of the above-mentioned document; he considered that the fact that some cities were growing relatively rapidly could not be taken to mean that Latin America was becoming urbanized.

209. There was general agreement on the importance of considering food production as an integral process starting in the countryside and ending with distribution to the final consumer. Thus, in economic terms, agricultural products for the internal market are intermediate products which in most cases must be collected, graded, conditioned, packaged, processed, transported and stored before distribution to the consumer. This breakdown also applies to the commodities that the Region exports, but in less degree as, being predominantly raw materials and primary products, they have lower added value.

210. One delegate disagreed with the arguments adduced in paragraph 42 of document LARC/72/7 to the effect that financial difficulties and the shortage of staff were the only limiting factors on progress in the application of practices for the standardization and grading of agricultural products and packaging. He also pointed to the existence of social determinants of the acceptance of such practices and said that these should not be left out of account in the investigations to be performed. The observations of one individual delegate did not mean that all the other delegates were in agreement with the whole of document LARC/72/7.

211. There was also general agreement on the priority of marketing activities as a whole and on the need to group the work sub-programmes of FAO on all the subjects just mentioned into a single programme to make the Organization's work more effective.

212. Several delegations referred to the basic objectives set forth in the FAO Constitution and emphasized the need to attain a greater balance in future activities by the assignment of larger resources to food and nutrition programmes and to marketing, agro-industry and rural development programmes in order to compensate for the past emphasis on production programmes.

213. There was agreement on the need for developing countries to institute more aggressive and efficient exporting systems without prejudice to continuing negotiations with developed countries toward reduction of the tariff and non-tariff barriers that currently limited exports of agricultural products from the developing countries. Within this framework, stress was laid on the importance of agro-industries which, in addition to creating new jobs and representing an important element in the industrialization of Latin America, allowed products to be exported with a greater value added. This was the interpretation that should be put on paragraph 45 of document LARC/72/7.

214. On this agenda item the Conference adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 18/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That agriculture is linked to other economic activities on which it is increasingly dependent for its development;

2. That it is essential to learn more about the economic and financial interrelationships between agriculture and those activities, particularly as they relate to the domestic and foreign market for agricultural products and their industrial processing;
3. That the scarcity of efficient facilities for the marketing and agro-industrial processing of agricultural products - for both domestic and foreign markets - not only hinders the growth of production, but is also seriously prejudicial to the interests of producers in general and of the broad urban and rural consumer masses;
4. That it will not be possible effectively to redistribute income for the benefit of the working classes unless measures are taken to correct the deformations and gaps observed in the existing marketing and agro-industrial processing systems;
5. That, moreover, strengthening and adjusting these systems will effectively help to generate new employment in rural areas and bring about more balanced national development;

Resolves:

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

1. That FAO, in collaboration with ECLA and the appropriate national agencies, undertake work aimed at:
 - (a) Providing a more complete and up-to-date diagnosis of the structures for the marketing and agro-industrial processing of agricultural products in the Latin American countries and of the economic and financial relations obtaining between those activities and the agricultural production sector;
 - (b) Acquiring more knowledge of farm, wholesale and consumer prices of staple foods both on the national level and in the different geographic regions of each country;
 - (c) Detecting possible shortcomings in the infrastructure for the marketing and agro-industrial processing of those products;
 - (d) Suggesting to the governments, on the basis of the information acquired in the course of the aforementioned work and following the performance of the appropriate analyses, the measures required to rectify the deformations and supply the shortcomings existing in the marketing and agro-industrial processing of agricultural products;
 - (e) Disseminating, through periodical bulletins or other publications, regular reports on the situation and prospects for the placing of raw or processed agricultural products on international markets;
2. That, for the accomplishment of these tasks, arrangements be made for the financial support of the UNDP and other international or regional agencies.
3. That FAO and ECLA be given all the cooperation they may require from the countries in carrying out the aforementioned tasks and that provision be made in that cooperation for the possible participation of national non-governmental research institutions, such as universities and other establishments.

Evolution of agrarian reform

215. It was emphasized that since the Eleventh Regional Conference of 1970 in Caracas, which had approved the conceptual framework of agrarian reform and recommended its adoption to Member Nations and FAO, the concepts in the framework had been subsequently approved and developed in various conferences at the political and technical level, for example, the

Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference (1971) which had approved the report of the Special Committee on Agrarian Reform, the FAO/UNDP Seminar on Agrarian Reform and Land Settlement held in Chiclayo, Peru, in 1971, the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture in Lima (1971), the continental seminar on agrarian reform and land settlement held by the Latin American Parliament in Bogotá (1972) and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (1972).

216. The Conference placed special emphasis on the analysis of agrarian reform in the Region, and some delegations dwelt on the important advances recently achieved in their respective countries. The Conference took special note of the speed and mass-scale of reform processes recently in Chile, Panama and Peru.

217. It was agreed to consider agrarian reforms as an essential part of the Region's development and it was accordingly recommended that they be included in general development plans, with due regard for the characteristics of each country.

218. There was repeated reference during the discussion to the cardinal role of agrarian reform as a distributor of wealth and income to stimulate the demand for and production of agricultural goods, for the better utilization of production, and in the institution of appropriate food and nutrition policies.

219. In line with the foregoing, the Conference again stressed that agrarian reforms must be comprehensive and should not only act upon the tenure and production system of the agricultural enterprise but also change the structure of systems for supplying inputs to production, for marketing and processing agricultural goods, and of institutional support services such as technical assistance and agricultural credit, with the aim of really achieving economic and social development goals in the interests of producers and consumers of agricultural products.

220. A number of delegates mentioned a need to give special attention to the development of peasant organizations as a prerequisite of agrarian reform; it was recognized that a lack of political decision, which was the responsibility of each country, was the main obstacle to reform.

221. There was also recognition of the preponderant role of the peasant organization as a participant in the planning and execution of reform, and in the shaping and management of the new tenure and production structures generated by these processes of change.

222. The experiences narrated by some delegates showed that agrarian reforms should not give rise to a new tenure structure characterized by a division or fragmenting of existing agricultural enterprises, but that associative modes of tenure and production should be established which would offer economies of scale and generate a vigorous peasant economy.

223. The new units should be adapted to the social and cultural characteristics of the peasants and to local ecological conditions.

224. The Conference felt that in associative forms social change in agriculture could be harmonized with the introduction of modern methods, in view of the economies of scale and greater savings and investment potential of large farms and of the benefits of the Green Revolution.

225. There was also stress on the importance of this type of peasant enterprise for the viability of the reform and to enable the beneficiaries of the process to compete on equal terms with more efficient commercial agricultural enterprises.

226. An appropriate size for the new enterprises was regarded by several delegates as a positive factor in the development of agro-industrial enterprises since, because of their scale, purely agricultural activities could be closely linked to industrial operations to generate better incomes for peasants and more jobs in the countryside.

227. It was also noted that this type of enterprise tended to prevent the displacements of manpower that were generally provoked by agricultural modernization, and thus helped to alleviate one of the most serious social problems in the countries of the Region.

228. The statements of the delegates showed that some countries were making efforts to adapt the peasant enterprise emerging from agrarian reform to the dynamics of their development. Experience with new associative forms of tenure and production showed how important it was that the agencies responsible for implementing the reform should make a permanent effort in the field of research and evaluation. The Conference noted that FAO was performing a world study on changes in agrarian structure which, for Latin America, would stress new forms of tenure and production.

229. The aforementioned study would yield FAO more information on each agrarian reform process and thus meet the wish of some delegations for more detailed information on the evolution of agrarian reform in the Region.

230. Like the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference in Caracas, the Chiclayo seminar on agrarian reform and land settlement and the Special Committee on Agrarian Reform, the Conference agreed, that the chief obstacles to agrarian reform were: the unsuitability of the legal concepts and instruments and of the implementing agencies; the power of sectors and interests affected by reform to oppose its implementation or to distort it in its execution stages; the absence or inadequacy of a representative and autonomous peasant organization and the lack of a proper collective awareness of peasant problems.

231. The Conference emphasized the need to improve the systems for planning and executing agrarian reform, including its production aspects, by adapting the public institutions in the agricultural sector and enlisting the real participation of peasant organizations.

232. The Conference considered that the mobilization of domestic resources to execute agrarian reforms would have to be supplemented by international financial assistance to cover the required investments.

233. In regard to external financial assistance, the Conference adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 19/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. The importance of agrarian reform as an instrument of peasant participation and for the development of agricultural production;
2. That the conceptual framework of agrarian reform, as approved by the Eleventh Regional Conference in Caracas in 1970 and unanimously ratified by the Ministers of Agriculture of the countries of the continent meeting in Lima in 1971 under the auspices of the Sixth Inter-American Conference on Agriculture, placed special emphasis on the need to view Latin American development as a process of structural change;
3. That the conclusions of the Report of the Special Committee on Agrarian Reform presided over by Dr. Carlos Lleras Restrepo, which were approved unanimously by Resolution 3/71 of the last FAO Conference, recognized that "agrarian reform is an essential factor of economic development";
4. That these conclusions wholly coincide with those adopted by the FAO/UNDP Seminar on Agrarian Reform in Chiclayo in December 1971 and with those approved by the technical meeting on agrarian reform held in January 1970 in Santiago, Chile with the participation of FAO and IICA officers;

5. That an awareness of the importance of the agrarian reform process, has arisen at a specifically political level as well, as stated to the Conference by the Vice-Chairman of the Latin American Parliament in communicating the conclusions of the Seminar on Agrarian Reform held in Bogotá in June 1972;
6. The insistence with which such pronouncements have indicated the importance of viewing agrarian reform as an overall process embracing not only agricultural production but also processing and marketing activities, thus necessitating the incorporation of agro-industry into the reform process. Furthermore, the repeated statements made to this effect at this Conference by high officers of FAO, ECLA and the OAS and by representatives of the participating countries. Finally, the need to give practical expression to those repeated statements;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That he transmit to the international financing agencies, especially the IDB and the World Bank, the following recommendations of the Regional Conference:
 - (a) That they accord priority to requests for agricultural loans that include development projects to be implemented in agrarian reform areas, e.g.: peasant training and organization, investments in infrastructure at farm level and creation of agro-industries;
 - (b) That the funds be distributed within each project as decided by the requesting country;
2. That the regional group on agrarian reform be strengthened, especially in its capacity to provide the countries with technical aid on forms of production organization adapted to the requirements of overall agrarian reform;
3. That, to be fully effective, the assistance granted by the Organization for increasing agricultural production and productivity take account of the structural conditions of each country's agricultural sector, as recommended by the Special Committee on Agrarian Reform;
4. That Resolution 12/70 of the Eleventh Regional Conference to the effect that the UNDP/FAO regional project on agrarian reform and land settlement be expanded and continued, be ratified.

Note: The United States of America abstained because it could not concur with a prior assignment of resources to a regional project to the possible exclusion of national projects.

Haiti also abstained for reasons of national policy related to agrarian reform.

234. It was felt that the cost entailed in agrarian reform could not be entirely borne by the peasants benefiting from the process. Several delegations stated that, unlike the process followed by countries which today were at an advanced stage of development, in the countries of the Region there would initially have to be a net transfer of resources from other sectors of the economy to the reformed agricultural sector.

235. It was considered highly important that the beneficiary peasants not be saddled with excessive indebtedness. To that end special care should be taken to establish, in the servicing of principal and interest on debts for land and on loans, whether for investments, working capital, housing, etc., payment arrangements that would in the end leave the peasant beneficiary at least as much cash income as he earned before or as the average income of peasants in that area. The Conference considered that this was valid even if it meant paying a real subsidy to the peasants, this often being in practice the only way for beneficiaries to acquire capital. It was noted that this type of subsidy was in no way different from the traditional use of development loans to finance large enterprises.

236. Peasant training was considered to be of the highest importance for achieving the objectives of reform. The delegates of countries in which agrarian reform had recently been implemented in depth spoke of the change of outlook that the process produced in beneficiary peasants.

237. It was considered that, in view of the obstacles confronting countries in the execution of agrarian reform programmes, and of the changing and dynamic nature of these processes once started, it was important to have greater international technical assistance, for which very special responsibility devolved on FAO. To this end, it was said to be important that the Organization and countries continue enjoying the collaboration of the Regional Project on Agrarian Reform and Land Settlement.

238. It was felt that FAO and the above-mentioned Regional Project should direct their efforts at research, training and technical assistance in juridical, institutional and administrative matters, peasant organization, new forms of tenure and production and planning.

239. The Conference gave special attention to the topic of agrarian law, particularly in relation to agrarian reform. For that purpose delegates had available a document on the subject requested by the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference, for which FAO had received the help of a group of Latin American agrarian jurists.

240. It was agreed by the Conference that agrarian law occupied an outstanding part to play in agricultural development and as a tool of agrarian reform. As such, however, it was no substitute for the policy-making that was essential to set off this kind of process.

241. It was also emphasized that agrarian law had the important function of regulating the body of new social and economic relations in the structure generated by agrarian reform. Legislation that was ill-suited to the situation created by the reform could vitiate the purposes of the process or even lead to a recrudescence of the vices of the previous economic and social structure.

242. Special consideration was accorded to the need to train jurists with a new mentality capable of collaborating with other specialists in agricultural development actions, and to the need to revitalize this legal discipline by means of interdisciplinary research.

243. The delegations took note of how this new branch of law was making its way on the continent and of the need to encourage it even further, in particular by coordinating the efforts made in various countries.

244. In this connexion, the Conference adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 20/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That there is great interest in the countries of the Region in research, training and technical assistance in agrarian law, as well as in the creation of agrarian legal procedures;
2. That this interest rests mainly on the importance of agrarian law as an instrument of the agrarian policy of each country, particularly in regard to agrarian reform, since it contributes decisively to the accomplishment of the necessary changes in land ownership and tenure and in the production structures;
3. That agrarian law is a valuable aid to agricultural planning because of its connexion with the legal institutions that are to be adapted to the rural sector;

4. That the contribution of agrarian law to integration plans and measures is an essential one inasmuch as integration implies chiefly the adoption of common principles for the creation of a set of Latin American legal standards to help attain that integration and assure its proper functioning;
5. That the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference agreed in Resolution 12/70 to recommend to the countries of the Region that they adjust their laws and regulations with a view to establishing legal and jurisdictional procedures that would unify in one single system all procedures relating to agrarian law;
6. That, fundamentally, basic instruction and advanced training and research in agrarian law must be conducted preferentially in the universities and national centres specializing in agrarian matters;

Resolves:

1. To recommend to the Member Nations and to the Director-General of FAO:
 - (a) That a Regional Project on Agrarian Law be constituted to render technical assistance to governmental and university bodies and institutions in matters relating to advanced training, basic instruction and research in agrarian law, and in the drafting and instituting of legal procedures and agrarian justice;
 - (b) That FAO take a hand in coordinating the efforts of the various international agencies with a view to obtaining, especially from the UNDP, the funds they need to develop concrete, interdisciplinarily oriented plans for study and research in agrarian law in such fields as agrarian reform, agricultural planning, regional integration, basic agrarian institutions, agricultural credit, marketing and regulations for the use and development of waters, etc.;
 - (c) That a Regional Committee of consultants and advisers in agrarian law be constituted with the functions of supporting FAO in its activities in the agrarian law field in Latin America and of evaluating the progress of the regional project, and that the countries of the Region collaborate in the creation and functioning of that Committee;
 - (d) That three Latin American seminars on agrarian law be organized on the following subjects: "Agrarian Law and Agricultural Development", "Agrarian Law and Economic Integration", and "Legal Procedures and Agrarian Justice";
 - (e) That national, multinational or regional courses in agrarian law be recognized as valid for credit in studies toward degrees in agrarian law or agrarian administration;
2. To ratify Resolution 12/70 of the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference on the advisability of adjusting legal systems to facilitate the establishment of agrarian legal and jurisdictional procedures with a view to the unified treatment of the problems of agrarian law.

245. The Conference took note with satisfaction of the help supplied by FAO to the Latin American Parliament for the holding in June 1972 of the Continental Seminar on Agrarian Reform, and voiced the hope that the Organization would tighten its links with that inter-parliamentary institution even further in the future.

246. The Conference also noted with satisfaction the support furnished by FAO to the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, especially in the field of agrarian reform, and was pleased with the Director-General's statement that those links of cooperation would be increased still further in the future to the benefit of the programmes of joint interest of both Organizations and of the countries.

Food and nutrition policies

247. The Vice Chairman of the Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies presented to the Conference the Report adopted by that Committee on 25 August 1972, the text of which is included as an appendix to this Report.

248. The Conference unanimously approved the text of that Report and also adopted the following resolutions in the manner stated after each of them, in cases where the voting was not unanimous.

RESOLUTION 21/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That in the last decades concern has been growing over the protein deficit, which has ended by giving public opinion, and many government agencies in particular, the false impression that the problem of undernutrition would be solved in the main by increased protein consumption;
2. That the human organism, to keep alive, seeks before all else to generate energy, and that more than 85 percent of this energy is obtained from calorie sources and other foods rather than proteins which have their own functions to perform such as cell multiplication, tissue building and others;
3. That surveys conducted in certain areas where undernutrition is endemic have reported a calorie intake deficit eleven times greater than that of protein intake, and that in some fairly extensive geographic areas it has already been found that 75 percent of the population is not ingesting a sufficient level of calories, while slightly over 25 percent is consuming proteins below the recommendable levels;
4. That when the level of calorie intake falls too low the organism draws for the balance of its energy requirement on the proteins it ingests, at the expense of proteins in the quantities required for the performance of their proper functions;
5. That this fact underlies the clinical and laboratory signs of protein deficiency that undernourished people usually exhibit despite a protein intake not below the recommended minimum level;
6. That it may already be concluded from the observations and surveys made that the essential problem of the developing countries in regard to malnutrition is the impossibility of adequately using the proteins for their specific purposes owing to a low calorie intake in the diet;
7. That this means that supplying the protein deficiency largely depends on filling the calorie deficiency;
8. That moreover, an attempt to correct undernutrition by substantially increasing protein consumption entails measures whose cost is not always in line with the budgets of health programmes in developing regions and countries;
9. That adding new high-protein foods to the diets of undernourished population groups raises considerable difficulties, and experience has shown that this is not the ideal solution;
10. That from some surveys it is known that, in areas of endemic malnutrition, 75 percent of the population, though consuming proteins in sufficient quantities, utilizes them more as sources of energy because of the calorie deficiency of the diet;

11. That filling the calorie deficiency depends more on nutritional education than on any other measure, because calories are available abundantly and at low cost, in addition to being present in foods that are almost always part of the habitual diet;

Resolves:

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

1. That it be borne in mind that the results of nutrition research are now such as to permit direct action to implement programmes capable of communicating the knowledge acquired to the community;
2. That a broad-fronted nutrition education effort be carried on in under-nourished communities by trained staff that has access to families;
3. That in this work priority be given to people in the critical stages of life (pregnant and nursing women, and children of pre-school age), and that individual, collective and mass methods be applied to this end;
4. That this education be based - whenever possible and bearing in mind the foregoing considerations - on the consumption of local foods, and give guidance not only on what to eat, but also on how and how much;
5. That this education make it possible to arrive at a diet capable of preventing the diversion of protein to the generation of energy and so make it unnecessary to consume more protein than the minimum required for effective utilization;
6. That it be endeavoured to inculcate in the dispensers and recipients of this education the idea of equilibrium between intakes of calories, proteins, vitamins and minerals, giving equal importance to all of them and due regard to biological requirements, to avoid the rise around calories of the over-emphasis created about proteins;
7. That, at the same time, encouragement be given to the launching of health programmes designed to reduce the incidence and prevalence of diseases, mainly infectious ones, which greatly increase excretion in the face of an already deficient ingestion;
8. That nutrition education be carried on without prejudice to measures of economic growth, income distribution, and incentives to food production and marketing, that can cope with the problems of headlong urban growth;
9. That this resolution be distributed as an information document to the Regional Conferences to be held this year, and that it likewise be considered by the FAO Council sub-committee on matters of nutritional policy.

Note: It was decided to vote on this resolution by roll call, which produced the following result:

Voting for the resolutuion: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, the Netherlands, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Voting against it: Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Panama, and Peru.

Abstentions: Ecuador and the Dominican Republic.

RESOLUTION 22/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

That, according to document LARC/72/9, 'Food and Nutrition Policies', presented by the Secretariat,

1. In Latin American countries, most areas of lowest purchasing power and highest population growth are beset by serious problems of underfeeding and malnutrition;
2. On the whole, measures to improve this situation have not been reflected in the development plans and programmes of most Latin American countries;
3. Although the FAO/PAHO Inter-Agency Meeting on Food and Nutrition Policy held in May 1969 worked out standards for definition of the policy to be incorporated into those plans, most of the countries in Latin America have been unable to institute that policy.

Resolves:

1. To recommend to the Member Nations in the Region:
 - (a) That they concentrate their efforts on the performance of a diagnosis of the food situation and nutritional status of their populations on the basis of information obtained in food consumption and household budget surveys and studies on demographic and socio-economic matters, supplemented by others on clinical-nutritional questions and consumption habits;
 - (b) That the plans for their agricultural and fisheries food production be drawn up to incorporate the changes that need to be made in the structure of supply and consumption consistent with the Region's most abundant natural resources and the nutritional levels required by their populations;
 - (c) That they formulate national food plans with special regard for the need to fill deficiencies in the consumption of nutrients, with emphasis on those that pose acute problems in Latin America, and on adequate programming of international food aid.
2. To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

That this Organization, in coordination with the other United Nations agencies interested in promoting national food and nutrition policies, collaborate through its technical services toward:

 - (a) The holding of seminars which, based on the results of the sub-regional meetings of the Inter-Agency Project for the Promotion of National Food and Nutrition Policies, will contribute ideas and papers for the preparation of technical material that can be used to disseminate the results obtained and contribute to the enrichment of knowledge in this field;
 - (b) The performance, in interested countries that possess the proper structural characteristics, of pilot studies leading to the definition of methodologies that can help improve the use made of the basic information obtained from national food consumption surveys in the formulation of national food and nutrition policies in the context of national economic and social development plans.

RESOLUTION 23/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That underfeeding and undernutrition are highly prevalent in extensive segments of the Latin American population;
2. That these problems seriously hamper the social and economic development of the Region by pushing up the mortality and morbidity indexes, impairing the physical and mental growth of children, and undermining the productivity of adults;
3. That the factors conditioning the food and nutrition situation are highly complex and are located in different sectors of the development process;
4. That available studies reflect the persistence of inadequate levels of supply, consumption and biological utilization of foods;
5. That many governments in the Region have voiced their interest and determination to solve their food and nutrition problems once and for all;
6. That all of the foregoing demonstrates the need to:
 - (a) Maintain in each country of the Region an on-going diagnosis of the food and nutrition situation and of its conditioning factors;
 - (b) Coordinate the efforts that the countries are making in the different sectors to solve the problems of food and nutrition;
 - (c) Incorporate into national development plans well-defined food and nutrition policies that will ensure adequate levels of food supply and consumption consistent with the nutritional requirements and within the means of the population;
 - (d) Execute, in implementation of these policies, multisectoral national food and nutrition plans.

Resolves:

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

1. That the institutional machinery needed to ensure the formulation and execution of well-defined national food and nutrition policies be established or strengthened. This structure must include, preferentially, a standing multisectoral national food and nutrition commission or council preferably on the level of the national planning office or department of each country and enjoying the technical support of the country's expert bodies operating in these fields;
2. That FAO's technical assistance to the countries in this field, already started through the Inter-Agency Project on Food and Nutrition Policies in Latin America, in which FAO, PAHO, Unesco, UNICEF, and ECLA participate jointly, be continued and expanded.

Note: The delegation of the United States voted for this recommendation on condition that it would not involve an increase in the budget of FAO, which condition was repeated in connexion with other recommendations requesting increases in the aid programmes of FAO and other international agencies. France associated itself with this reservation.

RESOLUTION 24/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That one of the reasons for the lack of intersectoral coordination and integration for the solution of nutritional problems is a lack of understanding and motivation in many professionals regarding their responsibility in the solution of the problems of their respective countries;
2. That it is up to the universities and other institutions of higher learning to remedy these shortcomings.

Resolves:

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

1. That they study the curricula of the aforementioned institutions in the countries, through their education structures, with a view to the inclusion in them of instruction in nutritional problems;
2. That FAO promote the holding of seminars as a contribution toward compliance with the above.

RESOLUTION 25/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the basic purposes established in the FAO Constitution are:
 - "raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of the peoples under their respective jurisdictions;
 - "securing improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products;
 - "bettering the condition of rural populations;
 - "and thus contributing toward an expanding world economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger;"
2. That, based on the above purposes, the traditional orientation in the programming of FAO's work in Latin America has been to improve technical and economic conditions in the agricultural, forestry and fishery sectors, with special emphasis on aspects of production and, to a certain extent, relegating improvement of the conditions under which food is supplied, and of the quality of nutrition, to a secondary place;
3. That, to optimize the efficiency of the supply line running from the agricultural producer to the ultimate consumer, it is absolutely necessary that a series of services and functions be performed that are proper to the marketing of foods, such as collection, storage, transportation, processing, packaging and distribution, without which the food supply and improvement of the quality of nutrition would be subject to serious failures;

4. That uncontrolled peasant emigration to urban centres causes serious economic, social and political consequences, which could be considerably mitigated by programmes aiming at integrated development of the countryside, which is precisely the third basic goal of FAO;
5. That several Latin American governments have already adopted this new approach to integrated rural development both in their philosophical-political principles and in their development plans and programmes.

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. The recasting and strengthening of the Organization's programmes of work for Latin America that deal with food production and distribution and the utilization of natural and human resources together in a setting of integrated rural development and general socio-economic development in the respective countries;
2. That demonstration programmes of integrated rural development and nutritional improvement be formulated and put into execution, with assistance from FAO and other international agencies as needed, in Latin American countries that have decided to support and undertake them, for the purpose of acquiring experience and developing methodologies with which progressively to extend operations of this kind to other areas of the Region.

RESOLUTION 26/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That most developing countries have food and nutrition problems of great magnitude;
2. That there are specific problems for which it is urgent that solutions be found;
3. That it is urgently necessary to coordinate the activities of the various agencies and institutions operating in the food and nutrition field in each country.

Resolves:

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

1. That the objectives and goals of each country's food and nutrition policy, established in the context of its economic and social development policy, be ranged in order of priority consistent with criteria that make them immediately feasible;
2. That the priorities set by each country be taken into consideration by FAO for the orientation of its studies and technical assistance;
3. That the governments orient their requests for financial assistance from international agencies, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, in terms of these priorities.

RESOLUTION 27/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That before food and nutrition policies can be drawn up and implemented there must be appropriate diagnoses of the problems of each country;
2. That these diagnoses must be performed as quickly as possible in the countries where they are still lacking;
3. That these diagnoses must be conducted on an on-going basis and be subjected to periodic analysis with a view to refining the measures taken in implementation of these policies;
4. That many developing countries do not yet have enough staff and funds for the conduct of national food consumption and household budget surveys;
5. That the existence of serious food problems in many countries of the Region makes it impossible to postpone action until the results of these surveys are available;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That FAO intensify its efforts to develop methodologies for the performance of diagnoses of food and nutrition problems on the basis of information less detailed than that which food consumption and household budget surveys would provide;
2. That encouragement continue to be given to the conduct of these surveys as suitable tools for the performance of more searching and detailed diagnoses of the food and nutrition situation and that more technical and financial assistance be offered to this end.

RESOLUTION 28/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That, to arrive at objectives and goals that will link the production, the agro-industrial development, the marketing and the consumption of foods in the context of the agricultural and general socio-economic plans of countries, it is essential to have realistic statistical data obtained from specific surveys and research;
2. That, similarly, the formulation of national food plans entails the availability of real quantitative references, at least in relative terms;
3. That food consumption surveys have not yet been carried out in several countries of the Region;

Resolves:

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

1. That, with technical assistance from FAO, research methodologies and systems be designed on as common a basis as possible, and that national food consumption surveys be carried out applying the experience of those countries that have already conducted them;

2. To recommend to the governments of the countries in the Region that these surveys be carried out periodically and a system of continuous statistics be established;
3. That FAO coordinate the technical assistance that other organizations and United Nations specialized agencies may render for those purposes;
4. That FAO help publicize these food consumption surveys in all the countries of the Region;
5. That it be endeavoured to hold, at requisite intervals, international meetings or seminars to evaluate results and exchange views with a view to gradually improving the statistical system and its application to the formulation of socio-economic development plans and programmes.

RESOLUTION 29/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the food and nutritional problems besetting our countries are inherent in the existing economic and social underdevelopment;
2. That there are no purely technical solutions for these problems since, basically, solutions must be sought in the profound transformation of existing structures;
3. That such transformations are in themselves political, that is, they depend on the will to change expressed by power structures;
4. That the principal way to achieve a nutritionally adequate diet lies in an increase and socially more equitable distribution of income;
5. That permanent solutions to problems of food and nutrition must be sought as part of the national economic and social development plans;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Member Nations:

1. That they recognize an adequate nutritional status and satisfaction of the demand for food as an inalienable right of peoples; and, consequently, that this right be recognized as an objective in itself, apart from and in addition to any purely economic consideration of economic and social development;
2. That national food and nutrition policies be formulated as part of national economic and social development plans;
3. That these policies, starting from a sound diagnosis of the food and nutrition situation, actually lead to the formulation of goals for improvement of the nutritional status of the population and of the food supply;
4. That in the formulation of these goals, consideration be given to the different sectoral policies that in one way or another will determine its very feasibility;
5. That the necessary modifications of sectoral policies be introduced and implemented so as to bring about a real and effective improvement of the food and nutrition situation.

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

6. That the Organization make available the technical assistance needed for the formulation of food and nutrition policies.

Note: The delegations of Brazil and Haiti voted against this resolution because they disagreed with paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the preamble. The United States and the Netherlands abstained for the same reason. Argentina expressed its disagreement with the preambular paragraphs, but voted in favour of the operative part. Colombia abstained from voting on the preamble, but voted in favour of the operative part.

RESOLUTION 30/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That underfeeding and undernutrition affect broad sectors of the Latin American population;
2. That their effects contribute to a high rate of morbidity and mortality among children and to the poor physical development observable in lower-income groups;
3. That the consequence is a dilution of the results that could be expected from government expenditures for public health and education;
4. That, moreover, underfeeding and undernutrition prevent the full realization of human genetic potential and so impose a major drag on the tasks of economic and social progress on the continent;
5. That apart from and in addition to any economic or health consideration, the satisfaction of nutritional requirements and of the demand for food is a legitimate aspiration of peoples, and must therefore be clearly identified as an intrinsic objective of socio-economic development;
6. That measures to solve the problems of underfeeding and undernutrition are complex and interdependent, and must be made the object of an explicit food and nutrition policy;
7. That these measures are of social as well as economic significance since they are designed to lessen the differences, against the public interest, between what the consumer wants, what can be made available to him, and his physiological requirements; they represent an interdisciplinary exercise in which policy decisions have the last word in the choice of priorities;
8. That the formulation of a food and nutrition policy is the result of a continuous dialogue between diagnosis, goal setting, analysis of sectoral policies and their reformulation in terms of established goals;
9. That food and nutrition policy must be an integral part of the national development plan and hence consistent with its objectives, policy lines and strategies;
10. That in the formulation of food and nutrition policy the protein deficit must not be emphasized as an isolated element but as a factor largely dependent on correction of the calorie deficit;
11. That external food aid must be classed as an investment and its use harmonized with national plans, since an unconnected approach may distort production patterns in the beneficiary country and lead to undesirable dependence;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Member Nations:

1. The adoption of an explicit food and nutrition policy, this being understood as the set of educational, economic, technical and legislative measures designed to reconcile in a manner deemed practical by the planners, the projected levels of demand, the predicted levels of supply, and nutritional needs;
2. That the objectives of a food and nutrition policy must be:
 - (a) To ensure the good nutritional status of the population;
 - (b) To ensure satisfaction of the demand for foods;
3. That national food and nutrition commissions be set up to propose a food and nutrition policy consistent with and supplementary to sectoral policies and to determine directly or indirectly the nutritional status and food supply of the population of each country;
4. That these commissions be multisectoral, be placed at the highest level of national planning, and enjoy the necessary technical support of experts in different fields;
5. That food and nutrition policy be worked out basically along the following lines:
 - (a) Diagnosis of the food and nutrition situation and its determinants;
 - (b) Integral analysis of existing sectoral policies and their constituent plans and programmes in terms of the problems identified in the diagnosis;
 - (c) Explicit formulation of policy objectives on the basis of the integral diagnosis and along the general lines of development policy;
 - (d) Formulation of operational goals (quantitative and over time) for food consumption and improvement of the nutritional status in terms of the biological needs of the population, consumption patterns and the economic interests of the country;
 - (e) Lastly, the amendment, as needed and feasible, of sectoral policies, plans and programmes and of existing instruments along the lines of food and nutrition policy, and the coordination of efforts in actions capable of attaining the goals and objectives formulated;
6. That the protein deficit be treated not as an isolated element but as part of a broader nutritional context;
7. That external food assistance be regarded as an investment whose use must be harmonized with national plans and whose termination must be gradual and carefully planned;

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

8. That FAO, in coordination with other national agencies, furnish technical and financial assistance to countries that request it, for the formulation and execution of their national food and nutrition policies;
9. The replanning and strengthening of programmes of work for Latin America with a view to the joint treatment of production matters and of matters relating to marketing and the use of human and material resources, in a setting of integrated rural development and general socio-economic development in the countries concerned.

To recommend to the FAO Council:

10. That it designate the Special Committee established by the Sixteenth FAO Conference to report on progress in the production of proteins in the world, but which does not yet have an official name, as the "Special Committee on Food and Nutrition Policy".

RESOLUTION 31/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

That in order to ensure achievement of the food goals established in national food and nutrition development plans in keeping with food and nutrition policy considerations consistent with economic and social development plans, it is essential to have properly specialized staff and an appropriate working organization;

Resolves:

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

1. That the Organization furnish the necessary technical assistance to requesting governments with the object of carrying out an evaluation study on training in human nutrition in schools and faculties of agronomy and veterinary medicine in the countries of the Region in order to determine needs in this field and offer suitable advice when required by the executing agencies in their countries;
2. The creation and strengthening of food units in the appropriate government agencies of each country, and the establishment of efficient coordination among sectors and with the national planning offices with a view to upholding the biological-nutritional criterion of food supply and consumption.

Regional criteria on action to be taken by the countries and by international agencies in relation to the protein deficit and the green revolution

249. At its Sixteenth Session in November 1971 the FAO Conference approved the proposal by the Director-General of FAO that the protein deficit and the green revolution be major topics of discussion in the Regional Conferences so as to provide the Organization with regional guidelines for optimum adaptation of its efforts to help the developing countries vanquish the problems of undernourishment in protein and to give balanced encouragement to the use of high-yielding varieties.

The protein deficit

250. Taking the regional view of this problem, it emerged from the discussions of the Regional Conference that it was well known that the dietary level existing in broad sectors of the Latin American population mainly affected the members of the population whose special protein requirements made them nutritionally vulnerable: children and mothers. This was why special emphasis had been placed on the protein deficit, owing to its direct relationship with clinical cases of malnutrition in these population groups. It was also for this reason that protein intake was thought to be the only solution to the problems of hunger and undernutrition.

251. However, the Conference emphasized the need of overall programming of agricultural and fisheries production in order to increase the food supply and take action to raise the consumption levels of the population as the principal means of permanently increasing the calorie and protein content of the diet, instead of tackling the protein deficit in isolation.

252. It was also recognized that continuous studies were needed to define the existing dietary problems and, within them, to put forward specific considerations on the protein deficit through study of the food balance sheets and food consumption budget surveys, which would make it possible to attach substantial importance to the shortage of the different nutrients in the diet, including proteins.

253. The Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies recognized that the individual's basic physiological activity was determined by the level of calories available to his organism. In this connexion it was pointed out that more than 85 percent of those calorie requirements corresponded to an intake of calorie-rich foods (fats and carbohydrates), inasmuch as proteins had a specific purpose relating to the building and replacement of tissues. Thus it happened that, when calorie intake fell too low, the organism started using proteins as a source of energy. The result was on the one hand, a protein deficit caused by lack of the specific action of high-protein foods to cover the specific purposes of this nutrient and, at the same time, the squandering of a large proportion of scarce resources within the overall food supply, when what was really needed was an overall improvement of the family and individual diet to maintain a balance between calorie and protein intakes.

254. Accordingly, the Conference recognized that the basic problem in Latin America was the impossibility of distributing foods, including proteins, better so as to ensure optimum utilization of the latter. That is, it established that filling the protein deficit depended largely on the extent to which it would be possible to correct the calorie deficiency of large population sectors.

The "green revolution"

255. When it considered topics relating to the "green revolution" the Conference agreed that, if it led to an increase in the volume of food production without the effective demand of the population being correspondingly increased as well, its benefits would in most countries remain inaccessible to the broad masses. Indeed, it was regarded as more likely to result in the generation of farm surpluses or a ruinous drop in prices.

256. In the discussion of the "green revolution" and of several other topics of the Conference, most of the delegations alluded to the need that technological changes or modernization of agriculture be accompanied or preceded by structural changes. In other words, the Conference agreed that not only should the attempt be made to raise production and productivity, but that social changes should be pushed through simultaneously so that the benefits of the "green revolution" could be extended to the population in general and the peasants in particular.

257. This approach tended to solve the problems relating to the unequal distribution of income and to increasing it, and to unemployment and the production and productivity of land relative to the changes required for development. This would tend to avoid the possible effects of the "green revolution" on the various strata of the population when it were carried out in a setting of defective agrarian structures.

258. The technical character of the green revolution and the need to extend its benefits to all tillers of the soil made it essential that it be complemented not only by social changes, but by effective programmes of education, agricultural extension, marketing, credit, and other services to rural populations, so as to achieve social and economic goals that would further the development of the countries in the Region.

Proposals concerning the Medium-Term Plan and related activities

259. Before starting its consideration of agenda item 12, "Orientation of FAO's activities in the Region", the Conference first decided to set up a working group to examine medium-term activities as a whole in the light of the new financial conditions affecting the Organization and taking account of priority needs in the Region. The working group was made up of delegates from nine countries. Mr. Isaías Medina Serfaty of the Venezuelan delegation served as coordinator. The Group took as its background material the statements of the Director-General, the Assistance Director-General in charge of the Development

Department, and the Regional Representative for Latin America. The Group also consulted basic document LARC/72/12, which mentions Resolution 6/71 of the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference requesting the Director-General to submit recommendations to the Regional Conferences concerning priorities under the Medium-Term Plan in order to obtain from them effective ideas and opinions on the Organization's tasks and programmes during the following budgetary periods. It also used the statement of Mr. Edouard Saouma, Chairman of the FAO Inter-Departmental Group on the Human Environment, who presented the document on this subject (document CL/59/18).

260. The Conference aimed at a form of proposal on medium-term objectives and related activities. To this end it considered the background material presented during the deliberations of this Regional Conference on the major problems to be overcome in order to speed up development at the national and regional levels. It also took account of the policy lines being adopted in the different countries of the Region.

261. The Conference endeavoured to make the definitions as clear, informative, and precise as possible, so that they could be useful in programming FAO's activities under both the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary funds. These were activities that should be implemented in response to Latin American needs or to general requirements of world economic development and should tend to narrow the gap between the incomes and socio-economic levels of the developing and developed areas. The Conference considered the report presented by the working group and approved the conclusions therein, which are summarized as follows:

262. Basing the programme on areas of concentration made it harder to select priorities because the areas were all interrelated and many parts of the programme pertained to several of them. Even following the form presented in document LARC/72/12, the parts of the programme regarded as priority were selected on the understanding that they were important in themselves and not by virtue of their location in one or another area of concentration.

263. In order that this exercise might be performed more effectively in the future, the Director-General should submit an evaluation of the impact and results of the main programmes and sub-programmes being carried out by the Organization. This would especially facilitate the identification of activities of very low priority, which it was felt should be gradually eliminated from the Programme of Work and Budget. With this end in view, although the Conference voiced its satisfaction with the economy targets fixed by the Director-General, it considered that an effort should be made to achieve greater savings, particularly by eliminating activities of very low priority so as to be able to undertake the programming for the next biennium with greater flexibility.

264. In the light of the monetary crisis confronting it, FAO should relate and try to integrate its action in Latin America with that of all regional bodies working toward the same objectives; resources and efforts should be rationalized and combined in the direction of these same targets to avoid duplication of services. In indicating priorities for the medium-term objectives, the Regional Conferences should bear in mind that both the problem areas and the emphasis that governments desire FAO to give to its different activities may vary from region to region and may even not be fully applicable to every country in the same region. For this reason, there was a clear consensus that the Director-General, in drawing up the Programme of Work and Budget for the next three biennia, should bear in mind, in endeavouring to reflect the views of the various regions, that the priorities indicated here neither totally covered all the problems of the Region's agricultural sector nor included all activities that FAO had of necessity to perform as an international agency. However, these priorities represented a consensus on the main activities that the countries of Latin America expected to see reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget in accordance with their problems.

265. It was to be understood, however, that the priorities indicated below were to be considered as regional priorities and referred to problems of Latin American rural development, there being, on the other hand, world priorities, as in the case of international agricultural adjustments. This meant that regional priorities should indicate the bases for regional programmes, while the other priorities would be used for world programmes.

266. Not all the principal activities toward the medium-term objectives were mentioned when these topics were considered, since when certain agenda items were discussed individually, their priority in the view of the Conference was indicated in specific resolutions relating to it.

267. It was advisable to distinguish between the terms programme, sub-programme and activity as understood in the FAO programming exercise.

268. An activity was a concrete action such as a meeting, a course, a statistical study, etc., performed in pursuit of a desired objective. Financial resources were disbursed at this level and could be varied in accordance with the effectiveness of the action to attain the objective in its proper order of priority.

269. Activities were brought together under different sub-programmes, each with specific objectives in specialized fields. Responsibility for a sub-programme was generally assigned to a specific division within the Organization and sub-programmes reflected technical specializations.

270. Programmes had their overall objectives and assembled several related sub-programmes in integrated programmes. It was recognized that such groupings could never reflect all the multiple interactions in the complex problem of integrated rural development, and their main purpose was to facilitate study of the Programme of Work and Budget.

271. Marketing was cited as an example. Marketing, in its accepted sense, included broadly all collection, storage, transport, processing, packaging and distribution activities. Up to now these activities had been dispersed among different sub-programmes of the Medium-Term Plan. Consideration could be given to the possibility of bringing them all together in a new programme with the overall aim of improving the marketing of agricultural products; transferring the existing sub-programmes, with their several activities, to this new grouping would serve to underscore the importance attached to marketing.

272. The Conference ratified the propositions on agrarian reform contained in resolution 12/70 of the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference, which regarded it as a fundamental component of agrarian development strategy and, as a comprehensive document, covered the substantive aspects of marketing and agro-industries as well as complementary activities such as training, planning, research, etc. It was agreed that the priorities should encompass all these aspects and that governments should apply the propositions as the national situation might require for harmonious development of the sector.

273. The Conference decided, on the basis of the previous reference to the interrelatedness of all areas of emphasis, that the following fields of activity should have high priority within FAO's functions toward the achievement of integrated agricultural development, and stressed that the order of enumeration did not imply any particular precedence: employment, underemployment, training (i.e., higher studies and rural education), agricultural credit, research and technology, marketing (in its comprehensive sense), institutional organizations (government or private), productivity, agro-industrial development (viewed as a whole), fertilizers, systems of cropping (i.e., mechanized, intermediate-technology and labour-intensive cropping systems), the environment, conservation of natural resources, pest and disease control, programming of agricultural development planning (as in the current Medium-Term Plan), and food and nutrition policies. With regard to this last item it was considered essential to treat production, marketing, use of human and material resources, etc., together as part of the integrated approach required to tackle a problem with as many causes as the one under examination and with a view to the satisfaction of domestic demand in accordance with the food and nutrition policies of each country.

274. In the light of the foregoing, it would be essential to indicate the following priorities:

- (a) Greater emphasis on total nutritional intake and care not to consider the protein deficit as an isolated element;
- (b) Intrasectoral and intersectoral coordination through a food and nutrition policy.

275. Some of the aforementioned priorities - marketing, for example - either there are no specific programmes, or the sub-programmes are economically insignificant. However, the opinions garnered within the working group revealed a consensus that considerably more support for and emphasis on these priorities could be expected in the next FAO Programme of Work and Budget.

276. The Conference unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION 32/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the development of the countries of Latin America depends considerably on cooperation and agreement in the pursuit of policies and strategies for the conquest of common problems;
2. That some of the problems tackled by technical assistance projects on the multi-national level, such as those of plant and animal health, transcend the frontiers of the countries and require joint action by them and appropriate technical assistance on the multinational level;
3. That through these projects technical assistance can be rendered to countries and groups of countries in matters of common interest to them, particularly when they form part of integration groups, independently of projects carried out on the national level;
4. That in the present and earlier Regional Conferences the countries have deemed it essential to have available the prompt and timely assistance of experts or groups of experts, for short periods, to solve urgent problems difficult to foresee and not foreseen in the country programming because of the characteristics of the problems for which assistance is requested;
5. That most of the resources to finance regional projects come, for the present, from the UNDP, and that that agency is currently perfecting its system for the programming of technical assistance projects on the regional level;

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO:

1. That in all stages of the identification and formulation of regional technical assistance projects in which FAO participates, due account be taken of the priorities fixed by the Regional Conference;
2. That he transmit to the Administrator of the UNDP the conclusions of this Conference regarding the priorities it establishes for FAO's Medium-Term Plan with the request that, when developing selection criteria for the regional technical assistance programme charged to the fund of that Programme, account be taken of the basic problem areas established by FAO. And also that he transmit the recommendations of this Conference to countries that sponsor bilateral technical assistance programmes on the regional level for Latin America;
3. That to achieve maximum integration in the operation of all programmes in execution by FAO, whatever the source of their financing, he consider the inclusion among the functions of the Regional Office of an appropriate role in the operation of regional projects in the framework of the functions devolving upon the Office in the execution of FAO programmes at the regional level.

To the Member Nations:

4. That in their requests to the UNDP and other financing agencies outside FAO for multinational or regional-level technical assistance projects in which FAO is to be the executing agency, they bear very much in mind the need to coordinate efforts in order to achieve compliance with the priorities that the Regional Conference sets at the regional level. And also that they bear this need in mind whenever called upon to express their support for regional technical assistance projects of interest to each of them.

RESOLUTION 33/72

The Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That a primary aim at the Second United Nations Development Decade is full employment all over the world;
2. That FAO, cognizant of the importance of involving in the agricultural development process everyone who can join in the work, emphasized the Medium-Term Plan the importance of mobilizing human resources;
3. The urgent need to give employment to the largest possible number of disabled persons, of whom there are 300 million in the world today, so that they may develop their aptitudes, and to promote as much as possible their vocational rehabilitation or integration into the society to which they belong so that they may contribute to the struggle against underdevelopment;
4. That in some countries the best results have been obtained with agricultural projects implemented by persons who were physically or mentally disabled or blind, in the latter two cases under the guidance or with the assistance of responsible persons;
5. That of the 1 400 million rural inhabitants of the developing countries at least 8 percent, or 112 million, are disabled persons, and that this group is entitled to economic security and a level of living consonant with human dignity, and to do productive work or practise a useful trade within the limits of their capabilities;

Resolves:

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

1. That they consider with interest the gain to agricultural production that may be expected from the execution of projects in which disabled persons participate, and that they launch adequate national programmes for the sector where no arrangements have been made for the vocational rehabilitation of disabled persons in the country-side;
2. That, with a view to integration of the disabled into society and to the struggle against underdevelopment, the developing countries give special consideration in their land settlement and virgin land clearing projects, to setting aside a certain number of farm plots to be worked by the disabled on a cooperative basis;
3. That FAO, in consultation with the Rehabilitation Sector of the International Labour Organisation, the Council of World Organizations Interested in the Disabled, and the World Rehabilitation Fund, present to the Seventeenth Session of the Conference a document examining how and to what extent FAO, without increasing the budgetary contributions of the Member Nations, could encourage the adoption of national agricultural programmes that place disabled persons on the labour market, and could collaborate in the implementation of model projects in this sector;

4. That, with a view to stimulating the adoption in the Member Nations of agricultural demonstration projects that employ disabled persons, particular consideration be given to the feasibility of setting up an "FAO Programme for the Disabled" under which financial and technical assistance would be donated for projects of three kinds: in which physically or mentally disabled or blind persons were employed, assisted where necessary by responsible persons;
5. That, in the event that the adoption of this Programme is regarded as feasible, the possibility be looked into of drawing its financial resources from the following sources:
 - (a) Postage stamp issues commemorating the Programme for sale to philatelists by arrangement with the United Nations Postal Administration and, if possible, also by agreement with the Italian Government, for the official air mail service of FAO in Rome;
 - (b) Royalties ceded to the Programme by international artists;
 - (c) The proceeds of artistic or sports events made over to the Programme;
 - (d) The sale, by all FAO Member Nations desirous of collaborating with the Programme, of postcards bearing local touristic designs created by international artists;
6. That, in order not to overburden the budget of FAO or increase the contributions of the Member Nations, the administrative expenses of this Programme, if adopted, be defrayed entirely out of the funds collected for its support;
7. That this resolution, which relates to a matter of interest to the developing countries, be distributed as an information document at the next session of the FAO Council and at the Regional Conference to be held in the developing regions in 1972.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

Consideration and approval of the Report

277. The Chairman submitted the draft final report to the Conference for approval, following its approval by the Drafting Committee. The delegates made some observations, amendments and additions which were noted by the Rapporteur for inclusion in the final version.

278. The Conference considered that, despite their unofficial nature, the conclusions reached by the Ad Hoc Meeting on the Perspective Study of Agricultural Development for South America (EPDASA) and the Perspective Plan for Agricultural Development and Integration in Central America (PACA) constituted a most valuable contribution to the work of FAO and that the report of that meeting should, therefore, be attached to this Report as an appendix.

279. Lastly, the Conference decided unanimously to ratify the designation of Argentina and Brazil to represent Latin America on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

280. When the final report had been adopted, one delegate stated that he considered that the Twelfth Regional Conference had produced very satisfactory results and that the Member Nations should hold consultations among themselves with a view to introducing certain amendments in the working methods of the Conference, designed to concentrate discussions on a smaller number of items so as to facilitate a more profound analysis of those problems and a more far-reaching dialogue among the delegates.

Date and place of the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America

281. FAO received invitations from the Governments of Argentina and Panama for the Thirteenth Regional Conference to be held in their respective countries. The Assistant Director-General, Development Department, thanked them for these invitations on behalf of the Director-General, and said that they would receive due consideration at the appropriate time. He warned, however, that in view of the financial problems besetting the Organization, it might be necessary for the Thirteenth Regional Conference for Latin America to be held at the regional headquarters of the Organization in Santiago, Chile. He stated that the date of the Conference would be decided in consultation with the governments once the final decision on its venue had been taken.

Closing of the Conference

282. Mr. Juan Felipe Yriart, the Assistant Director-General, was the first to take the floor. He expressed the satisfaction of the Secretariat with the clarity of the views expressed by delegates regarding those activities and spheres of action in which the governments thought that FAO should provide them with advisory services and assistance.

283. He emphasized the high degree of consensus obtained regarding the causes of and possible solutions to the serious problems besetting the agricultural sector in the Region and the feeding of its peoples, and laid particular stress on the deliberations and the agreements achieved with regard to food and nutrition problems and policies. He indicated the importance that the Director-General attached to the suggestions made by the Conference concerning the priorities that the Organization should accord in the coming years to the various activities and actions that made up its Programme of Work and Budget. He also mentioned the importance of the ratification by the delegates of the clear view that FAO should gear its efforts to the purposes of development, whose final object is man.

284. Mr. Yriart also referred to the efficient work of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in conducting the debates to their happy conclusion. He expressed his personal regret at leaving the Region, his complete confidence and satisfaction in Dr. Armando Samper as his successor, and his gratitude to those who had worked with him in the Regional Office.

285. The delegate from Venezuela, Mr. Isaías Medina Serfaty, then spoke on behalf of the delegates. He first welcomed the fact that all the countries had been able to enumerate concrete priorities for the agricultural sector and went on to express the trust that the delegations placed in the probity and administrative capacity of the Director-General and his closest associate, Mr. Yriart.

286. He stated that more unofficial agreements on trade barriers were reached in FAO than in other agencies specializing in that field and that the Secretariat was successful in solving problems connected with markets. He added that at the Twelfth Conference agriculture had for the first time been defined as being intimately bound up with the nutrition of peoples and the functioning of international markets. Among the topics of interest dealt with, he also noted the new technological revolution that was sweeping the world. The developing countries should join that revolution by adapting the technology of the more advanced countries.

287. He concluded by thanking the Government of Colombia for its generous hospitality, the Minister of Agriculture for the brilliant way in which he had conducted the debates, the Colombian delegation for its contribution to the debates and the staff of the Secretariat for their work in the Conference.

288. The closing address was given by Mr. Hernán Vallejo Mejía, the Minister of Agriculture of Colombia. He spoke of the intensive work of all the participants and cited some of the main conclusions that had emerged from the Regional Conference. This work, he said, had established guidelines for international agricultural adjustments, a subject on which the Latin American spokesmen would tirelessly harp in an effort to generate an awareness of international trade matters throughout the world.

289. He thanked the delegates, the representatives of international organizations, the FAO officers and the staff of the Secretariat for their presence in Cali, for their contribution to the success of the Conference, and for their assistance to him as Chairman of the Conference. Finally, he thanked the Autonomous Corporation of the Cauca Valley (CVC) for its valuable contribution to the success of the Conference.

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3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Introductory statement by the Director-General

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 - A. Scientific and technological development
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 - C. The evolution of agrarian reform

IV. GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL ACTION IN CERTAIN SECTORS

11. Food and nutrition policies (review of the conclusions of the Technical Committee)
12. Regional criteria on action to be taken by the countries and by international agencies in relation to the protein deficit and the green revolution

V. FAO PROGRAMMES IN LATIN AMERICA

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APENDICE C
APPENDIX C
ANNEXE C

LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

Presidente:	Hernán VALLEJO MEJIA
Chairman:	(Colombia)
Président:	
Vicepresidentes:	Ernesto J. LANUSSE
Vice-Chairmen:	(Argentina)
Vice-Présidents:	Felipe ORELLANA (Ecuador)
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REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Technical Committee on International Agricultural Adjustments of the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America held meetings in Cali, Colombia, on 21, 22 and 25 August 1972.

Inaugural ceremony

2. Mr. Juan Felipe Yriart, Assistant Director-General of FAO, Development Department, welcomed the participants and stressed the importance that FAO attached to the deliberations of this Committee, whose subject was intimately related to the priority tasks of FAO in Latin America in connexion with planning for the development of the agricultural sector and for the analysis of its social and economic implications.

3. Mr. Pedro Moral López, Acting Regional Representative for Latin America, opened the meeting of the Committee on behalf of the Organization, and in his statement to the participants mentioned that international agricultural adjustments would be one of the principal subjects to be taken up at the 17th Session of the FAO Conference in 1973. He underscored the importance that FAO attached to this subject and to the contribution that the countries of Latin America could make to improve the treatment of it at the next Conference of the Organization.

Election of Officers

4. The Technical Committee on International Agricultural Adjustments elected Mr. Hernando Uribe Angel, of the delegation of Colombia, as its Chairman, and Mr. Héctor A. Fernández Mendy, of the delegation of Argentina, as Vice-Chairman. Mrs. Soledad de Lartitequi, of the Venezuelan delegation, was appointed Rapporteur.

Programme of Work of the Committee

5. The Committee approved the following programme of work:

- A. The influence of foreign trade on the production and supply of agricultural, forestry and fishery products.
- B. The situation and prospects on international markets for the products of greatest economic importance traded by Latin America.
- C. Consequences for the Region of the protectionistic policies and measures applied by the developed countries and some countries in the Region itself.
- D. The promotion of exports: requirements, scope and limitations.
- E. Regional and subregional integration machinery. Progress made and prospects for intra-regional cooperation in agriculture.

Participants

6. The following countries were represented on the Committee:

Argentina	Ecuador	Panama
Brazil	France	Peru
Chile	Mexico	Trinidad and Tobago
Colombia	The Netherlands	United States
Cuba	Nicaragua	Venezuela

7. The following countries sent observers:

Canada

Poland

United Kingdom

8. Representatives of the following United Nations organizations and other specialized agencies were present:

- Board of the Cartagena Agreement
- Inter-American Development Bank
- Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama
- Organization of American States
- Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Integration
- World Health Organization

9. Observers from the following non-governmental organizations were present:

- International Centre on Tropical Agriculture
- Latin American Peasant Federation

10. The list of the delegates, observers and FAO officials participating in the Committee is subjoined to this Report.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

11. The discussions of the Technical Committee on International Agricultural Adjustments were based on document LARC/72/5 'Trade Prospects and Problems: the Setting for International Agricultural Adjustment', presented by Mr. James O'Hagan, a Senior Economist in the Commodity and Trade Division of FAO. This document briefly describes the influence of international trade on the production and supply of agricultural, forestry and fishery products, outlines the trends and prospects of Latin American agricultural trade, and points out the possibilities of economic integration as an instrument for adjustment of the region's agriculture. The points made in this document were well received by the participants, and several delegations voiced their gratification at being provided with a body of information that would make it easier for the countries to define their positions on agricultural adjustment later on. The delegations of Cuba and Jamaica wished to abstain from participating in the discussion of this Report of the Committee because they had not arrived in time but they reserved the right to state their position when it came up for discussion during the Conference.

12. In reviewing world agricultural conditions and tendencies, the Committee was unanimous in stressing the need for major adjustment. The world agricultural economy was characterized by a series of disequilibria and, despite the set of improvements constituting the green revolution, by a deterioration in the relative position of the developing countries as evidenced by the persistence of widespread undernourishment, by the much slower growth of their agricultural exports compared with those of developed countries, and by a steady deterioration of their terms of trade. The developing countries, though containing the larger part of the world's population, accounted for the smaller part of its agricultural production.

13. According to FAO's recent projections, and to recent trends as well, these problems would not grow less severe unless major changes were made in the policies and measures that affected the developing countries. The legitimate aspirations of these countries, as embodied in the goals and strategies of the Second Development Decade, called for an annual increase of at least 4 percent in their agricultural production and of 7 percent in their total exports. On the other hand, FAO's projections for 1980 pointed to a production increase of only about 3.3 percent and to a somewhat similar growth in agricultural exports, which provided the bulk of the export earnings of these countries. These overall prospects for developing countries were also in store for the countries of Latin America.

14. There was a number of reasons why the countries of the Region, and developing countries generally, faced prospects that made improvement imperative. Within developing countries themselves there was much scope still for adjustments that would hasten agricultural development and spread its benefits more widely. One delegate pointed out that increasing the production of food in Latin America offered a better opportunity to improve the diets of the populations in the Region, but that this opportunity could slip away if too much emphasis were placed on exports away from the Region as a means to achieve agricultural adjustment.

15. The Committee heard with great interest about innovations in this direction in some countries of the Region. Thus, for example, the Chilean delegate reported the following measures being taken in his country:

a. Changes in the economic relations between agriculture and the rest of the economy to check the deterioration in the ratio of agricultural to non-agricultural incomes.

b. Reorientation of the production process to aim the production programme at improving the supply situation, both to cover domestic needs and for exports.

c. Rural industrialization to supplement direct employment in agriculture, with special emphasis on agro-industry.

d. Dynamic and active participation by small farmers, farm workers, members of cooperatives and, in general, all workers employed in activities relating to agriculture, in the process of change.

e. Incorporation of foreign trade into the social sector, that is, control of this trade by the State so that it may play its true part as a strategic activity of economic development.

16. There was general agreement in the Committee that, while agricultural adjustment and development were the responsibility of the individual countries, the improvement of certain conditions essential to an adequate rate of progress transcended the competence of any one developing country. This was particularly true of the prospects for the agricultural exports of developing countries in general, including those of the Region. Though developing countries had to strive to improve their competitive position on world markets, which were located predominantly in industrial countries, they could not by themselves expand those markets, which it took coordinated action to do. This was the case of competing products in general and very frequently of non-competing tropical products. The majority of the delegations felt that only decisions of the developed countries could expand the markets open to developing exporting countries. For this majority, this was the key international aspect of agricultural adjustment. Other delegations referred to the need for developing countries to strive to increase the volume of their trade among themselves, particularly on the regional or subregional level. Even if trade was not the only aspect of adjustment, it was essential that changes be made in the policies and measures that directly or indirectly influenced it.

17. Several delegates pointed to the existence in developed countries of policies that gave priority to high and rising levels of self-sufficiency and were implemented by both tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and by financial supports available only in high-income countries. Despite the broad coverage and magnitude of subsidies to agriculture in these countries, the majority of them had not yet managed to solve the problem of farm incomes, which were lower than those in other sectors. This suggested to most delegates that the practice of restricting imports or paying subsidies for the benefit of rural populations was not necessarily an effective approach and that, in the long run, it would be in the interests of all to aim for steady progress toward freer, non-subsidized trade.

18. In the light of its discussion of the document on international agricultural adjustment, the Committee examined the plans of the Secretariat for preparation of the report on the subject to the Seventeenth Session of the FAO Conference in 1973. The summary of the working outline given in an annex to LARC/72/5 was supplemented by an oral report to the Committee.

19. The Committee was informed that the Secretariat intended the Report to consist of three parts. The first part would present the main analytical background, including the repercussions of the different processes of agricultural adjustment in high-income and developing countries, respectively. Amongst the most significant differences it was stressed that agricultural adjustment in high-income countries was accomplished largely by stimulating an exodus of labour from the countryside and increasing the size of farms, whereas in most developing countries, agricultural adjustment would have to generate an absolute increase in agricultural employment, at least over the next two decades. Another difference was that in developed countries agricultural adjustment mainly affected the farm sector, whereas in developing countries the typical predominance of the agricultural sector made adjustment an issue of critical importance to the whole economy. A third difference stemmed from the fact that the developed countries taken together were almost self-sufficient in competing products, so that the external aspects of their adjustment related mostly to trade with other developed countries. The developing countries, on the other hand, were in a quite different situation because of their dependence on developed countries for their main foreign markets.

20. The analytical part of the report would look closely at ways to achieve greater harmonization of national agricultural policies. This would be followed by a set of recommendations, which would include, to begin with, an exploration, in the setting of world agricultural trade, of possible alternative commodity flows from developing to developed countries and within developing countries themselves such as to achieve results in accordance with the goals of the Second Development Decade. Practical measures required to achieve such results would be indicated, and proposals would be made for the countries to join in periodic assessments of the progress made. The Secretariat explained that it was the intention of the Director-General that the recommendations should together constitute a balanced and workable programme of international agricultural adjustment.

21. The third part of the report would consist of various supporting studies, including country case studies of the possible consequences of accepting adjustment objectives and a study on agricultural protectionism. The main supporting study, Agricultural Adjustment in Developed Countries, was already finished and would be discussed at the FAO Regional Conference for Europe in the following month. At the request of the Committee, the Secretariat presented an oral summary of the main points of this study, which, as many delegates noted, was directly relevant to agricultural adjustment in the Region. The early circulation of the study to all Member Nations would be helpful.

22. The Committee was informed of the long-term programme of work envisaged by FAO in the field of perspective studies, of which the report on international agricultural adjustments for the FAO Conference in 1973 would be the first product. A global analytical study spanning the 1970-1980 decade would be presented in 1975. It would assess and analyse the progress made toward the goals of the Second Development Decade and consider what changes might be made, in the second half of the decade, in the part of the International Development Strategy relating to food and agriculture. A second global study, looking forward to the 1980-1990 decade, would be prepared by about 1978 to present FAO's views on the agricultural component of the goals and strategy of a third Development Decade. Each of these studies would be grounded in the perspective country studies, which were becoming a very important part of the work of FAO in this sector of perspective and planning studies.

23. The Committee agreed with the general approach proposed by the Secretariat for the report on international agricultural adjustments that FAO will prepare for its Conference in 1973, although some members of the Committee thought more attention should also be given to other aspects besides trade. Most of the members of the Committee felt that it was a field of special concern to developing countries. FAO's studies on agricultural adjustment, which should be conducted on a permanent and on-going basis, should run parallel to negotiations in other forums and supply information useful to them. The Committee emphasized that only substantive policy decisions could help solve the problems of international agricultural adjustment. This aspect should be taken into account when formulating the recommendations to the 1973 FAO Conference.

24. Several delegates referred to document LARC/72/5, which examined the problem of agricultural adjustments and stressed the importance for them of regional and subregional integration schemes. The observer from the Board of the Cartagena Agreement spoke of the importance of the work of FAO for making headway in implementation of the machinery and procedures that develop as the integration process advances, and he said it would be useful for FAO to pursue more deeply its analysis of both the problems of world agricultural trade and the changing situation of Latin American agriculture.

LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

ESTADOS MIEMBROS DE LA REGION - MEMBER NATIONS IN THE REGION - ETATS MEMBRES DE LA REGION

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Delegado	Hector A. FERNANDEZ MENDY Subsecretario de Agricultura y Ganadería Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería	Buenos Aires
Suplente	Angel MARZOCCA Director Nacional Asistente de Investigaciones Especiales Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria	Buenos Aires
Suplente	Carlos SANCHEZ AVALOS Jefe de Organismos Agrarios Internacionales Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería	Buenos Aires
Suplente	Jorge A. DEL AGUILA Consejero Agrícola Embajada Argentina en los Estados Unidos de Norte América	Washington D.C.
Suplente	Marcelo Alejandro PICO Asesor en Nutrición Subsecretaría Salud Pública Ministerio de Bienestar Social	Buenos Aires
Suplente	Juan Carlos VIGNAUD Representante Permanente Alternativo de Argentina ante la FAO Embajada Argentina en Italia	Roma

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Delegate	J.M. Ruiz DE GAMBOA Head, Division of Conferences, Organizations and General Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Brasilia
Alternate	Mauricio CANTALICE DE MEDEIROS Ministry of Agriculture Brazil	Brasilia
Adviser	Carlos J.P. CAMPELO Secretary Embassy of Brazil	Bogotá

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Asesor	Salvador CONTRERAS PROEXPO	Bogotá
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Asesor	Manuel Guillermo RICO CALDAS Jefe, Asuntos Agropecuarios INCOMEX	Bogotá
Asesor	Jaime ROMAN Jefe de la División de Colonizaciones de INCORA	Bogotá
Asesor	Alberto SCHLESINGER Jefe, División Política Económica INCOMEX	Bogotá
Asesor	Augusto ZULUAGA Jefe, División de Intercambio Comercial INCOMEX	Bogotá
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Delegado	Jorge POLLO GARCIA Segundo Secretario Embajada de Cuba en Chile	Santiago
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Delegado	Francisco GONZALEZ DEL RIO Director Técnico Corporación de la Reforma Agraria	Santiago

Suplente	José CARVAJAL CAMPILLAY Director, División Institucional Oficina de Planificación Agrícola Ministerio de Agricultura	Santiago
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ECUADOR - EQUATEUR

Delegado	Aquiles LARREA C. Director General del Desarrollo Agropecuario Ministerio de la Producción	Quito
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REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICIES

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies of the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America held meetings in Cali, Colombia, on 23, 24 and 25 August 1972.

Inaugural Ceremony

2. The discussions of the Technical Committee were opened with a few words from Mr. Pedro Moral López, the Acting Regional Representative of FAO for Latin America. Mr. Moral López traced the evolution of the subject from the Committee of Twenty-One at Bogotá (Pan American Operation), which gave priority to nutrition as part of agricultural development, to the drawing up among FAO, PAHO, WHO, ECLA, Unesco and UNICEF of a joint inter-agency programme to promote the development of food and nutrition policies in the Latin American and Caribbean countries. He noted the special importance of the multidisciplinary manner in which the programme was being implemented in the context of the social and economic policies of development. He closed with a reminder to the countries that development depended on them and that the function of the international agencies was to render assistance in the framework of the national programmes, in which the cornerstone was the human factor.

3. The subject of the Technical Committee's deliberations was introduced by Dr. Marcel Ganzin, Director of the Food and Nutrition Policy Division of FAO. He mentioned that interest in the subject began in the early 20th century with the discovery of the connexion between malnutrition and the incidence of certain diseases. In those years, food policy covered a long list of unrelated measures whose consequences were unknown. Only in the last few years had a definition of overall food and nutrition policies been arrived at, which was now reflected in the name of the Division he headed in FAO.

4. One basis of the new approach to the subject was the recognition that man was primarily a consumer and that feeding, in addition to being essential to him, was a daily activity governed by deeply rooted traditions. The problem of underfeeding was an important part of food policy but there was also the other aspect of over-consumption and, as a backdrop, the problem of supply to meet the normal food demand of the mass of the population. The viewpoints of nutritionists, economists and agronomists had to be considered in arriving at an overall policy.

5. Mr. Ganzin indicated that one of the starting points was diagnosis of the existing situation through food consumption and household budget surveys. FAO was developing survey methodologies adapted to the conditions of developing countries where physical and economic facilities were limited. Account should also be taken of the effect of development, with its increase of incomes, on sectors of the population where competition still existed between food needs and the hitherto unsatisfied demand for other goods.

6. He ended his introduction by distinguishing between nutrition, which is the scientific basis for establishing the corresponding targets, and diet, by which nutrition was provided, and defined food policy as a set of educational, economic, technical and legislative elements designed to reconcile, at a level judged feasible by the planner, the projected levels of demand, the predicted levels of supply, and nutritional requirements.

Election of Officers

7. The Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies elected the delegate of Chile, Mr. Gonzalo Donoso, as its Chairman, the delegate of Argentina, Mr. Marcelo Alejandro Pico, as Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Eleazar Lara Pantín of the Venezuelan delegation, as Rapporteur.

Programme of Work of the Committee

8. The Committee approved the following programme of work:

I. Introductory Items

1. Opening of the Committee Meeting
2. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Introductory Statement by the Acting FAO Regional Representative for Latin America

II. General Debate

5. Presentation of the subject
6. The need of national surveys on food consumption in the different socio-economic strata of the population for the purpose of establishing a permanent and evolving framework for evaluation of the food situation and nutritional status of the population.
7. Determination of objectives and targets that link food production, marketing and consumption in the context of the general agricultural and socio-economic development planning of the countries.
8. Formulation of national food plans, with special reference to:
 - (a) filling the protein deficit, which is an acute problem in Latin America; and
 - (b) adequate programming of international food assistance.
9. Creation or strengthening of a technical-administrative infrastructure for food and nutrition and for the training of specialized personnel in agricultural and fishery matters.

III. Consideration and Approval of the Report

Participants

9. The following countries were represented in the meeting of the Committee:

Argentina	Ecuador	Panama
Brazil	France	Peru
Chile	Jamaica	Trinidad and Tobago
Colombia	Mexico	United States of America
Cuba	The Netherlands	Venezuela

10. The following countries sent observers:

Canada	The Holy See
Denmark	Poland

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

Inter-Agency Project for the Promotion of National Food and Nutrition Policies
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
World Health Organization

12. The following intergovernmental organizations sent observers:

Inter-American Development Bank
Nutrition Institute for Central America and Panama

13. The names of the delegates, observers and officers present appear at the end of this report.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

14. The discussions in the Technical Committee centred around document LARC/72/9 which was presented by the Secretariat under the title "Food and Nutrition Policies".

15. Before proceeding to a detailed analysis of the Agenda, the delegations considered it advisable to make a few introductory points which can be summarized as follows:

a) The nutritional situation of the Region was regarded as more than a simple lack of nutrients. There was a lack of coordination among the different sectors that directly or indirectly influenced the nutritional status of the population.

b) It was essential that the different sectoral policies be more coherent and more fully integrated to achieve precise objectives, among them satisfaction of the biological and social demands for foods.

c) It was specified that national food and nutrition policy must be conceived in accordance with the overall political situation of each country.

16. One delegation said that feeding the population and an adequate food supply were an important objective of economic development. There should be interim action programmes and goals for meeting the needs of vulnerable groups until the goals of overall policy for development and income redistribution were attained. Government food policies should take account of food patterns even when the foods involved contain nutrients in greater quantities than required.

17. Another delegation called attention to the international aspect of the problem of proper nutrition. Development entrained a concentration of income in urban centres and a resulting imbalance with the rural sector. The development of international markets for the agricultural products of the developing countries influenced employment and income in rural populations. Hence improving the prices fetched by these products could partially rectify that imbalance.

18. The Committee agreed on the need for consumption surveys as part of a comprehensive diagnosis of the food and nutrition situation, with due regard for the regional variation observable in many countries.

19. Food and nutrition surveys were regarded as a primary tool for the diagnosis that must precede the charting of food and nutrition policy. It was noted that these surveys should be designed for participation by all prospective users of the results, to ensure that the information collected was of practical value. It was also considered desirable that food composition analyses and calculations of calorie and nutrient requirements be based on national tables and recommendations for the population of the country.

20. There was reference to the high cost of surveys and to the difficulty of obtaining the financial support needed to carry them out properly. A favourable reception was given to a report that FAO was developing methodologies adapted to the needs of the developing countries and was examining the possibility of obtaining financing through the international and area banks and other financial agencies.

21. Several delegations described the experience of their countries in the conduct of surveys and in the preparation of food programmes based on them. It was that programmes had to be got going even if all the basic information wanted for a complete diagnosis was not yet available, for action on this problem could not be postponed.

22. It was considered that a diagnosis performed in accordance with these principles would help fix the objectives and targets that each country must attain in the process of ensuring the right nutrition for its inhabitants. There was consensus on the thesis that these objectives and goals had to be considered within an overall development plan and not in isolation. Stress was laid on the advisability of analysing the diagnosis in detail before setting the objectives and targets.

23. There was recognition of the utility of the food patterns recommended by FAO and WHO in determining objectives and targets. Special stress was laid on the need for target flexibility, as development entrained changes in food demand induced by changes in income, in the rural and urban composition of the population, and in traditional consumption patterns.

24. It was mentioned that the targets could be divided into nutritional targets relating to the achievement of an optimum nutritional status for the population and the elimination of nutritional diseases, and operational targets relating to the conditioning factors of the problem. Operational programmes had to ensure the proper availability and biological utilization of food. It was observed that consumption patterns should be added to biological considerations.

25. Various delegates indicated that the targets should vary from country to country, should be set for specified periods of time and, initially, should be drawn up as a general outline until the stage of analysing the different sectoral policies was completed.

26. Finally, consideration was given to the need to lay down priorities, with special attention to vulnerable groups, to the possibility of increasing production in certain lines in order to meet requirements, and to the feasibility of using non-conventional products. Targets should not be limited to the struggle against undernutrition but should also relate to meeting the food demand of the population in accordance with possibilities and conditions in each country.

27. In connexion with the formulation of national food plans with special regard to ending the underconsumption of proteins, the Technical Committee felt that the problem of the protein deficit should not be emphasized in isolation. On the contrary, it should be approached as part of the problem of providing an adequately nutritious diet.

28. Socio-economic development, urbanization, and the increasing remoteness of food production centres were generating a swelling demand for processed foods. To meet this demand effectively, it was necessary to develop agro-industrial and marketing operations. Plans had to provide for technological and capital investment conditions that would allow the development of the requisite infrastructure. The industrial processing of agricultural products could be a source of additional income for the population and of foreign exchange for the country, apart from the nutritional value of the foods processed.

29. The development of a rural food industry and of marketing services was not to be taken as relating solely to the processing aspect, but had also to include activities at every stage of the food-supply chain, from harvesting to sale to the public. So conceived, the development of a rural food industry could greatly increase the real food supply and, what was more, create the possibility of improving the nutritive quality of foods by enrichment and supplementation.

30. However, it would not do to lose sight of the negative ways in which industrial processing could affect the prices, marketing and nutritive value of foods in lowest-income rural and urban environments, unless it were undertaken with the social-welfare approach of supplying the broad masses of consumers with processed products of good nutritional value that they could afford. National plans had to consider the measures that could be taken to include this social-welfare approach.

31. Several delegations called attention to the need to involve all levels of the population actively in the formulation of plans.

32. External food assistance had to be classed as an investment and its use be harmonized with national plans, for an isolated approach could distort production patterns in the receiving country. External aid could lead to undesirable dependence and careful planning had to be done to terminate it gradually.

33. Several delegations described the administrative structures responsible for formulating food and nutrition policies and plans in their respective countries. Some delegates mentioned the existence of bodies responsible for the required intersectoral coordination at the national planning level.

34. The IBRD reported it had recently entered this field of action and sought guidance from the countries and agencies represented at the meeting on the specific programmes in the countries of the Region that met the requisite conditions for cooperative action.

35. The following conceptual framework for a food and nutrition policy was drawn up and approved:

1. The Need for a Food and Nutrition Policy

Underfeeding and undernutrition affect broad segments of the Latin American population. Their effects contribute to high rates of morbidity and mortality among children and to the poor physical development observable in lower income groups. The consequence is a dilution of the results that could be expected from government expenditures for public health and education. Moreover, underfeeding and undernutrition prevent the full realization of human genetic potential, and so impose a major drag on efforts toward economic and social progress on the continent.

Apart from and in addition to any economic or health consideration, the satisfaction of nutritional requirements and the demand for food is a legitimate aspiration of peoples. They must therefore be clearly identified as intrinsic objectives of socio-economic development.

Measures to solve the problems of underfeeding and undernutrition are complex and inter-dependent. They must be made the object of an explicit food and nutrition policy that must necessarily be formulated, implemented and evaluated in a cooperative multisectoral effort.

A food and nutrition policy must be an integral part of the national development plan and hence consistent with its objectives, policy line and strategy.

2. Objectives of a Food and Nutrition Policy

- a) To ensure the good nutritional status of the population
- b) To ensure satisfaction of the demand for foods

3. Stages in the Formulation of a Food and Nutrition Policy

- a) Diagnosis of the food and nutrition situation and its determinants.
- b) Formulation of goals (quantitatively and over time) for food consumption and improvement of the nutritional status in terms of the biological needs of the population, consumption patterns and the economic interests of the country.
- c) Integral analysis of sectoral policies and their constituent plans and programmes with regard to the attainability of their stated goals.

d) The amendment, as needed and feasible, of existing policies, plans and programmes, and the coordination of efforts in measures capable of attaining the goals and general objectives of a food and nutrition policy.

The formulation of a food and nutrition policy will then result from an on-going dialogue between diagnosis, goal setting, analysis of sectoral policies and their reformulation in terms of the established goals.

Definition of a Food and Nutrition Policy

A food and nutrition policy may be defined as a set of educational, economic, technical and legislative measures designed to reconcile, in a manner deemed practical by the planners, the projected levels of demand, the predicted levels of supply, and nutritional needs.

These measures are of social as well as economic significance. They are designed to lessen the differences, contrary to the public interest, between what the consumer wants, what can be made available to him and his physiological requirements. They represent an interdisciplinary exercise in which the policy-maker has the last word in the choice of priorities.

Administrative Structure required for a Food and Nutrition Policy

A national food and nutrition commission should be set up to propose a food and nutrition policy consistent with and supplementary to the sectoral policies that directly or indirectly influence the nutritional status and food supply of the population. This commission must necessarily be multisectoral, be placed at the highest level of national planning, and enjoy the necessary technical support of experts in different fields.

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REPORT OF THE AD HOC MEETING
ON THE PERSPECTIVE STUDY OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
FOR SOUTH AMERICA (EPDASA) AND THE
PERSPECTIVE PLAN FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION
IN CENTRAL AMERICA (PACA)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On the occasion of the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America, the Director-General of the Organization invited the governments of the Member Nations to send representatives to an ad hoc technical meeting to be held to convey to the countries of Central and South America the results of the perspective studies of agricultural development carried out by FAO for both regions. The Meeting was held in Cali on 23 and 24 August 1972.

Inaugural Session

2. Mr. Juan Felipe Yriart, Assistant Director-General of FAO, Development Department, welcomed the participants and invited them to elect the officers of the Meeting. Mr. Juan F. Casals (Ecuador) was elected Chairman; Mr. Mauricio Cantalice de Medeiros (Brazil) Vice-Chairman; and Mr. Guillermo Figallo (Peru) Rapporteur.

Agenda

3. The Meeting adopted the following agenda:

I. Introductory Items

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur
3. Approval of the agenda
4. Opening statement by the Assistant Director-General of FAO, Development Department

II. General Debate

5. Presentation of studies
6. Methodological aspects
 - a) The development model
 - b) Projections of food demand
 - c) Production alternatives
 - d) Quantitative effects of production alternatives on employment
 - e) Agrarian reform targets for alternative hypotheses of income redistribution and development of the agricultural sector
7. Results of the studies
 - a) Growth alternatives of aggregate demand and their implications for production and nutrition
 - b) Exports and their effect on agricultural development
 - c) Employment
 - d) Income and income distribution
 - e) Integration and agricultural development

III. Consideration and Approval of the Report

Participants

4. The Ad Hoc Meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries:

Argentina	France
Brazil	The Netherlands
Chile	Nicaragua
Colombia	Peru
Ecuador	Venezuela

5. The Holy See was represented by an observer.

6. The Meeting was also attended by representatives of the following international organizations:

- Board of the Cartagena Agreement
- Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences
- Inter-American Development Bank
- Nutrition Institute for Central America and Panama
- Organization of American States
- Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration

7. The names of the delegates, observers and members of the FAO Secretariat are listed at the end of this Report.

8. Mr. Juan Felipe Yriart, Assistant Director-General of FAO, made an opening statement on behalf of the Organization. He referred to the importance for the Member Nations and for FAO itself of the performance of perspective studies of agricultural development. He briefly reviewed the origins and evolution of the work that FAO had been doing in this field and the importance of participation by the countries of Latin America in that work, especially in the adoption at the Fifteenth Session of the FAO Conference in 1969 of the resolution that laid the basis for conversion of the Indicative World Plan into the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development. He noted the emphasis that the Director-General was placing on the performance of studies of this nature at the country level as a valuable instrument for identifying the problems and prospects of agricultural development, for establishing a projection methodology for planning purposes, and for programming the assistance that FAO should furnish to countries. Finally, he drew the attention of the delegates to the need that the countries go on helping FAO with guidelines and criteria to enable it to continue improving these studies.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

9. The discussions of the Ad Hoc Meeting were based essentially on the oral statements by the Secretariat on each of the items on the agenda. For reasons beyond the control of the Organization, the copies of the two studies sent to delegates were not received in time to permit careful study of them.

10. There was a consensus among the delegates present that both EPDASA and PACA were valuable and useful to the countries. In this connexion, it was pointed out that their methodology would enable the countries to study more deeply the most suitable policies for accelerating agricultural and economic development in general.

11. One delegate observed that the income redistribution recently carried through in his country had given rise to a sharp upswing in demand for foods, which was causing difficulties of supply to the population and exerting strong pressure on the availability of foreign exchange to import foods. In this connexion, he noted that the methodology designed by FAO to measure the effects of drastic income redistribution on demand was a highly useful analytical tool, though it needed refining for application to the particular conditions of individual countries.

12. Another advantage of these studies lay in the fact that the human and economic resources that the countries set aside for planning were scarce and were often used to find immediate or short-term solutions, which made it difficult for the countries to have a chance to analyse longer-term prospects or consider alternative development hypotheses. This was a rather important gap and the studies filled it. Moreover, they were useful to the countries of both regions in that analysing the situation and prospects of each of them with a uniform methodology permitted comparative analysis of the effectiveness of their respective policies, both implicit or explicit.

13. It was pointed out that to some extent the demand projections prepared by FAO underestimated food consumption in the lower income strata, since production and consumption statistics usually did not include production for consumption on the farm, a normal practice of the section of the population that lived at subsistence levels. The absence of marketing channels masked the nature of the relation between real income and food consumption embodied in the demand function. As a result, demand elasticities would be overestimated and, hence, the growth rate of demand would be slightly higher than if the available statistics covered the total effective food consumption.

14. Several delegates voiced support for the Director-General's intention to emphasize the performance of perspective country studies. In this connexion, they pointed out that FAO should obtain the necessary resources for a continuing expansion, intensification and updating of this kind of study in the Latin American countries.

15. It was pointed out that the analysis in EPDASA of agrarian reform as an instrument of income redistribution had, despite its importance, been somewhat narrow in its coverage, having failed to consider the effects of changes in agrarian structure on aspects as important as employment. It was recognized, however, that the study accorded with the propositions on agrarian reform approved at the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference and those of the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Latin America at Caracas in 1970, and with the agreements adopted by the Latin American Seminar on Agrarian Reform and Land Settlement, held in Chiclayo, Peru in 1971.

16. Mention was made of the importance of EPDASA for the methodology used to evaluate the effect of agrarian reform programmes and, in general, of restructuring the agricultural sector, on income redistribution. This was particularly useful for some countries, where agrarian reforms had been going forward for several years and the effect, in terms of beneficiaries real incomes, was still unclear.

17. In analysing the factors that stimulated demand, it was noted that there was no analysis of the possible effects of a reduction in consumer prices. It was pointed out that the inclusion of this variable in demand projections was rendered difficult by a lack of adequate information on the price elasticity of consumption. It was recognized, however, that this factor could be of some importance in projections with income redistribution, chiefly because of the high price elasticity of demand in the least favoured groups of society.

18. In discussing the interrelationship between agrarian reform and employment promotion programmes as factors favouring the redistribution of income, it was concluded that they were complements rather than alternatives, although the latter were subordinate to the former. It was pointed out that, in the case of the income redistribution hypotheses contained in EPDASA, expanding employment would not by itself be enough to raise rural incomes to levels compatible with the hypotheses of aggregate income redistribution. Thus, the analysis done in EPDASA and PACA helped confirm the essential and strategic character of agrarian reform as a dynamic factor in the income redistribution process.

19. The meeting was told about the specific food programmes for vulnerable population groups in preparation by INCAP, which was also providing advisory services to the Central American Common Market countries in the implementation of those plans.

20. The Representative of SIECA reported on the aims and scope of the perspective study for the decade 1970-80 recently completed by the SIECA-UNCTAD Group. Stress was laid on how useful PACA was for considering the agricultural sector in that study, particularly in its quantitative part.

21. The delegations of Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Peru sponsored, and the Meeting adopted the following resolution, the result of harmonizing two draft resolutions presented previously, one by the delegations of Chile, Ecuador and Peru and the other by the delegation of Argentina. The harmonizing work was done by a drafting group made up of the above-mentioned delegations at the suggestion of the Colombian delegation.

RESOLUTION No. 1

The Ad Hoc Meeting on the Perspective Study of Agricultural Development for South America (EPDASA) and the Perspective Plan for Agricultural Development and Integration in Central America (PACA).

Considering:

1. That the oral report submitted by the group of experts in charge of the preparation of the Perspective Study of Agricultural Development evidences a meritorious technical endeavour, in both its formulation of methodologies and its description of results, which constitute a systematic analysis of the probable alternative forms of such development and of the policies explicit or implicit in each of them, and of the orientation that should be given to the principal instruments for raising incomes and improving the general living conditions of the rural population in the Region;
2. That planning is of undeniable importance in organizing agricultural development in the Region;
3. That, in addition, account should be taken of:
 - a) The difficulty of visualizing the medium and long-term prospects beyond the structural changes recommended by FAO;
 - b) The singularity of each country's experience in agricultural development;
 - c) The interest of some countries in putting to use quickly and adequately the methodology set forth in the Perspective Study of Agricultural Development as a valuable element for determining development policies and strategies.
4. That the content of the above-mentioned study should be examined jointly by FAO and the respective countries before it is disseminated.

Resolves:

1. To recognize the work of FAO in elaborating the Perspective Study of Agricultural Development for South America (EPDASA);
2. To recommend to the Director-General of FAO that he arrange for formal consultations with the governments of all the Member Nations covered by the EPDASA so that they may verify its results and supplement and carry them further as their national policies, plans and programmes may require;
3. To emphasize the preliminary character of EPDASA and confine its distribution to the governments of the countries involved until they approve it.

22. The Meeting adopted the following resolution sponsored by the delegations of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru:

RESOLUTION No. 2

The Ad Hoc Meeting on the Perspective Study of Agricultural Development for South America (EPDASA) and the Perspective Plan for Agricultural Development and Integration in Central America (PACA),

Considering:

1. That the Perspective Study of Agricultural Development for South America prepared by FAO and presented to the countries for consideration constitutes a step forward in identification of the basic problems that will confront the Region in the medium and long terms and a laudable attempt to present alternative courses of action for the solution of those problems;
2. That the methodology employed in the Study would enable the countries to make a more intensive analysis of the policies that, given their particular problems, seem most likely to promote the development of the agricultural sector and of the economy in general in the countries of the Region;
3. That Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru are, with Bolivia, the member countries of the Cartagena Agreement and, as such, are committed to a process of integration in which appropriate objectives and machinery have been established for the agrarian system;
4. That the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, the technical organ of Andean subregional integration, presented in April, for the consideration of the member countries of the Agreement, a document entitled "General Basis for a Subregional Development Strategy", which in one chapter analyses the salient features of agricultural development in the subregion and traces the basic outlines of a subregional policy for agricultural development in the context of integration;
5. That additional information is needed with which to intensify the analysis and determine the action to be taken in the future for different groups of commodities in the context of agricultural integration.

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO,

1. That, when deciding on later action to analyse and carry further the Perspective Study of Agricultural Development for South America, priority be given to the performance of a study that will take account of the results presented in EPDASA for each Andean Group country and the policy criteria and outlines set forth in the subregional strategy document presented by the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, and analyse, inter alia, the subregion's agricultural trade potential and how integration could increase and improve the exploitation of that potential, for which it would weigh the various growth alternatives for supply and demand and consider the implications of the exploitation of trade potential afforded by integration for policies, mechanisms and measures of a national and subregional character;
 2. That, for the performance of this study, FAO work in coordination with the national agencies, the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, and other international agencies whose collaboration is deemed appropriate.
23. The Meeting adopted the following resolution sponsored by the delegation of Nicaragua:

RESOLUTION No. 3

The Ad Hoc Meeting on the Perspective Study of Agricultural Development for South America (EPDASA) and the Perspective Plan for Agricultural Development and Integration in Central America (PACA),

Considering:

1. That the FAO Advisory Group on Central American Economic Integration (GAFICA) has done valuable work in the preparation of a Perspective Plan for Agricultural Development and Integration in Central America (PACA), establishing common objectives for the Central American region;
2. That the presentation of prospects for regional targets limits the benefit that individual countries can derive from the Study;
3. That agricultural development calls for deliberate action through the implementation of development policies in pursuit of the objectives currently fixed at the country level;
4. That the lack of information and the level of the study performed by GAFICA make it necessary to establish, for development of the model, assumptions that do not seem realistic at the country level and, furthermore, that the study may not provide an adequate framework for the elaboration of national agricultural development plans;
5. That the foregoing points to the need to allocate resources for the laying of an adequate statistical foundation and the achievement of cooperation with national planners.

Resolves:

To recommend to the Director-General of FAO,

1. That he conclude the consultations and procedures for the approval of PACA, and accept it as the result of a great technical effort to develop a methodology applicable to the available statistical information for the established purposes;
 2. That GAFICA supply more information on the statistical sources and the methodology employed in elaborating the quantitative framework, for the purpose of determining possible applications in the countries;
 3. To request the allocation of FAO resources for the performance of an analysis at the country level in cooperation with national groups, so as to enable them to contribute more directly to the formulation of national rural development policies.
24. The French delegation abstained from voting on the three resolutions adopted by the Meeting because the French departments in the Region were not involved in the perspective studies of development. However, it expressly commended the value of the work done by FAO in preparing these studies, their quality, and especially their methodology.

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LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

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4/72		Regional technical assistance project in the field of integrated rural development and establishment of an interdisciplinary working group in the Regional Office
5/72		Strengthening of FAO regional structures and projects toward the planning of integrated rural development in the countries
6/72		International agricultural adjustments: Adoption of measures to achieve the goals of the Second Development Decade
7/72		International agricultural adjustments: Request to FAO for a study on the creation of a "Fund for the redress of world agricultural imbalances"
8/72		International agricultural adjustments: Ratification of FAO's approach to the study of this topic for discussion in the 1973 FAO Conference
9/72		International agricultural adjustments: Request that FAO prepare a study, for the Thirteenth Regional Conference, on the strategy that Latin America ought to pursue to improve its position on world markets
10/72		International agricultural adjustments: Request that FAO undertake a study on the consequences of policies of agricultural self-sufficiency in developed and developing countries
11/72		International agricultural adjustments: Technical assistance projects in this field
12/72		International agricultural adjustments: <u>Codex Alimentarius</u>
13/72		International agricultural adjustments: Speeding up of studies on this topic for use in the next round of negotiations in GATT
14/72		Broadening the participation by developing countries in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
15/72		Assignment of priorities for the new projects to be financed by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
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18/72		Request that FAO do research on marketing and agro-industries, in collaboration with ECLA
19/72		Strengthening of the regional group on agrarian reform and criteria for financing of development projects in agrarian reform areas
20/72		Establishment of a regional project on agrarian law, a regional committee of consultants and advisers and the holding of three seminars on this subject
21/72		Food and nutrition policies: Shift in the emphasis on the protein deficit, greater attention to the calorie deficiency and educational programmes on balanced nutrition
22/72		Food and nutrition policies: Formulation of national plans and policies on this subject. Holding of seminars and performance of pilot studies
23/72		Food and nutrition policies: Continuation and expansion of FAO assistance to the FAO/FAHO/Unesco/UNICEF/ECLA Inter-Agency Project on Food and Nutrition Policies
24/72		Food and nutrition policies: Request that FAO hold seminars with a view to the inclusion of instruction in nutritional problems in university education
25/72		Food and nutrition policies: Request that FAO formulate and implement demonstration programmes of integrated rural development and nutritional improvement
26/72		Food and nutrition policies: That FAO consider national priorities for the orientation of its studies and technical assistance
27/72		Food and nutrition policies: Perfecting of the methodology for carrying out national food consumption surveys
28/72		Food and nutrition policies: Food consumption surveys
29/72		Food and nutrition policies: That FAO provide the necessary technical assistance for their formulation
30/72		Food and nutrition policies: Establishment of national food and nutrition commissions and technical and financial assistance to the countries in this field
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32/72		Priorities for the Medium-Term Plan - coordination with the UNDP
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