

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ROME

C
C 91/9
August 1991

E

Twenty-sixth Session

Rome, 9-28 November 1991

RELATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

CONTENTS

Paragraphs

INTRODUCTION

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF INTEREST TO FAO

<u>SECTION 1</u>	UN RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE	1.1 - 1.2
	- ECOSOC Discussion of Emergencies	1.3 - 1.10
	- The Situation in the Persian Gulf	1.11 - 1.17
	- The Critical Situation in Africa	1.18 - 1.19
	- Bangladesh and China	1.20 - 1.21
	- Fight Against the New World Screwworm Infestation in North Africa	1.22 - 1.28
	- Implementation of the International Strategy for the Fight Against Locust and Grasshopper Infestation, Particularly in Africa	1.29 - 1.32
	- Other Emergency-related Activities	1.33 - 1.34
<u>SECTION 2</u>	WORLD FOOD COUNCIL: SEVENTEENTH MINISTERIAL SESSION, 5-8 JUNE 1991	2.1 - 2.9
	ACC TASK FORCE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT, NINETEENTH SESSION, MAY 1991	2.10 - 2.13
	RESUMED FORTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: REVITALIZATION OF ECOSOC	2.14 - 2.16
	HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TCDC), 28-31 MAY 1991	2.17 - 2.23
<u>SECTION 3</u>	RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCING INSTITUTIONS	3.1 - 3.22

<u>SECTION 4</u>	UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT (UN-PAAERD), 1986-1990	4.1 - 4.4
	INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ADDRESS AND MITIGATE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACCIDENT AT THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT	4.5 - 4.12
	LARGE SCALE PELAGIC DRIFTNET FISHING	4.13 - 4.21
<u>Appendix A</u>	CL 99/6 OF APRIL 1991: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UN SYSTEM OF INTEREST TO FAO	

INTRODUCTION

"Recent developments in the United Nations system of interest to FAO" has been a standing item on the agenda of the Conference and Council of FAO. The document submitted under this item is prepared with a view to keeping the Governing Bodies abreast of developments within the United Nations system which may have implications for, or particular relevance to, FAO. An effort has been made to provide a brief review of major developments of interest to FAO, but the document is of necessity selective in its coverage. It does not, in particular, cover those issues which are treated separately under other agenda items of the Conference, for example, issues related to environment and sustainable development and operational activities for development. The FAO Council at its Ninety-ninth Session in June 1991 had before it a document (CL 99/6) on this item; in view of its relevance and complementarity to the present document, CL 99/6 is reproduced as Appendix A.

Under "Relations and Consultations with International Organizations" there is a second sub-item on "Relations with Intergovernmental and International Non-governmental Organizations." A supplement to the present document, C 91/9-Sup. 1, outlines in a selective manner some of the more significant developments in FAO's cooperation with the Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and International Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs) since the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF INTEREST TO FAO

SECTION 1

UN RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

1.1 The number and complexity of emergencies and disasters which the international community has had to face in recent months has focused attention on the response of the United Nations to such situations and on how it could be improved in terms of effectiveness.

1.2 FAO, within its mandate and available resources, has responded to the emergencies and disasters directly and through UN system initiatives. As this document is being written, many situations are still evolving and up-to-date information will be given orally to the FAO Conference prior to its consideration of this subject.

ECOSOC Discussion of Emergencies

1.3 The Third Committee of ECOSOC, during the second regular session of 1991 of the Council, clustered agenda items dealing with refugees, emergencies and disasters to consider in a broad context how to improve the humanitarian assistance provided by the United Nations system. Discussion of this issue at ECOSOC was considered to be preliminary as the General Assembly would continue debate thereon and have before it the views of the UN Secretary-General, as well as a summary of discussions at ECOSOC prepared by the Chairman of the Third Committee.

1.4 FAO participated actively in the ECOSOC discussions, along with other concerned agencies (including UNDRO, UNDP, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF). In his statement on the issue the Director-General stressed the following points:

- The task at hand is to develop an operationally effective system-wide approach to deal with emergencies, which makes best use of the technical competence and experience of the agencies concerned, in accordance with their mandates.
- FAO stands ready to collaborate actively in the design and implementation of measures to improve the United Nations system's capacity to deal with refugees, disasters and emergencies, inter alia, through its Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS).
- Early warning and needs assessment should be accompanied by an effective mechanism to deliver relief, in a timely and cost-effective manner. This will require contingency funds, the availability of experts and supplies on a stand-by basis and the logistical means to reach those in need. Coordination without these components will not improve the UN capacity to respond.

- With regard to food aid, the General Assembly recognized the need for an immediate response capacity in 1975, when it established the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR). The level of this reserve, which has remained at 500,000 tons of cereals or the equivalent, should now be substantially increased.
- The UN and the agencies must have the capacity to respond immediately to emergency situations with funds from their own regular budgets. In FAO's case, this capacity is ensured through the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). A strong field presence is also essential to ensure timely country-level intelligence. Finally, vulnerable countries themselves need to strengthen their own early warning, preparedness and coping mechanisms.

1.5 Many of these points were echoed by other UN organizations and governments, and were reproduced in the Chairman's Summary.

1.6 During debate the increasing number of emergencies, some of which were large-scale, sudden and complex (involving political and transboundary dimensions) was underlined. Four areas were identified where the United Nations system should be able to mobilize the international community in providing a swift and effective response to all emergencies: (1) prevention, (2) preparedness, (3) coordination and cooperation, and (4) the relationship between emergency relief and development. Early warning in all areas was considered an important component of preventive capacity.

1.7 It was recognized that a timely access to financial resources was essential for a prompt response, and there was support for a central, revolving emergency fund under the authority of the Secretary-General. It was also mentioned that such a fund should complement and not replace contingency funds already available for emergency operations within competent organizations.

1.8 With regard to coordination of the emergency response of the UN system, several countries held the view that the Secretary-General should be assisted by a high-ranking official to ensure that complex emergencies - involving political, humanitarian and development aspects - were properly addressed. Such an official, in close cooperation with UNDRO, would coordinate joint appeals and the provision of consolidated information. Several other countries questioned the desirability of such an arrangement and stated that the matter should be examined further.

1.9 A number of countries stressed the linkages between vulnerability to emergencies/disasters and underdevelopment/poverty and emphasized that the United Nations and its specialized agencies were in a unique position to address both the political and developmental causes of emergencies and to mobilize prevention efforts and response capacities. In this context, several delegations underlined the need for additional resources for humanitarian assistance, as emergency relief should not divert attention or resources from other pressing development needs.

1.10 Following the ECOSOC discussions, further inter-agency consultations took place in connection with preparation of the UN Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly on this matter.

The Situation in the Persian Gulf

1.11 FAO responded promptly to the situation in the Gulf Region and has participated fully, in line with its mandate and competence, in the UN system's humanitarian assistance work. The Global Information and Early Warning System continuously monitors the food situation in all the countries of the Persian Gulf as part of its Regular Programme activities. Following the events in the Gulf Region and the worsening food situation in several countries of the area, in November 1990, the Director-General established a Special Task Force for Monitoring the Food Situation and Outlook in the Gulf Region. The Task Force regularly submitted reports to the Director-General on the countries of the Persian Gulf most affected by the hostilities. Reports were provided to the Secretary-General along with information on FAO's ongoing development projects in the region.

1.12 In March 1991 FAO participated in the first UN inter-agency mission to Iraq and Kuwait (Ahtisaari mission), and undertook an on-the-spot assessment of the food and agricultural situation in both countries. Following that mission the adoption of Security Council Resolution 687 removed sanctions on foodstuffs and some materials and supplies for essential civilian needs, and opened the way for a number of UN system initiatives, in many of which FAO has played a role.

1.13 In April 1991, the Administrative Committee on Coordination considered the situation following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations, and a report by the Secretary-General's Executive Delegate for a United Nations Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and the Iraq/Turkey and Iraq/Iran border areas, and adopted a decision calling for early UN system action to assist the affected civilian populations. At a June 1991 meeting the Secretary-General, his Executive Delegate, and the executive heads of UN agencies and programmes responsible for the humanitarian programme decided to mount a second inter-agency mission to Iraq to conduct an updated and more precise assessment of current humanitarian needs and recommend measures to address them.

1.14 The mission, led by the Executive Delegate, was carried out in July 1991; FAO, with two participants, assumed responsibility for assessment of food needs and agricultural rehabilitation requirements. In the food sector analysis WFP contributed an assessment of the government rationing system and food assistance programmes targeted at specific beneficiary groups. At the time of writing, the United Nations Security Council had considered the mission's report, submitted to it by the Secretary-General, and had adopted Resolution 706, determining inter alia procedures by which Iraq could sell petroleum to finance a scheme for the purchase of foodstuffs, medicines and materials and supplies for essential civilian needs. FAO had also issued a Special Alert concerning the deteriorating food supply situation in Iraq and the grim prospects for the main harvest.

1.15 Within the framework of the United Nations Inter-Agency Programme, FAO has participated in the formulation of several appeals to the donor community. Assistance requirements to the food and agriculture sector were estimated at US\$443 million, of which US\$44 million would be destined to priority needs. In response to the appeal issued in May 1991, the Netherlands Government will finance the emergency supply of vegetable seeds and greenhouse covers, for a total of US\$740 000. In April/May 1991, the Government of Iraq requested FAO to organize and monitor an emergency crop spraying programme north of the 36th parallel in Iraq, to treat an outbreak of sunn pest which was threatening cereal crops, using Polish-made helicopters and other material, including pesticides, available in Iraq. Within days an FAO technical mission recruited pilots and mechanics from Poland and proceeded to lend support to the Government of Iraq. In a month's operations, 100 000 hectares were successfully treated. Funding of the operation (US\$250 000) was provided through the Office of the Executive Delegate.

1.16 FAO attends most of the weekly meetings of the Inter-Agency Working Group on the Gulf Crisis, convened by UNDRO, which coordinates donor contributions in response to the appeals and monitors progress in both assistance by UN organizations and NGOs such as the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Organization for Migration. The Organization is also collaborating with the UNDP Gulf Task Force, and with other UN agencies in assisting the affected countries in needs assessment and possible re-orientation of country programmes.

1.17 With regard to the environmental impact of the Gulf war, FAO will primarily be looking at the effects on living marine resources and fisheries and aquaculture management. To this end, a fisheries mission is expected to be fielded to the Gulf in September 1991. The Organization is also closely following the efforts of UNEP, other UN system organizations and the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) to assess and respond to the environmental consequences of the situation in the Gulf, and has been asked to address pollution aspects related to fisheries, food, soil and agriculture as part of an Action Plan formulated during a series of inter-agency meetings.

The Critical Situation in Africa

1.18 FAO first alerted the international community of the impending disaster in Africa in August 1990. This was followed by a series of special alerts and appeals and, in December 1990, a detailed assessment of the emergency relief needs for 1991 was sent to all donors. The GIEWS warned in its June 1991 report that about 30 million people in sub-Saharan Africa were threatened by famine, with deaths from starvation already reported. In some countries the situation was potentially as serious as that of 1984/85. Detailed reports and alerts issued by the GIEWS have stressed that if extensive human suffering is to be avoided, relief efforts by the international community must be increased dramatically.

1.19 Of particular concern is the Horn of Africa, where only a massive international relief programme can avert widespread suffering and loss of life in the months ahead. FAO participated in an inter-agency mission to Somalia. It has also provided information for the consolidated appeals issued by the Secretary-General. Given the magnitude and complexity of the situation in the Horn - Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and Kenya -

the Secretary-General has established a special unit in New York to deal with it. FAO has agreed to second an officer to assist the unit in two of FAO's areas of competence: early warning and assessment of food needs.

Bangladesh and China

1.20 Following a severe cyclone which struck Bangladesh in April 1991, the Director-General took measures to mobilize a quick and effective response by FAO, these included:

- The FAO Representative in Bangladesh was appointed leader of an FAO Emergency Team comprising FAO staff members present in the country, and supplemented by other regional/headquarters officers. He also represented FAO in inter-agency initiatives at country level.
- A joint FAO/WFP mission made an on-the-spot assessment of the emergency food aid needs and agricultural rehabilitation requirements. FAO subsequently participated in an UNDRO-coordinated inter-agency working group which drafted special appeals issued by the Secretary-General on behalf of Bangladesh.
- Emergency and rehabilitation assistance was provided through TCP projects to the agriculture and livestock sectors and to the artisanal fishermen.

1.21 From May to July 1991, floods occurred in various provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities of the People's Republic of China with serious consequences for the agricultural sector. The Director-General indicated FAO's readiness to assist in the urgent rehabilitation of the agricultural areas within available FAO resources. Through a TCP project, formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, agricultural inputs such as wheat seeds, fertilizers and pesticides were provided.

Fight Against the New World Screwworm Infestation in North Africa

1.22 The New World screwworm was first detected in Libya in 1988. The campaign developed for its eradication presents a good example of the UN System's ability to deal successfully with a major emergency by utilizing inter-agency cooperation and an environmentally-friendly technology. Following the confirmation in January 1989 of the New World screwworm presence in Libya, FAO initiated consultations with the Governments of Libya and neighbouring countries and several UN agencies, including IAEA, IFAD and UNDP to define the problem, to contain its development and to plan its eradication using the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT). A series of TCP projects and a cost sharing project, developed and executed by FAO, preceded and paved the way for a pilot project and a large-scale eradication programme.

1.23 Plans for a pilot project to test the feasibility of the only proven method of eradication - Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) - were drawn up by FAO and IAEA in July 1989. Following discussions with the Government of Libya and IFAD, the plans were developed into a US\$2.74 million pilot programme funded by IFAD (US\$1.18 million), African

Development Bank (US\$800 000), UNDP (US\$530 000) and FAO (US\$230 000), and to be executed by FAO.

1.24 The pilot project enabled implementation of a full-scale eradication programme, based on plans prepared by a joint FAO/IAEA working group in January 1990 and the work of an FAO formulation mission in June 1990. It was foreseen that the programme would have a duration of two years at a cost of US\$117 million. To carry out the programme as rapidly and efficiently as possible, the Director-General of FAO in July 1990 set up the Screwworm Emergency Centre for North Africa (SECNA).

1.25 Pledging conferences jointly called by IFAD and FAO were held in July 1990 and February 1991. A consortium which eventually included 14 countries and six international agencies pledged some US\$30 million for the programme in July 1990, and commissioned FAO to implement it. The Libyan Government contribution in cash and in kind is estimated at about 22 percent of the total cost.

1.26 To date, the programme appears to have been more rapidly successful than had been expected. Whereas some 3 000 cases of infested animals had occurred between January and late July in 1990, only six cases have occurred this year. The last case was in April. Based on the experience with SIT in the Americas, distribution of sterile insects will continue for at least six months after the last detected case, to ensure complete eradication. If the present success rate continues, it is likely that the programme can be completed in one year instead of two, and with less than half of the budget originally envisaged.

1.27 The campaign against the screwworm, based on a biological eradication technology, conforms to the FAO commitment to sustainable agriculture and rural development, by promoting alternatives to pesticide use. The successful implementation of the campaign will prevent the loss of a substantial portion of Africa's wildlife population and is, therefore, a unique opportunity to remove threats to the continent's biodiversity, and to reduce the potential for human suffering.

1.28 ECOSOC, at its second regular session of 1991 was informed of progress in the implementation of the eradication campaign in a document containing the report of the Director-General, an oral updating delivered by his representative, and in a note by IFAD. At this session, ECOSOC adopted a resolution which, *inter alia*, welcomed the prompt responses of the UN system organizations, expressed appreciation to donors, commended the joint effort against the screwworm as an effective demonstration of the potential of multilateral cooperation to meet a global environmental challenge and invited the Director-General of FAO, in cooperation with IFAD, to submit to ECOSOC at its regular session of 1992 an up-to-date report on the screwworm eradication programme.

Implementation of the International Strategy for the Fight Against Locust and Grasshopper Infestation, Particularly in Africa

1.29 The main thrust of FAO activities to control locusts and grasshoppers in Africa, the Near East and South West Asia, have been re-oriented from mobilizing emergency assistance to developing management strategies which are environmentally acceptable, cost-effective and sustainable in the long term. The desert locust situation is now calm,

and the outlook until the end of 1991 is for only localized breeding with no major change from the current situation. Populations of Red Locust and African Migratory Locust have also remained at low levels from June 1990 to June 1991. However, grasshopper infestations are again expected to be present in the Sahelian zone of West Africa in 1991 if summer rains approach their long-term averages.

1.30 The operational use of remote sensing, in particular the ARTEMIS (African Real Time Environmental Monitoring using Imaging Satellites) for the identification of potential Desert Locust breeding areas is being further developed. The detection of areas of recent rainfall and/or green vegetation by satellite images and their subsequent investigation by ground survey is an essential step in the early detection of locust outbreaks and plague prevention. To allow maximum utilization of satellite images, integration with other data into a Geographical Information System (GIS) is being investigated.

1.31 FAO continued to maintain close collaboration with the affected countries, major donor countries, intergovernmental organizations and research institutes, in order to pursue medium and long-term concerns. These include developing proposals aimed at disposing of obsolete pesticide stocks, which have become a serious environmental problem in some countries. Although the emergency is over for the moment, financial support will still be required for preventive control work in West and North-West Africa. In the case of grasshoppers, more information is required on the effects of these chronic pests on crops in order to develop appropriate and effective management strategies.

1.32 ECOSOC, at its second regular session of 1991, was informed of these activities in a document containing the report of the Director-General of FAO.

Other Emergency-related Activities

1.33 FAO is participating in an Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) ad hoc working group concerned with early warning of new flows of refugees and displaced persons. This group was established by the ACC at its first regular session of 1991 following a recommendation contained in the JIU Report "The coordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows". It is convened by the UN Office for Research and the Collection of Information (ORCI) and is charged with the responsibility of developing an effective early warning system related to possible new flows of refugees and displaced persons, including practical measures of cooperation and procedures for gathering, analyzing and disseminating information in a timely manner. The ad hoc working group will benefit from FAO's extensive experience in developing and operating the GIEWS, which has been recognized by the Joint Inspection Unit as one of the most developed systems for early warning in the UN System.

1.34 FAO continues to collaborate with UNHCR in monitoring the food needs of refugees, which are incorporated in the national food supply assessments issued by the GIEWS, UNHCR provides information on the number of refugees, the period for which assistance is required, food needs by type of commodity and an assessment of the unmet needs. FAO also continues to collaborate with UNDRO's UN International Emergency Network (UNIENET) for the electronic dissemination of GIEWS data. The latest

GIEWS assessments of the crop and food supply position at both national and global level are contained in a separate "window" of UNIENET. With regard to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), FAO has continued to participate in the work of the IDNDR Steering Committee and its Inter-Agency Working Group.

SECTION 2

WORLD FOOD COUNCIL: SEVENTEENTH MINISTERIAL SESSION, 5-8 JUNE 1991

2.1 The World Food Council (WFC) held its seventeenth ministerial session from 5 to 8 June 1991 in Helsingor, Denmark. The theme of the session was "Food First" on the development agenda for the 1990s.

2.2 The discussion focused mainly on practical ways to realize the hunger and poverty alleviation objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (starting on 1 January 1991), adopted by the General Assembly in December 1990; the need for a new green revolution and the elements which it should contain; and the importance of a successful completion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations which have considerable food security implications. The session also devoted attention to the question of strengthening and improving the effectiveness of the World Food Council. One new topic which was introduced at this session for consideration by the Council at its next session was the problem of human migration and its effects on food security.

2.3 The Council expressed deep concern about the deteriorating situation of hunger and malnutrition in the world and pledged its support to all people facing the scourge of famine or afflicted by natural disasters. It further pledged to continue working towards more effective measures to ensure the safe passage of emergency food aid to people affected by civil strife.

2.4 In Cairo, two years ago, the Council had agreed on four global goals to address the problems of famine, chronic hunger, malnutrition and nutritional deficiency diseases in the 1990s. It was encouraged by the adoption of these goals as an integral part of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. The ministers committed themselves to the attainment of the objectives of the International Development Strategy.

2.5 The Council emphasized that the unprecedented efforts of the developed countries in support of Eastern European reforms demonstrated the possibilities of international cooperation driven by strong political determination. The Council considered it urgent for the developed countries to deploy an effort of similar intensity for the benefit of the world's hungry people. Given the unprecedented demands on international economic assistance, the developed country Council members committed themselves to maintain official development assistance (ODA) and to consider the possibility of increasing ODA flows to the developing countries.

2.6 The Council stressed the urgency of resuming multilateral agricultural trade negotiations in the Uruguay Round and bringing them to a speedy and successful conclusion. It considered that what was needed

was a comprehensive agreement which would address the specific situation and needs of the developing world and which would ensure an international trade system which was open, just and equitable. The Council decided to send a message to this effect to the trade negotiators of the Uruguay Round.

2.7 The Council reiterated that food security was achieved by both adequate food supplies and access to food by all people. Within this framework it considered the need for a new Green Revolution and concluded that, in order to respond to the challenges of the future, agriculture must be supported by effective and efficient agricultural research, accompanied by adequate natural resource conservation and management, and by widespread protection of the environment. The Council specifically called on multilateral financial and development institutions and bilateral donors to provide increased and long-term support to agricultural research and technology, with commitments for periods of some 15-20 years replacing current projects of much shorter duration.

2.8 The Council reiterated its support for the creation of an informal inter-secretariat consultative mechanism among the four Rome-based organizations. It also considered the urgent need for the strengthening of these institutions which were currently facing great financial difficulties, notably FAO, IFAD and WFP. It decided to ask its President to convene a consultation between regional representatives of Member States on issues concerning enhancement of the effectiveness of the functioning of the Council and to report to its eighteenth session.

2.9 In a resolution on food and agriculture, adopted in July 1991, the Economic and Social Council took note with appreciation of the conclusions and recommendations of the World Food Council at its seventeenth ministerial session, and endorsed the message from the ministers of the Council to the multilateral trade negotiators of the Uruguay Round.

ACC TASK FORCE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT, NINETEENTH SESSION, MAY 1991

2.10 The Council, at its Ninety-ninth Session, in June 1991, was informed of the work of the Eighteenth Session of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development. Subsequently, the Nineteenth Session of the Task Force was held at UNCHS (HABITAT) headquarters in Nairobi from 22-24 May 1991. Representatives of 17 organizations and agencies attended the meeting.

2.11 Discussion in the meeting was animated by consideration of new issues and by the presentation of thought-provoking technical reports on the recent meetings of its subsidiary panels and working groups, and the report of the Review of FAO's and United Nations Agencies' Experiences in implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action. During the meeting, a number of agency representatives endorsed the strong support for the Task Force expressed by the Executive Director of UNCHS in his opening address.

2.12 Several agencies, namely FAO, UNCHS, ECA, UNICEF and UNESCO, informed the Task Force of major initiatives being undertaken in the area of rural development and sought inter-agency collaboration in their implementation. The decision of the Working Group on Industrial Contribution to Rural Development to focus its efforts on the linkage between industrial development and rural poverty alleviation is also of particular interest to FAO in the context of the WCARRD follow-up

programme. A study will be prepared on "The Role of Rural Industries in Poverty Alleviation - Issues and Experiences" for the next meeting of the working group.

2.13 The discussions of the Task Force on the report of the WCARRD Review were constructive and valuable. FAO expressed its appreciation for the cooperation and assistance received from Task Force members throughout the review exercise. The comments of the Task Force on the report of the Review are being submitted to the FAO Conference (C 91/19 Sup. 1, Appendix B), together with the report of the Review and the Director-General's comments thereon. UNDP, convenor of the Working Group on the Impact of Macroeconomic Policies on the Rural Poor, reported on recent studies undertaken in this area. It was agreed to review the topic in more detail at the next session, by which time additional resource material would be available.

RESUMED FORTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
REVITALIZATION OF ECOSOC

2.14 The UN General Assembly, by its resolution 45/177, decided to reconvene in a resumed session, for an in-depth consideration and negotiations of proposals for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. The resumed session met from 29 April to 3 May 1991. The session was reconvened on 13 May 1991 and the Assembly adopted resolution 45/264 entitled "Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields." The resolution outlines basic principles and guidelines upon which restructuring and revitalization should be predicated, the goals of the resumed forty-fifth session, measures for the restructuring and revitalization of ECOSOC and issues to be addressed in the future.

2.15 In concrete terms, the General Assembly adopted the proposal to convene one substantive session of ECOSOC taking place in alternate years in Geneva and New York, which will be organized along the following lines:

- a high-level segment devoted to the consideration of one or more major economic and/or social policy themes, with a one-day policy dialogue, and discussion on important developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation.
- a coordination segment devoted to coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized organs, organizations and bodies of the UN system relating to the achievement of the economic and social objectives of the UN.
- an operational activities segment focusing in particular, on the follow-up of policy recommendations and decisions of the General Assembly and coordination of operational activities on a system-wide basis.
- a committee segment for consideration of specific economic, social and related issues, including their programme implications in two separate committees (Economic and Social Committees).

2.16 In the future, it is foreseen that the following issues may be addressed during General Assembly sessions:

- complementarity between the work of ECOSOC and the General Assembly (forty-seventh session)
- the composition of ECOSOC (resumed forty-seventh session)
- a review of the subsidiary machinery in the economic, social and related fields (forty-sixth session)
- a review of the Secretariat structure (forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions)
- an annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the result of the restructuring and revitalization process (from the forty-seventh session)
- a review of the restructuring and revitalization process in light of the experience of reforms agreed upon with a view to enhancing its impact and effectiveness (forty-eighth session).

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TCDC), 28-31 MAY 1991

2.17 The seventh session of the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC was held in New York from 28 to 31 May 1991. The High-level Committee, which is composed of Member Nations of the United Nations participating in UNDP, meets every two years and is mandated to review the progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, adopted in 1978. The session was attended by governments, UN agencies, regional commissions, international organizations and NGOs. A statement was made by FAO at the Plenary of the High-level Committee.

2.18 The Committee conducted the review on the basis of the contributions received from countries, both developing and developed, as well as the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. The reports showed that the UN organizations had carried out numerous promotional and operational activities in support of TCDC during the 1989-1990 biennium. The pre-eminent position of FAO among the specialized agencies was recognized in this regard. It was noted that there was a definite trend of growth in FAO's support to TCDC during the biennium.

2.19 The High-level Committee adopted a number of decisions dealing with both administrative matters and substantive issues covering a number of important areas. UNDP was requested to convene in early 1992 a special meeting of the TCDC focal points of the organizations of the United Nations system to be devoted to the task of preparing guidelines for the review of policies and procedures of the organizations concerning TCDC. The Committee recommended that the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) review the guidelines and transmit them to the High-level Committee.

2.20 The Committee noted the evaluation of intergovernmental TCDC programming exercise by independent consultants, and stressed the need for sectoral approach in these exercises for sharper focus and enhanced effectiveness. It called upon the international community to continue to provide support to supplement the resources of the developing countries in the implementation of projects agreed on in TCDC programming exercises.

2.21 A proposal for the formulation of an overall framework for the promotion and application of TCDC in the activities of the United Nations system in the 1990s was endorsed by the Committee, which felt that it was imperative to develop a strategy for TCDC for the 1990s based on the experiences and insights gained during the 13 years since the adoption of the Plan of Action. The Administrator of UNDP was requested to report to the Committee at its next session on the strategy developed for its review and comments.

2.22 The Committee encouraged the developing countries to continue to strengthen their national focal points with a view to enabling them to promote and coordinate TCDC activities at the country level. While expressing concern at the inadequacy of UN development system support to TCDC, the Committee urged the organizations to introduce greater precision in their reporting in quantitative and financial terms based on common understanding and correct definition of TCDC. The organizations of the system were encouraged to integrate fully TCDC modality in the formulation and execution of projects.

2.23 The recommendations of the High-level Committee have system-wide implications and are relevant to FAO's TCDC activities. Active collaboration with the inter-agency mechanisms including the Special Unit for TCDC of UNDP will be maintained and FAO will contribute to the system-wide efforts in formulating a TCDC strategy for the 1990s. Evaluation of TCDC experiences and dissemination of lessons will continue to receive increased attention. The TCDC Newsletter will play an increasingly important role in sensitizing FAO staff and government authorities on TCDC possibilities and potential. The Conference deliberations on TCDC/ECDC as part of the Medium-Term Plan (C 91/23) will provide further guidance in this regard.

SECTION 3

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCING INSTITUTIONS

3.1 Investment support to developing countries is provided through the FAO Investment Centre which, over the years, has built close working relations with multilateral financing institutions lending for agriculture. The basic work of the Centre consists in helping countries to formulate investment projects which will qualify for financial support from the lending agencies.

3.2 In 1990 multilateral commitments to agriculture amounted to around US\$7.9 billion, up from US\$7.2 billion in 1989, halting the declining trend of the previous three years but still below the US\$8.7 billion committed in 1986. About US\$4.5 billion of the US\$7.9 billion represented commitments on concessional terms, a considerable increase over the 1989 figure of US\$3.7 billion. These higher levels were mainly due to increased lending for agriculture by the Asian and African Development Banks. Below

is a summary of recent developments in the major financing institutions, both inside and outside the UN system, which are of interest to FAO.

World Bank

3.3 The World Bank's Fiscal Year 1991 ended on 30 June 1991. Total Bank/IDA lending amounted to US\$22.7 billion (US\$20.7 billion in FY 90). World Bank loans totalled US\$16.4 billion, IDA credits on concessional terms US\$6.3 billion. Commitments to the agricultural sector were about US\$3.7 billion or 16 percent of the total in FY 91 (US\$3.7 billion or 18 percent in FY 90). Of this US\$3.7 billion, US\$1.8 billion was from IDA (US\$1.7 billion in FY 90). The FAO/World Bank Cooperative Programme (CP) helped to identify or prepare 15 projects for loans and credits totalling US\$590 million (32 percent of Bank agricultural projects and 16 percent of agricultural lending during the fiscal year). The CP also contributed to preparation of components of five other agricultural projects approved by the Bank during FY 91.

3.4 In January 1991 the World Bank launched the International Programme for Technology Research in Irrigation and Drainage, a 3-year pilot programme with resources of US\$1.5 million aimed at improving irrigation research and technology. It offers technical assistance to developing countries to help them design projects aimed at developing or strengthening irrigation and drainage systems.

3.5 In February 1991 the African Capacity Building Foundation was established, sponsored mainly by the World Bank, the African Development Bank and UNDP. The Foundation aims to build up Africa's cadre of professionals in the fields of economics, policy analysis and education. With its headquarters in Harare, Zimbabwe, the Foundation will draw over four years on a fund of around US\$100 million pledged by international agencies, aid-donor nations, African governments and private sources.

3.6 The World Bank has granted US\$275 million from its surplus from FY 1990 to enable the IDA to meet incremental lending requirements resulting from the Gulf crisis, and another US\$33 million to the trust fund for the recently-established Global Environment Facility.

3.7 The joint WB/IMF Development Committee meeting in Washington in May 1991 cited poverty-reduction as the highest priority for the world development community, supported the Bank's poverty-reduction strategy and emphasized the important role of foreign direct investment in development. In connection with the latter, the Private Sector Development Committee, consisting of senior managers of the Bank, International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), has been reconstituted to guide and coordinate work of the three institutions in this field.

3.8 The authorized capital of the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank affiliate which provides financing to the private sector in developing countries, has been increased by US\$1.3 billion to US\$2.3 billion. As a result IFC expects its investments to increase from the US\$1.5 billion in FY91 to US\$4 billion per year by the end of the 1990s. Particular growth areas for IFC activity will include developing capital markets, helping governments with privatization programmes,

assisting small- and medium-sized businesses and financing private sector infrastructure projects.

3.9 The first semi-annual meeting of countries participating in the WB Global Environment Facility was held in Washington in May 1991 to review the 1991 work programme. This consists of 15 projects, including preservation of tropical forests in the Congo, protection of biodiversity in Eastern Africa, the South Pacific and Poland, halting marine pollution in China, and strengthening national conservation units in Brazil. The first projects are expected to be ready for implementation in mid-1991.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

3.10 Cooperation with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) plays an important role in Investment Centre activities because of IFAD's exclusively agricultural orientation and its special objective of funding development projects which aim to increase food production, improve levels of nutrition and raise incomes of the small farmer and the rural poor.

3.11 Total IFAD loans in 1990 amounted to the SDR equivalent of US\$308 million, up from US\$260 million in 1989. Of the 26 new projects approved, 22 were initiated by IFAD, with loans of US\$262 million, the remainder being initiated by other institutions and co-financed by IFAD. Of the IFAD-initiated projects, 11 had been assisted by the FAO Investment Centre for IFAD loans of US\$160 million (10 projects for US\$121 million in 1989).

3.12 At the meeting of IFAD's Governing Council in May 1991, Namibia became a member of IFAD (Category III). Portugal was transferred from Category III to Category I. The Programme of Work and Budget for 1991 was approved, with an overall administrative budget of US\$46.3 million against US\$39.5 million in 1990; available resources should make it possible to increase loan commitments from SDR203 million in 1990 to 219 million in 1991 and 250 million in 1992. The budget includes a US\$750 000 real increase in the allocation for project identification (to about US\$3.5 million), a ten percent increase in professional staff and six percent in general service staff.

3.13 The Governing Council authorized the President to start negotiations on the 4th Replenishment by the end of the year, and to initiate negotiations for a Second Special Programme for Africa. The African Group has appealed for a replenishment of at least US\$300 million (the first phase, now fully committed, mobilized about US\$290 million).

African Development Bank (AfDB)

3.14 Final figures for total lending by the African Development Bank and Fund in 1990 amount to US\$3.3 billion, of which US\$683 million or 21 percent was for agriculture (1989: US\$563 million or 20 percent). Three of the projects approved were prepared with Investment Centre assistance for loans of US\$59.7 million.

3.15 Debate at the annual Board of Governors meeting in May 1991 centred on the shape of the next five-year programme (1992-96) and whether to expand operations as proposed by the regional members, or to consolidate as preferred by most of the non-regional members. This was reflected in

the 1991-93 replenishment of the African Development Fund (the concessionary window of AfDB) which was agreed at US\$3 billion. Although 20 percent over the 1988-90 level, in real terms it is about equal, and well below the 75 percent increase sought by the Bank management. This decision was viewed with disappointment by most regional members since it would clearly not be sufficient for the needs of many African countries which cannot afford to borrow from the Bank's resources on commercial terms.

3.16 The revised Cooperation Agreement and the related Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and AfDB have been approved by the Bank's Board of Governors and by the FAO Council. If approved by the FAO Conference in November 1991, they can be signed by both Organizations and become operational.

Asian Development Bank (AsDB)

3.17 In 1990 AsDB lent a total of US\$3.9 billion, of which a record US\$1 242 million or 32 percent was for agriculture (1989: US\$846 million or 23 percent).

3.18 At the Board of Governors Meeting in Vancouver in April 1991, AsDB was requested to focus even more strongly on poverty alleviation in its member countries. Discussions focused on replenishment of the Asian Development Fund, the Bank's concessional lending window, already a year overdue (because of appreciation of the yen, the last replenishment is still not fully exhausted). The issue is linked to the eligibility of China and India for concessional loans.

3.19 Cooperation of AsDB with the Investment Centre is picking up in 1991 after the lull of the last few years and is expected to grow in 1992. AsDB is especially interested in Investment Centre assistance in preparing projects in relatively new member countries such as China, Mongolia, Vietnam and possibly Cambodia, and has invited ideas on possible projects arising from FAO's work in these countries.

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

3.20 Total IDB lending increased from US\$2.6 billion in 1989 to US\$3.9 billion in 1990. Lending for agriculture, however, fell from US\$621 million (24 percent) in 1989 to US\$319 million (eight percent) in 1990. The new Cooperation Agreement between FAO and IDB covering investment project work and sector or policy studies is now virtually ready; however, before presentation to both managements, a sufficient number of project ideas will be assembled to fill a substantial part of the proposed US\$3 million work programme (covering 2 years).

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

3.21 The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) supports small projects in the poorest countries, often with technical assistance financed by UNDP and executed by FAO. The Investment Centre is responsible for preparation of the majority of CDF's agricultural projects. In 1991, the first year of CDF's 3-year programme cycle, there was a marked increase in joint activities, and cooperation is expected to continue at a high level.

FAO Investment Centre Activities over the Last Five Years

3.22 In each of the past five years, around 40 projects assisted by the FAO Investment Centre were approved for financing. Total investments involved in these 206 projects are estimated at US\$12.4 billion including supporting loans from external sources of about US\$6.9 billion, the balance being provided by the recipient countries. The table below indicates the number of projects in agriculture, formulated with the help of the FAO Investment Centre, approved for financing by the main lending agencies cooperating with FAO:

1986-1990 <u>Financing Institutions</u>	<u>Projects</u>		<u>Loans</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%¹</u>	<u>US\$</u>	<u>%¹</u>
World Bank/IDA (fiscal years)	90	34	4 058	22
IFAD (calendar years)	52	50	587	57
African Development Bank (calendar years)	26	28	427	13
Asian Development Bank (calendar years)	11	13	515	13
Inter-American Development Bank (calendar years)	2	5	45	2
UN Capital Development Fund (calendar years)	21	47	61	60

¹ The share of total approvals for agriculture by the respective institutions. For IFAD and AfDB, projects initiated by these institutions only, excluding those co-financed with other institutions.

SECTION 4

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT (UN-PAAERD), 1986-1990

4.1 At its Ninety-eighth Session in November 1990, the FAO Council was given a comprehensive report (CL 98/12) on the Organization's involvement in the activities of the UN system relating to the implementation and monitoring of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD), 1986-1990. In particular, the Council was informed of the various UN-PAAERD monitoring reports prepared by FAO or to which FAO contributed substantively, the setting up of the Inter-Agency Working Group, with FAO as a member, to prepare the zero draft of the Secretary-General's report on the final review and appraisal of UN-PAAERD, and the recommendations made by ECOSOC at its second regular session of 1990 regarding arrangements for the final review of UN-PAAERD by the General Assembly. FAO has continued to be active in inter-agency efforts on this subject and participated in the work of the UN Steering Committee on the Implementation of UN-PAAERD (UN-SC) and the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Follow-up on the Implementation of UN-PAAERD at the Regional Level (UN-IATF).

4.2 Besides the UN-PAAERD monitoring reports which various agencies, including FAO, had prepared under the auspices of the UN-IATF during 1989/90, information for the preparation of the Secretary-General's final report were obtained through a set of questionnaires distributed to all African governments on the implementation of UN-PAAERD at the level of individual countries and to the organizations of the UN system on their contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action. Further, in line with a resolution adopted by ECOSOC at its second regular session of 1990, multi-sectoral missions, under the leadership of ECA, visited the governments of all African countries during January/February 1991 to collect up-to-date information on the implementation of UN-PAAERD. FAO participated in all the missions. A five-member Inter-Agency Working Group (ECA, UNDP, UNCTAD, World Bank and FAO) worked in Addis Ababa from the beginning of March to the end of April 1991 and prepared a zero draft of the Secretary-General's report on UN-PAAERD. The draft was reviewed by the UN-IATF and finally approved by the Steering Committee (UN-SC) in June 1991.

4.3 The Secretary-General's report will have annexed to it another report entitled "Implementation of Diversification in the Commodity Sector in Africa at National, Sub-regional and Regional Levels with the Support of the International Community". This report has been prepared mainly by UNCTAD, in response to a request of the General Assembly (resolution 45/178 of December 1990), taking into account the report of the UN Secretary-General's Expert Group on African Commodity Problems (entitled "Africa's Commodity Problems: Towards a Solution") and the "common position" adopted by the African governments on that report. FAO made detailed comments on the initial UNCTAD draft of the report. It was subsequently reviewed at inter-agency meetings before being approved by the UN-IATF in July 1991.

4.4 On the recommendation of ECOSOC at its second regular session of 1990, the General Assembly decided in its resolution 45/178 of December 1990, inter alia, to establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the

General Assembly to prepare the final review and appraisal of the implementation of UN-PAAERD and to recommend concrete measures for sustained and sustainable growth and development in Africa beyond 1991. The Committee is scheduled to meet from 3 to 13 September 1991. Apart from the Secretary-General's report, the Ad Hoc Committee will also have before it a special memorandum addressed to it by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa. The report of the Ad Hoc Committee will be submitted to the General Assembly at its 46th session.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ADDRESS AND MITIGATE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACCIDENT AT THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

4.5 At its Ninety-eighth Session in November 1990, the FAO Council was informed (CL 98/12) of inter-agency cooperation in mitigating the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. FAO has been playing an important role in the UN system's efforts in this regard since immediately after the accident in 1986. Apart from its cooperation with IAEA, WHO and UNEP in the areas of health and food questions and environmental contamination, FAO has been active in the Inter-Agency Committee for Response to Nuclear Accidents (IAC/RNA) which include IAEA, ECE, ILO, IMO, UNDRO, UNEP, Unesco, WHO, WMO and the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR). This Committee held periodic meetings to coordinate the work of the United Nations system on various aspects of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. The establishment of the in-house FAO Standing Committee on the Effects of Radiation on Food and Agriculture in 1986 greatly facilitated coordination of relevant FAO activities with other international organizations.

4.6 The Council was also informed of FAO's collaboration with IAEA since late 1989 in a project entitled "The radiological consequences in the USSR from the Chernobyl accident : Assessment of health and environmental effects and evaluation of protective measures". FAO experts have been on mission to the affected areas within the framework of this project.

4.7 FAO and IAEA continue to collaborate in areas related to this subject, particularly through the work of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. The Joint Division is collecting and presenting information on radioactive contamination in food and agriculture and how to deal with it. The Joint Division is also collecting information for preparing guidelines on agricultural countermeasures after accidental release of radioactive materials in the agricultural environment.

4.8 The FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission has prepared Guidelines for Radionuclide Contamination of Foods moving in International Trade following accidental nuclear contamination. Reference to the use of these Guidelines is now being incorporated in the new IAEA recommendations on the protection of the public in the case of nuclear accidents. FAO is currently working with IAEA, WHO, ILO, PAHO and the OECD-Nuclear Emergency Agency in revising the Basic Safety Standards for Radioactive Protection. FAO has also acceded to, pursuant to the authorization of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference, the Convention on Early Notification of a

Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

4.9 In response to General Assembly resolution 45/190 of December 1990 on this subject, the Secretary-General appointed in March 1991 a Coordinator for international cooperation relating to the Chernobyl accident. The Coordinator has taken steps to prepare a "master plan" document of assistance requirements and project proposals for the affected areas. It has been stressed that the thrust of this assistance should be on the economic and social consequences of the accident, since the radiological and scientific aspects are being covered by a separate project coordinated by IAEA.

4.10 Responding to the same resolution, the Administrative Committee on Coordination decided in April 1991 to establish, at a senior level, an Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force to Address the Consequences of the Nuclear Accident at Chernobyl and agreed on its terms of reference. FAO participated in the first meeting of the Task Force in May 1991, which considered various project proposals, some of which were in the field of food and agriculture.

4.11 At its second regular session of 1991 in July this year, the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution which, inter alia, welcomed the practical measures taken by the Secretary-General on this matter, and took note of the decision of the Secretary-General to convene on 20 September 1991, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/190, a pledging conference for voluntary contributions for the implementation of the activities aimed at mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

4.12 FAO is active in relevant inter-agency fora on this subject and will continue to collaborate, resources permitting, in system-wide activities in the future within the sphere of its mandate and competence.

LARGE SCALE PELAGIC DRIFTNET FISHING

4.13 In accordance with the views expressed by the FAO Conference at its Twenty-fifth Session (C 89/REP, para. 47) and in light of United Nations General Assembly resolutions 44/225 and 45/197 on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the World's Oceans and Seas, the FAO Director-General has initiated the following actions:

- In January 1990, a Task Force on Large-Scale Pelagic Driftnet Fishing was established to, inter alia, coordinate the activities of the Organization in following up the recommendation of the twenty-fifth session of the FAO Conference and the resolution of the General Assembly of the UN at its 44th session and to suggest to the Director-General a general policy of FAO to deal with this large-scale driftnet fishing issue and recommend appropriate action. The Task Force met several times in 1990 and was instrumental in coordinating FAO's activities in this regard.

- In early April 1990, an Expert Consultation on Large-Scale Pelagic Driftnet Fishing was convened and was attended by twelve experts from a wide range of disciplines. The Consultation made an overall assessment of the situation, reviewed the various management options and made several recommendations for future action. The report of the Consultation was widely distributed by FAO.

4.14 Large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing was on the agenda of four FAO regional fishery bodies which met in 1990 and 1991. In February 1990, the Executive Committee of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) recommended that the GFCM Fisheries Management Committee should consider at its next session whether or not the moratorium recommended by the General Assembly Resolution should apply to the GFCM area. In June 1990, an Expert Consultation on the Evaluation of Stock of Large Pelagic Fishes agreed that on the basis of available information and pending the outcome of ongoing research, strict regulation of the use of driftnets in the Mediterranean was necessary.

4.15 In May 1990, the Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission (IPFC) did not formulate any specific recommendation for driftnet fishing on the high seas but recommended that the impact of the artisanal driftnets fishery on marine mammals and other living resources in Sri Lanka should be assessed through a pilot project.

4.16 The Committee for the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC), which met in July 1990, recommended a moratorium on all large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas of the Indian Ocean by 30 June 1992 with the understanding that such a measure could be lifted should effective conservation and management measures be taken based upon statistically sound analysis. As a follow-up to this recommendation the Director-General, on 7 December 1990, transmitted a note to all IOFC member countries enquiring about the steps taken in response to the Committee's recommendation. The Committee of Fisheries (COFI) at its Nineteenth Session in April 1991 was also informed of the replies to the Director-General's note received at that time.

4.17 In November 1990, the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) recommended the imposition by 30 June 1992 of a global moratorium on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas of the whole area of competence of the Commission. It also recommended that in accordance with sub-paragraph 4(a) of the United Nations Resolution 44/225 the statistical analysis should be carried out rapidly in order to determine the required conservation measures. In addition the Commission, in accordance with sub-paragraph 4(c) of the same resolution, recommended that large-scale pelagic driftnets should not be redeployed in the region. In March 1991, the Director-General sent a note to all WECAFC Member Nations requesting to be informed of the steps taken by them in response to the Commission's recommendation.

4.18 In compliance with paragraph 6 of United Nations Resolution 44/225, FAO contributed to the report of the Secretary-General by transmitting to the United Nations Secretariat a report on the State of Information on Large-Scale Pelagic Driftnet Fishing and its Impact on Marine Living Resources. The FAO contribution and those of other appropriate organizations were noted with appreciation by the General Assembly in the

preambular part of its resolution 45/197. FAO has also published a study entitled "The Regulation of Driftnet Fishing on the High Seas: Legal Issues", prepared by the Legal Office.

4.19 The Committee on Fisheries at its Nineteenth Session discussed, inter alia, this subject and appreciated the action taken so far by the Organization. The Committee strongly appealed for the complete and timely implementation of United Nations Resolution 44/225 in all regions. Some delegations recalled that the moratoria recommended by this resolution would not be imposed in a region or, if implemented, could be lifted, should effective conservation and management measures be taken, based upon statistically sound analysis. Other delegations felt that there was already enough evidence of the unacceptable impact of large-scale pelagic driftnetting on the high seas resources to justify a total ban of the gear on the high seas.

4.20 The Committee identified the following issues, related to high seas fishing in general, as requiring further work by FAO:

- gear selectivity and behaviour of marine animals in relation to fishing gear particularly but not exclusively those types of fishing gear which are employed in high seas fisheries;
- gathering of more reliable and detailed statistical information on high seas catches and publication of data differentiating between areas under national jurisdiction and the high seas;
- research needs on high seas resources;
- institutional and policy aspects of high seas fishing;
- legal aspects.

4.21 During COFI there was wide support for the view that, in light of the complex and delicate nature of all the above-mentioned issues, it would be wise to submit them for discussion first to an expert consultation and then to an ad hoc intergovernmental consultation, which would report to the Committee on Fisheries at its next Session in 1993.

CL

CL 99/6
April 1991

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ROME

E

Ninety-ninth Session

Rome, 10 - 21 June 1991

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
OF INTEREST TO FAOCONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
INTRODUCTION	1-2
URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS: A PROGRESS REPORT	3-9
COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES	10-15
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE, AND DECLARATION ADOPTED BY EIGHTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY	16-24
DRUG ABUSE CONTROL	25-30
DECOLONIZATION AND RELATED MATTERS	31-35
DISASTER-RELATED ACTIVITIES	36-39
FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN	40-44
ACC TASK FORCE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT, EIGHTEENTH SESSION, MAY 1990	45-53
JOINT CPC/ACC SESSIONS, 1990	54-62
ILO: APPLICATION OF MODERN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY	63-66
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT, DUBLIN, 26 - 31 JANUARY 1992	67-74

INTRODUCTION

1. The Council, at its Ninety-eighth Session in November 1990, considered recent developments in the United Nations system of interest to FAO on the basis of document CL 98/12 of October 1990. The discussion and conclusions of the Council on this item are contained in the Report of the Council of FAO (CL 98/REP - paragraphs 136-146).

2. This document provides a brief review of developments since the last session of the Council on the areas of particular interest to FAO which have not been covered under other agenda items at the current Session of the Council. An effort has been made to keep the document succinct and analytical, highlighting the deliberations and decisions of the other fora of the United Nations system which may have implications for the work of FAO.

URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS: A PROGRESS REPORT

3. Developments in the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations (Uruguay Round) from August 1989 to November 1990 were reviewed by the Council at its Ninety-eighth Session in November 1990.

4. Since then the Ministerial Meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) met in Brussels on 3-7 December 1990 for what was originally scheduled to be the concluding session of the Uruguay Round. However, although the Brussels meeting made a substantial contribution to advancing the negotiating process, it was decided that participants needed more time to reconsider and reconcile their positions in some key areas of the Negotiations. Accordingly the Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee at the Official level was requested to pursue intensive consultations, with the specific objective of achieving agreements in all the areas of the negotiating programme in which differences remained outstanding. These consultations were to be concluded on the basis of the draft Final Act drawn up for the Ministerial Meeting.

5. With respect to agriculture, the Chairman of the TNC at Official level found that participants did agree to conduct negotiations to achieve specific binding commitments on each of the following areas: domestic support; market access; export competition; and to reach an agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary issues; and that technical work would begin immediately (end February 1991) to facilitate these negotiations. He also found that all participants were committed to achieving reform of world agriculture trade through the framework approach adopted by the TNC at its mid-term review, which was completed in April 1989.

6. The TNC was therefore convened by the Chairman at the Official level for end-February to discuss domestic support, market access, export competition, sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The Chairman at the Official level proposed that in each of these areas, the particular concerns of developing countries, of net food importing developing countries, and those related to food security would be examined.

7. Direct technical support by FAO to the Negotiations continued until the last months of 1990 when it was expected that the Uruguay Round would be concluded. Since November, there have been no further meetings of the Negotiating Groups which FAO had previously attended (Agriculture, Tropical Products, Natural Resource Based Products and the Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures). Discussions are taking place directly in the Trade Negotiations Committee, which does not admit observers, rather than in the Negotiating Groups where FAO was an observer. In response to requests, FAO has continued to provide information and technical advice directly to interested participating developing countries for use in the discussions/negotiations on agriculture.

8. As in all other areas of the Negotiations, the failure to reach agreement on the draft Final Act in Brussels in December 1990 also applied to sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and barriers, on which a proposed agreement has been drafted. Work by FAO in areas linked to the draft agreement, however, has continued. In particular, the FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade held in March 1991, and an FAO expert consultation on harmonization of plant quarantine principles and a technical consultation among the Regional Plant Protection Organizations, both scheduled to take place in May 1991, should help to facilitate FAO's involvement in the implementation of an eventual agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and barriers in the Uruguay Round.

9. The activities of FAO's intergovernmental bodies are closely linked to many of the issues arising at the GATT Negotiations. The FAO Committee on Commodity Problems and its intergovernmental commodity groups continue to monitor developments in agricultural protectionism, particularly in connection with Conference Resolution 2/79, action taken in relation to the Guidelines for National and International Action on a number of commodities (rice, oilseeds, oils and fats and meat) as well as other related policy issues.

COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES

10. The FAO Council, at its Ninety-eighth Session in November 1990, was informed of developments on the Common Fund for Commodities, which had entered into force in June 1989. Since July 1989 it has been functioning as an independent international organization with headquarters in Amsterdam.

11. The general objective of the Fund is to enhance the stability and growth of commodity export earnings of developing countries. For these purposes it has two financial accounts. The First Account is to contribute to the financing of commodity stocking within the framework of the International Commodity Agreements associated with the Common Fund. As only one commodity agreement with buffer stocking arrangements is currently in force, the First Account is unlikely to be used in the near future. The Second Account, which is of greater direct importance to FAO activities, is meant to finance measures in the field of commodities other than stocking, such as research and development, productivity improvement and marketing.

12. The Common Fund has an authorized capital of US \$470 million, but for a number of reasons the directly contributed capital might be much less. At the end of 1990 capital subscriptions of countries which had ratified the Agreement stood at US \$345 million. However, the pledges of voluntary contributions to the Second Account at the end of 1990 stood at about US \$230 million and this amount could be supplemented by allocations of not less than US \$70 million, which the governments are likely to make on a voluntary basis to the Second Account from their capital subscriptions to the Fund. In addition, the Fund's statutes enable it to borrow and to enter into co-financing activities.

13. Projects to be financed from the Second Account have to be jointly sponsored and followed up by producer and consumer countries within the framework of a so-called International Commodity Body (ICB). These ICBs have to meet certain criteria laid down in the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund. Nine FAO commodity bodies had agreed during their sessions in 1988 and 1989 to encourage the Director-General to approach the Common Fund requesting that these bodies be designated as ICBs. The Director-General transmitted this request in December 1990 and the Executive Board of the Common Fund, at its meeting of 18-21 February 1991, designated the following nine bodies as ICBs:

- Intergovernmental Group on Bananas
- International Group on Citrus Fruit
- Sub-Committee on Fish Trade
- Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres
- Intergovernmental Group on Meat
- Sub-Group on Hides and Skins
- Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats
- Intergovernmental Group on Rice
- Intergovernmental Group on Tea

FAO as the parent body of these ICBs, which are responsible for a wide range of agricultural commodities, is likely to become the major counterpart of the Common Fund in relation to Second Account Operations.

14. In anticipation of the likely designation of FAO bodies as ICBs, and in order to be able to present project requests to the Fund as soon as possible, the generation of appropriate proposals for Second Account financing for the commodities covered by these FAO bodies had been pursued for some commodities, originally linked to UNCTAD's Integrated Programme for Commodities, and project preparation work has been initiated recently for others. The governing bodies of the Fund have issued a number of operational principles governing project preparation and submission, but there are still certain aspects of project acceptance and fund allocations which remain to be worked out. Although the Fund expects to commence soon appraisal of projects submitted, it

has adopted a prudent funding policy and resources initially put at the disposal of ICBs will be limited, but are likely to be gradually raised. In view of the sizeable claims on its resources from numerous ICBs, the Fund expects that the ICBs themselves will indicate priorities when submitting project packages.

15. Close liaison has been established within the Organization between the Divisions and Departments concerned, and machinery to coordinate project preparation, agreement, implementation as well as supervision and monitoring on a continuing basis is in the process of being consolidated.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT DECADE (IDS), AND DECLARATION ADOPTED BY THE EIGHTEENTH
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16. The Council was informed at its Ninety-eighth Session (ref. CL 98/REP., paragraph 39) of the contents of the proposed text of the International Development Strategy (IDS), which had been recommended to the General Assembly for adoption by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the IDS. The General Assembly, by resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, proclaimed the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, starting on 1 January 1991, and adopted the IDS as set forth in the proposed text.

17. FAO contributed to the preparatory work for the IDS as well as for the 18th Special Session of the General Assembly which adopted, on 1 May 1990, a Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries (hereafter referred to as the Declaration). FAO's contributions were considered by the Council at its Ninety-eighth Session (ref. CL 98/REP., paragraphs 37-45) on the basis of the document "Long-Term Strategy for the Food and Agriculture Sector" (CL 98/13).

18. Arrangements have been put in place in the United Nations system for follow-up activities in relation to both the Declaration and the IDS. These, together with the expected FAO contributions, are summarized below:

International Development Strategy

19. The General Assembly, by its resolution 45/234 of 21 December 1990, decided that, during its 46th session (in 1991), it should elaborate effective modalities to ensure action-oriented political review and follow-up processes for the Declaration and for the IDS as provided for in paragraph 38 of the Declaration and paragraph 112 of the IDS. In paragraph 38 of the Declaration, States Members of the United Nations pledge themselves solemnly to advance the multilateral dialogue, to respond to the challenge and commitments contained in the Declaration through national policies and enhanced international cooperation and to keep the implementation of the Declaration under political review. Paragraph 112 of the IDS states that review and appraisal relating directly to the progress of the Strategy as a whole should be carried out biennially by the General Assembly through the ECOSOC and that the Secretary General should submit appropriate recommendations in this

regard. It is expected that FAO's contributions to the process of the preparation of the Secretary General's recommendations will be made through the appropriate inter-secretariat machinery.

20. Inter-secretariat activities to elaborate the modalities for the implementation of the IDS are in course. A background document on "Implementation of the IDS - Role of the UN System" is being prepared to assist the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) at their Joint Meetings in October 1991 in the consideration of the topic "Implementation of the IDS by the organizations of the United Nations system". This is in accord with the IDS statement (paragraph 105) that "the work of the international system should be given greater coherence by closer inter-agency cooperation and coordination and by organizational measures that strengthen the contribution of the system to development". FAO participates fully in these activities, notably through the ACC and its subsidiary bodies.

21. There are likewise in course inter-secretariat consultations to elaborate the implications of the IDS for operational activities. FAO participates in these activities, mainly through a consultative committee of the ACC, the CCSQ (OPS).

Declaration

22. Also in resolution 45/234, the General Assembly decided to include in the agenda of its forty-sixth session an item on the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration. It requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the steps taken by the Governments of developed and developing countries, individually and collectively, as well as by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to fulfil those commitments and policies. It also called upon Governments of States Members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to take appropriate measures to ensure the full and effective implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration. It is expected that FAO will contribute to the preparation of the Secretary General's report through the appropriate inter-secretariat machinery.

23. Earlier in 1990, the Economic and Social Council, by resolution 1990/54 of 24 July 1990, had recommended that the governing bodies of the organs and organizations of the United Nations system include in their agenda the question of the implementation of the Declaration. They were invited to report to ECOSOC, at its second regular session in 1991, on steps taken by them and Governments within their respective spheres of competence, with a view to ensuring the implementation of the Declaration. In response to the ECOSOC request, the question was included on the agenda of the Ninety-eighth Session of the Council.

24. A report will be made to the ECOSOC in July 1991, taking into account the Council's discussions on this subject. In view of the fact that the activities of the Organization related to the IDS are fully in accord with the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration,

the Council may wish to suggest that the Director-General inform ECOSOC that, in the view of the Council, the activities of FAO in the elaboration and implementation of the IDS constitute its contribution to the implementation of the Declaration.

DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

25. The Council, at its Ninety-eighth Session was informed of FAO's continued participation in the United Nations system and international activities to promote coordination in the field of drug abuse control. The Council welcomed FAO's collaboration with other United Nations organizations in this area and noted that FAO activities would need to be reviewed following the expected decision by the United Nations General Assembly concerning harmonization of the mandates of the Vienna-based organizations (ref. CL 98/REP, paragraph 142).

26. The General Assembly, at its 45th session (1990), adopted five resolutions in relation to the International Action to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Four of these resolutions called for: continuation of on-going activities relating to implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances which entered into force on 11 November 1990 (resolution 45/146); implementation of the Global Programme of Action on Drugs (resolution 45/148); respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking (resolution 45/147); and implementation of the mandates and recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline (CMO) of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, as well as the economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs (resolution 45/149).

27. The fifth resolution on "Enhancement of the United Nations Structure for drug abuse control" (resolution 45/179) has more direct implications for FAO than the preceding four. This resolution called for the creation of a single drug control programme, called the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which would be based in Vienna and integrate fully the structures and functions of the three existing drug control entities - the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations Secretariat, the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC).

28. The new United Nations Drug Control Programme is to be structured according to three main areas of activity: treaty implementation; policy implementation and research; and operational activities. In relation to the third, the Programme will have responsibility for coordinating and carrying out the technical cooperation projects currently being executed mainly by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs and the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board. At the same time, the head of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme will ensure - in addition to coherence of action within the Programme - coordination, complementarity and non-duplication of drug-related activities across the United Nations system.

29. The resolution further underlined that the United Nations International Drug Control Programme should give priority to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control as adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, as well as the mandates and recommendations in the Global Programme of Action, as adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session.

30. The Secretary-General has already appointed as the head of the new Programme Mr. Giorgio Giacomelli, formerly Commissioner-General of UNRWA. The creation of this new United Nations International Drug Control Programme will naturally have implications for FAO in the way it will interact, henceforth, with the United Nations on drug-related activities, with regard to policy and programme coordination, complementarity, as well as the financing of projects.

DECOLONIZATION AND RELATED MATTERS

31. The Council, at its Ninety-eighth Session in November 1990, was informed of developments concerning decolonization and related matters. Subsequently, the General Assembly at its 45th session adopted a number of resolutions relating to decolonization. While resolutions 45/33 and 45/34 deal respectively with the Thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and with the implementation of the Declaration, resolution 45/35 relates to the dissemination of information on decolonization.

32. In resolution 45/33, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the specialized agencies to render, or to continue to render, all possible moral and material assistance to the peoples of the colonial territories and to their national liberation movements and to take measures to withhold from the apartheid regime of South Africa any form of collaboration or assistance in the financial, economic and technical fields. In resolution 45/34, the specialized agencies were requested to provide or to continue to provide to the newly independent and emerging States all possible assistance in the economic, social and other fields.

33. The General Assembly also adopted a resolution on the inclusion of Namibia in the list of least developed countries. In resolution 45/198, the General Assembly requested the Committee for Development Planning to consider the question of Namibia's inclusion in the list of LDCs and to report on its findings to the ECOSOC at its second regular session of 1991. The General Assembly also encouraged members of the international community and the organizations of the United Nations system to provide all possible support to the fledgling economic and social structures of the new nation of Namibia and its development aspirations.

34. FAO had provided assistance to Namibia prior to its independence and has continued to assist the country after its independence. At the request of the Government, FAO, using its own resources, has fielded several missions which have identified a number of projects now in various stages of preparation, such as: Soil mapping and natural resources assessment for agricultural development; Establishment of

demonstration nurseries for community forestry development; Establishment of a programme for integrated agricultural development of villages; and Establishment of a national documentation centre. In addition, the following projects, funded from FAO's resources, are currently being implemented: Rehabilitation of water points which have most impact in reducing livestock concentration in specific parts of the country; Assessment of the technical viability of farms to be purchased by the Government for resettlement of returnees; Analysis and assessment of the rural credit situation in the country and identification of rural financial schemes for agricultural development in communal areas. Another project dealt with the supply of 150 tonnes of maize and 50 tonnes of millet seeds to the farmers severely stricken by drought in several areas of the country.

35. Further, in collaboration with UNDP, FAO has identified and prepared a project for the establishment, by the Government of Namibia, of an Early Warning and Food Information System to monitor food security in the country. FAO is also assisting the Government, in collaboration with UNDP, to prepare a medium-term programme for agricultural development and growth in Namibia.

DISASTER-RELATED ACTIVITIES

36. The Council at its Ninety-eighth session was informed in some detail of FAO's collaboration with other United Nations organizations in its various disaster-related activities which address disaster prevention, preparedness, relief and rehabilitation.

37. As reported at that time, ECOSOC had adopted, in July 1990, two resolutions of particular interest to FAO: resolution 1990/61 on "Fight against the screw-worm infestation" and resolution 1990/62 on "International Strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa". In accordance with the requests made in these two resolutions, the Director-General of FAO will submit to ECOSOC, at its second regular session in July 1991, updated reports on the eradication of screw-worm infestation and on the implementation of the international strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation.

38. Since the Council discussion the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/185 on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The resolution inter alia urged the international community to implement fully the International Framework Action for the IDNDR and requested the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to complete the organizational and financial arrangements.

39. FAO continues its activities and efforts to contribute to the fulfilment of the goals and objectives of the IDNDR, within its areas of competence and available resources. In response to a request from the IDNDR secretariat, FAO has recently provided information on its participation in the arrangements for the Decade as a contribution to the preparation of the Secretary-General's report on this subject for submission to the 46th session of the General Assembly. The Organization's activities may be summarized as follows:

(a) FAO has set up an informal inter-departmental group for the coordination of inputs to the IDNDR. It has actively participated in the meetings of the United Nations Steering Committee and of the Inter-Agency Working Group for the IDNDR, providing statements of purpose, lists of activities, documents, programme and project proposals thereto.

(b) The support provided to the IDNDR is in the context of FAO's constitutional role in all matters related to food and agriculture, in particular, its mandate for the development, utilization and conservation of natural resources. Many, if not most, of FAO's technical capabilities and assistance activities are relevant to rational management of natural resources. The same capabilities relate to natural disaster assessment, prevention, preparedness, mitigation, relief and rehabilitation.

(c) Regarding disasters and emergencies, FAO has close communication with countries through its network of FAO Representatives, and also maintains contacts with regional and sub-regional bodies, with UNDR0/Geneva and other organizations of the United Nations system, and with the donors.

(d) Examples of cooperative activities between FAO and other United Nations organizations/bodies include: 1) the recent joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, Codex Alimentarius Commission, which produced "Guideline levels for Radionuclides in Food Following Accidental Nuclear Contamination for Use in International Trade" and 2) the arrangements concluded recently between FAO and UNDR0 with a view to strengthening information exchange through their respective information systems, the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) of FAO and the United Nations International Emergency Network (UNINET) of UNDR0. Under these arrangements, UNDR0 has made a "window" available to UNINET to incorporate summaries of the information prepared by GIEWS. FAO in turn has free access, via UNINET, to other emergency data bases and bulletin boards, as well as to other network users through electronic mail. The facility is now operational.

(e) The coordinating role played by FAO in the monitoring and control of the desert locust and other migratory pests has continued. FAO's central reporting and forecasting service assists member countries and regional organizations in efforts to monitor and contain infestations.

(f) The creation in 1988 of the ARTEMIS satellite data receiving and processing system, which has been fully operational at the FAO Remote Sensing Centre in Rome since August 1988, has proved to be a useful instrument also with respect to disaster-related activities. ARTEMIS which stands for "Africa Real-Time Environmental Monitoring Information System", is the result of a joint undertaking. It was custom-designed by the National Aerospace Laboratory (NLR) of the Netherlands according to FAO specification, built by the NLR in cooperation with the U.S. space agency NASA and the University of Reading in the United Kingdom and funded by the Government of the Netherlands through a special FAO trust fund.

ARTEMIS provides a wealth of data and images, produced in real-time, which permit, inter alia, the monitoring of the status of the rainy season over Africa and hence timely information for use by systems which address early warning for food security and locust monitoring and control operations.

In order that this data can be made available in a timely manner to the most interested parties, the developing countries, FAO has joined forces with the European Space Agency (ESA) to create DIANA (Data and Information now available in Africa), a special satellite communications system which enables the direct transmission of the ARTEMIS data to users at regional and national levels. It is expected that DIANA will start its demonstration phase by November 1991 starting with a user terminal in Nairobi (Kenya), and possibly in Accra (Ghana) and Djibouti.

(g) FAO, through its Office for Special Relief Operations (OSRO), fields food and agriculture missions, usually jointly with the World Food Programme and occasionally with donor participation. These missions assess food supplies, identify at-risk population groups, evaluate agricultural conditions and propose the provision of exceptional food aid and agricultural materials for rehabilitation and recovery programmes. During the last decade, OSRO earmarked a total of US \$148 million for the implementation of projects to mitigate the effects of disasters.

(h) FAO has submitted to the IDNDR, for consideration by the Scientific and Technical Committee, twenty-eight summaries of project proposals, directly related to the objectives of the Decade. The proposals cover the fields of activities within FAO's mandate: forestry, fisheries, water and soil management, locust control, animal health, nutrition, human resources, food security, remote sensing for early warning and disaster mitigation.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

40. The Council at its Ninety-eighth session noted with satisfaction that FAO had contributed to the preparatory process of the World Summit for Children, held in September 1990, and that possible FAO follow-up was under consideration (ref. CL 98/REP, paragraph 145). As already reported to the Council, the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for its implementation were adopted by the World Summit for Children on 30 September 1990. FAO provided technical input to these documents.

41. Since then, the General Assembly on 21 December 1990, adopted resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children, in which, inter alia, it urged all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the goals, strategies and recommendations of the Declaration and the Plan of Action in carrying out their programmes, and invited the relevant governing bodies to consider specific measures, within their competence, to address the special needs of children in the light of the Declaration and the Plan of Action.

42. As the primary United Nations agency responsible for nutrition, FAO's programme of work is structured to address many of the Summit's goals. Particular mention may be made of FAO's efforts to improve household food security and nutrition through improved access to and consumption of food, and to ensure the quality and safety of food for all persons including children. Collaborative efforts with UNICEF and WHO on the Ten Year Action Plan against Vitamin A Deficiency also illustrate FAO's commitment to work with other agencies in achieving common goals of improving nutrition.

43. Most importantly, the commitment made by the 71 heads of state at the World Summit provides additional impetus for the preparations underway by FAO and WHO for the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) which the Council will discuss at its Ninety-ninth Session under a separate agenda item.

44. In response to a letter from the Secretary-General regarding General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children, the Director-General assured the Secretary-General in March 1991 that FAO would take into account the goals, strategies and recommendations of the Declaration and the Plan in carrying out its programmes, and that the Declaration and the Plan of Action would also be taken into account in the formulation of the FAO Medium-term Plan.

ACC TASK FORCE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT, EIGHTEENTH SESSION, MAY 1990

45. The Conference, at its Twenty-fifth Session, in November 1989, was informed of the work of the seventeenth session of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development. Subsequently, the eighteenth session of the ACC Task Force was held at FAO headquarters in Rome from 2 to 4 May 1990. Eighteen member agencies and organizations of the Task Force attended the meeting.

46. One of the major items discussed by the Task Force was FAO's proposed arrangements for the preparation of the Third Progress Report on Follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), which would include a review of FAO's and other United Nations organizations' experiences in implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action, prepared by an independent team of experts. The member organizations of the Task Force expressed their readiness to collaborate fully with FAO in the preparation of the Third Progress Report, which they felt would make a valuable contribution to the analysis and assessment of trends in agrarian reform and rural development and would be of considerable help to both the organizations and the Task Force in defining their future priorities and work programmes in this area. The concerned organizations agreed to provide FAO with relevant data and studies for use in preparing the report and to give full support and assistance to FAO staff and consultants who would be visiting a number of organizations in the course of 1990 to collect further information and discuss the substantive issues to be analyzed in the report. The draft report will be discussed at the next meeting of the Task Force in May 1991, and it is expected that it will, *inter alia*, contribute to reorient the focus of the Task Force by identifying priority areas and mechanisms for future joint action.

47. In discussing the background document on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for rural women which had been prepared by the FAO secretariat on the basis of contributions from the member organizations, the Task Force agreed that in future the organizations' individual reports, together with an overview, would be submitted to it. It was agreed that a new outline would be prepared with a view to eliciting a more analytical assessment of progress and highlighting trends and priorities.

48. Following discussions of FAO's report on the Global Consultation on Agricultural Extension, which was held in Rome in 1989, the Task Force agreed that agricultural extension should be considered at a future meeting of the Task Force.

49. UNDP provided an interim report on the study programme being undertaken with UNDP funding by the Working Group on the Impact of Macro-Economic Policies on the Rural Poor. Members were informed of progress in carrying out a case study in Niger to test a methodology which had been developed during the first phase of the study programme. It was noted that similar case studies were planned for Ghana, Jamaica and Madagascar.

50. UNIDO reported on the decisions taken at the first meeting of the Working Group on Industrial Contribution to Rural Development which had been established at the request of the seventeenth session of the Task Force. It was agreed to focus initially on two areas for inter-agency cooperation: (a) the implications of policy shifts to more market-oriented economies for rural development-focussed industrialization, particularly on the effective promotion of efficient rural small industries and specific human resource groups, such as women, the landless, refugees and returning migrants; and (b) the implications of improving standards of human settlements for rural people, particularly the role of the construction and forest-based industries, as well as other enterprises manufacturing alternative building materials. The Working Group agreed to undertake an inventory of on-going activities in these areas of concern, identify the gaps and make proposals for inter-agency collaboration for endorsement at the next Task Force meeting.

51. The Task Force was informed by ILO, the convenor of the Panel on People's Participation, of the substantive issues discussed during the Panel's last meeting. It approved the proposed work plan of the Panel, the main elements of which were: (a) preparation, together with the Panel on Monitoring and Evaluation, of an issues paper on participatory evaluation with particular attention to women, for consideration at a joint meeting of the two Panels in 1991; (b) exploration of members' views on the need for staff sensitization/training in participatory development and the formulation of proposals, as appropriate; (c) preparation of proposals for the production of a news bulletin and an annotated bibliography on participatory development; (d) exploration of possibilities for organizing inter-agency meetings on participatory development at the country level.

52. IFAD, convenor of the Panel on Monitoring and Evaluation, reported on the main issues discussed at its last Panel meeting, which included consideration of its future orientation and modus operandi. Members agreed that this should take account of the work programme of the Inter-Agency Group on Evaluation and that the Panel's basic function should be to provide a forum for exchange of information and discussion of major issues in monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Its future work programme would include, inter alia, (a) frequent informal meetings among Panel members based in the same city; (b) increased emphasis to M&E of national agrarian reform and rural development programmes; and (c) formulation of proposals for the production of an annotated bibliography of M&E publications and a Panel newsletter.

53. It was generally agreed that the Panels and Working Groups provided an effective mechanism for inter-agency collaboration in specific technical fields. Discussion of the WCARRD Follow-up Review at the next Task Force meeting was expected to generate new initiatives by the Task Force with regard to ways and means of enhancing inter-agency collaboration at both the field and headquarters level and stimulate substantive discussions on emerging issues of major international concern.

JOINT CPC/ACC SESSION, 1990

54. At its Ninety-eighth session the Council was informed orally of the outcome of the Joint Meeting of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), held in New York on 25 and 26 October 1990.

55. This was the 25th in the series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC, which take place once every year. At the Joint Meeting of 1990, the ACC representatives included the Director-General of FAO and the executive heads of a number of other United Nations organizations. The agenda of the Meeting contained two topics: Improvement of Coordination in the United Nations System; and International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR).

56. On the subject of natural disaster reduction, the Joint Meeting agreed that the collective capacity of the United Nations to provide early warning and/or identification of emerging trends or hazardous phenomena which could lead to natural disasters should be enhanced. Critical intersectoral linkages should also be identified. The Meeting agreed that a reliable data base on natural disasters could be an important tool for decision-making. It also emphasized the need to intensify efforts to implement the goals and objectives of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

57. The selection of the theme of coordination reflected the continuing importance attached to this subject, which had also been discussed by the CPC itself and by ECOSOC earlier in the year.

58. At the Joint Meeting, the CPC stressed the importance of the role of the ACC, which unites the heads of all United Nations Agencies and Programmes, in coordinating the response of the system to global problems. In that connection it asked that the format of the Annual

Overview Report, which the ACC submits to CPC, ECOSOC and the General Assembly, be revised. In particular it requested that the document provide comprehensive and comparable information on the programmes and resources of the organizations of the United Nations system. In the view of Member States, this would facilitate harmonization of positions taken by governments in various governing bodies and would also contribute to the enhancement of coordination within the system.

59. A prototype of this revised report had been developed jointly by two Consultative Committees of ACC, in which FAO took a very active role. The prototype was discussed by the Joint Meeting and considered a good basis on which to proceed to prepare the full report for 1990. (The full report has since been prepared for submission to the CPC, ECOSOC and the General Assembly as an addendum to the Annual Overview Report of the ACC for 1990.)

60. During the debate, the Director-General and other executive heads underlined that the effectiveness of coordination must be judged in relation to the specific problems addressed; for this reason, FAO and other agencies had fostered coordination efforts at the sectoral level through both formal and informal mechanisms. They also felt that the pursuit of coordination should be meaningful in terms of cost effectiveness, avoidance of overlap and duplication, and the enhancement of efficiency.

61. After a full day of intensive discussion at an unusually high level, the Joint Meeting adopted conclusions and recommendations on the topic of coordination. In this document, the Joint Meeting "reaffirmed the importance of coordination as an instrument to enhance complementarity, to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts and to promote efficient utilization of human and financial resources of the organizations of the United Nations system. While appreciating that coordination must be cost effective, it was recognized that coordination involves cost and therefore efforts must concentrate on areas with maximum benefits for Member States". The Joint Meeting recognized that Member States and secretariats had shared responsibilities in this respect and that the existing intergovernmental and inter-secretariat bodies charged with coordination were adequate. However, efforts must be made to enhance their effectiveness.

62. The Report of the Chairmen of CPC and ACC on the Joint Meetings was considered by ECOSOC on 9 November 1990 at its resumed second regular session. ECOSOC decided to take note of and endorse the Report, and transmit it to the General Assembly at its 45th session. The General Assembly, in its decision 45/438 of 21 December 1990, also took note of the Report.

ILO: APPLICATION OF MODERN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

63. The ILO Governing Body at its 244th Session in November 1989 decided to place on the agenda of the 78th Session of the International Labour Conference (June 1991) the item "Application of modern agricultural technology". In accordance with the usual practice, the International Labour Office would place a report on this subject before the Conference for its consideration.

64. It was proposed that the report address: biochemical technology (high-yielding varieties of seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides and irrigation water); mechanisation (from simple traditional handtools to animal and engine-powered equipment, implements and farm machinery) and biotechnology (commercial techniques which use living organisms or parts thereof to make or modify a product). It would, inter alia, identify and analyze the major impact of technological changes (in particular that of the green revolution) on growth, employment, productivity, occupational safety and health and environmental conservation for sustainable development. Finally the report would examine the implications for future ILO work.

65. The representative of FAO to the 244th Session of the ILO Governing Body stated that the Organization "was prepared to collaborate with the Office, because some of the issues to be considered also fell within the competence of FAO. The purpose of this collaboration would be to avoid possible duplication of effort" (Minutes of the 244th Session, GB.244/FV(Rev.)VII/4). FAO was subsequently contacted by the Office and it was arranged that the ILO consultant coordinating the report would visit FAO to meet with relevant FAO officers.

66. Following these consultations, FAO received a copy of the report and sent comments to ILO. In the covering letter FAO also stressed the importance of ensuring complementarity of effort in future activities in this area, whether under the Regular or Field Programmes. FAO stressed that the comparative advantages of each organization in the areas of its particular competence would help to guide future collaboration in providing the best possible assistance to member countries. FAO will attend the 78th session of the International Labour Conference in June 1991 for the discussion of the report.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT,
DUBLIN, 26 - 31 JANUARY 1992

67. In considering FAO activities related to Environment and Sustainable Development, the Council, at its Ninety-eighth Session in November 1990, supported FAO activities contributing to the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Council, inter alia, recommended that FAO, in its areas of competence, continue to participate actively, in cooperation with other agencies, in the preparations for this Conference (ref. CL 98/REP, paragraph 77).

68. The Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development is considering through its Working Group II the item "The protection and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources". The Preparatory Committee of UNCED, at its first session, invited all relevant organizations involved in the preparation of the International Conference on Water and the Environment to consider, within their respective areas of competence, making major efforts towards further development of cooperation for the protection of freshwater resources through integrated management, including concrete

proposals for action. The Government of Ireland has agreed to host this Conference in Dublin, Ireland in January 1992, which will be co-sponsored by FAO.

69. The objectives and consequently the programme of the Conference are closely linked to the recommendations of the United Nations Water Conference held in Mar del Plata, Argentina in 1977, known as the Mar del Plata Action Plan.

70. A review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in 1987, ten years after its adoption, indicated the need for a comprehensive yet well-focussed strategy to implement the Action Plan for the 1990s. It was recommended that this strategy should take into consideration the emerging environmental and economic trends and develop well-defined action programmes and targeted outputs and activities. This was endorsed by the Committee on Natural Resources (CNR) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). An important feature of the Mar del Plata Action Plan Strategy for the 1990s is to be its intersectoral approach to the management of water resources and its component action programmes in the following areas: Water resources assessment; Water and sustainable agricultural development; Water supply and sanitation; Water quality management and pollution control; Water resources planning; and Capacity building (institutional and human resources).

71. Agriculture uses about 70 to 80 percent of the total global freshwater resources. Therefore, efficient water use in the agricultural sector is absolutely essential for the overall efficient use and management of the global freshwater resources. Accordingly, FAO has given priority to the Dublin Conference and the development and implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan Strategy for the 1990s, and has developed an International Action Programme on Water and Sustainable Agricultural Development (IAP-WASAD). This programme has been formulated by FAO with the full cooperation of other United Nations organizations. The Council was informed of the IAP-WASAD at its Ninety-eighth session in paragraph 61 of document CL 98/6 and endorsed this and other activities reported in this document (see paragraph 69 of document CL 98/REP).

72. The strategy document and the action programmes were submitted by the United Nations Secretary-General to the Committee on Natural Resources at its 12th Meeting in March/April 1991. The strategy document and the action programmes will play a central role in the deliberations of the Dublin Conference. More specifically, the objectives of the Dublin Conference are:

- to discuss the Mar del Plata Action Plan for the 1990s and the associated action programmes;
- to develop coordinated intersectoral approaches in implementing the strategies and action programmes;
- to obtain political and donor support to implement the action programmes; and

- to bring the above issues, strategies and actions to the attention of governments as a basis for national programmes and to increase awareness of the environmental consequences and development opportunities in improving the management of water resources.

73. The conference will be attended by government designated experts from all member nations of the United Nations. The outcome of the Conference will be submitted to the final Preparatory Committee meeting of UNCED and subsequently to the UNCED itself.

74. The Dublin Conference and the subsequent endorsement of the recommendations of this Conference by the UNCED is expected to result in the formal launching of the IAP-WASAD under the leadership of FAO within the framework of an interagency and inter-sectoral framework for action. The Council may wish to consider these actions and endorse FAO's leadership role in implementing the IAP-WASAD as a component of an integrated United Nations system effort to ensure the sustainable development of water resources.