

Questions relating to food problems

The World Food Conference

Preparations for the Conference

On 17 December 1973¹ the General Assembly decided to convene a World Food Conference to be held at Rome, Italy, during November 1974. The Preparatory Committee of the World Food Conference, which was established by the Economic and Social Council on 11 December 1973,² subject to the Assembly's action, held its first session at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 11 to 15 February 1974.

At the first session of the Preparatory Committee, the Secretary-General of the Conference, Sayed Ahmed Marei (Egypt), reported to the Committee on the progress of preparations for

the Conference, and the Committee considered a draft provisional Conference agenda—which included an assessment of the world food situation—and proposals for national and international programmes of action.

On 15 May 1974, the Economic and Social Council, by resolution 1840(LVI), took note of the Preparatory Committee's report and a related report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on food deficits and food aid needs.

¹ See Y.U.N., 1973, p. 470, text of resolution 3180(XXVIII).

² *Ibid.*, pp. 469-70, text of resolution 1831(LV).

The Council decided to convene the World Food Conference from 5 to 16 November 1974, urged the Preparatory Committee to complete a draft provisional agenda, and requested that all relevant documentation be made available as soon as possible, so the Council could consider the progress and scope of the Conference at its next session in July-August 1974.

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to invite all States, the interested organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to participate in the Conference.

Further, it requested him to invite representatives of the liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States to participate in the Conference without the right to vote, and to invite interested inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council or with FAO, and other non-governmental organizations which could contribute to the work of the Conference, to be represented by observers.

The Council adopted resolution 1840(LVI) by consensus on 15 May 1974, on the recommendation of its Economic Committee. The Economic Committee approved the resolution unanimously on 14 May, as proposed by its Chairman and as orally amended by the USSR.

The USSR amendment provided that the invitation to the Conference was to be addressed to "all States." The United States proposed, in this connexion, that the Council's report on the matter would state its understanding that the Secretary-General in discharging his function under the resolution would follow the practice of the General Assembly in implementing an "all States" clause. Further, a resolution footnote would make reference to this statement. Uganda then proposed that the Council add to this statement a clause that in all cases where it was advisable the Secretary-General would request the opinion of the General Assembly before taking appropriate decisions. The United States and Ugandan proposals were agreed to by the Committee.

(For text of resolution 1840(LVI), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

The Preparatory Committee of the Conference, at its second session held at Geneva, Switzerland, from 4 to 8 June 1974, considered a report by the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Assessment of the world food situation, present and future."

The main conclusions of this study were: (a) that the short-term and long-term aspects of the world food problem were closely interrelated,

and that the longer-term imbalance between demand and supply in the developing countries was becoming more serious; (b) that about 20 per cent of the total population in developing countries was suffering from inadequate nutrition; (c) that in developing countries deficient in cereal the shortage could rise to 85 million tons by 1985 if trends in the demand for and the supply of food continued; (d) that the need was not only one of more production, but also one of better distribution.

The Secretary-General of the Conference went on to suggest that effective action in several areas could form the foundation of a world food policy. The main elements of such a policy could be: (a) increased production in developing countries; (b) an improved food information and early warning system; (c) more effective and better co-ordinated food reserve policies; (d) a longer-term food aid policy for emergencies and nutrition supplements for vulnerable groups; and (e) flexible trading and stabilization arrangements and harmonious adjustment policies.

The Preparatory Committee was in general agreement with this assessment of the world food situation and the broad conclusions of the study. There was unanimous recognition of the importance of increasing food production and improving food utilization, particularly in developing countries, as part of the fundamental solution to the world food problem. However, the Committee suggested that the assessment might be improved by including additional information, analyses and recommendations in some areas, including food commodities other than grains, additional food-demand projections and analyses of production fluctuations, the human and social impacts of malnutrition, and the development and transfer of agricultural and post-harvest technology. A revised assessment was requested, to be submitted to the third session of the Preparatory Committee in October 1974.

The Economic and Social Council, by decision 23(LVII) of 19 July 1974, approved the draft provisional agenda for the World Food Conference, the proposed organization of work of the Conference, and the draft provisional rules of procedure as contained in the report of the second session of the Preparatory Committee. The Council decided that the third session of the Preparatory Committee was to be held at Rome from 23 September to 4 October 1974, and it decided, in accordance with a Preparatory Committee recommendation, to convene a meeting of interested Governments at Rome from 16 to 20 September 1974, to consider certain specific proposals for possible consideration by the Conference.

The Council also decided, by decision 24(LVII)

on 31 July 1974, that it would consider the report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session, together with the report of the World Food Conference, as soon as the Conference report became available.

Decisions 23(LVII) and 24(LVII) were adopted without objection on the proposal of the President of the Council.

At its third session, the Preparatory Committee considered the revised version of the assessment of the world food situation, which took into account suggestions made by the Committee, as well as the decisions on raw materials and development taken by the General Assembly at its sixth special session in April/May 1974 (see pp. 320-22).

The Preparatory Committee also examined various proposals which it decided to transmit to the World Food Conference for consideration. Some of these proposals were contained in a report by the Conference secretariat entitled "World food problem: proposals for national and international action," including: a proposal for a world fertilizer fund, sponsored by Sri Lanka and endorsed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; a proposal for an agricultural development fund, sponsored by Sierra Leone on behalf of the African group of United Nations Member States; a proposal for a world food security council, world food bank and international agricultural development fund or bank, sponsored by Bangladesh; and proposals for a world food authority submitted by the Conference secretariat.

Also examined by the Preparatory Committee and transmitted to the Conference were proposals for the establishment of: a world bank of food, proposed by Mexico; a world-wide information system on the food and agriculture situation, proposed by Japan; a high-level co-ordinating committee for agricultural development, proposed by Germany (Federal Republic of); an agricultural development fund, proposed by the Philippines; a world agricultural development service, proposed by India; and institutional arrangements for consultation and co-ordination, proposed by the Netherlands.

The Preparatory Committee also considered a draft resolution on international food trade, access to markets, prices and stabilization, proposed by Yugoslavia; the text of a universal declaration on the eradication of hunger, proposed by Peru; and a draft declaration and 10 draft resolutions on objectives for food production, priorities for agricultural and rural development, fertilizers, agricultural research and training, policies and programmes to improve nutrition, a food information system, an international undertaking on world food security, an improved policy for

food aid, stabilization of food prices and markets, and international trade and adjustment, prepared by the secretariat at the Committee's request.

The Preparatory Committee agreed that the best way to present the conclusions of the Conference to the world would be to have: (a) a declaration designed to inform public opinion, which would contain the reasons for convening the World Food Conference, the policy implications of the current and prospective assessment of the world food situation, and the major decisions adopted by the Conference; (b) a set of specific resolutions on priority proposals for action, on which clear-cut understandings and commitments could be reached; and (c) a Conference report incorporating recommendations of a technical or general nature addressed to national Governments, international organizations and others.

Deliberations of the Conference

The World Food Conference was held in Rome from 5 to 16 November 1974.

The Conference was attended by representatives of the following 133 States: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, the Byelorussian SSR, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, the Gambia, the German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, the Khmer Republic, the Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Republic, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Viet-Nam, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the Ukrainian SSR, the USSR, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

Also represented at the Conference were the

International Labour Organisation, FAO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), the International Monetary Fund, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), GATT, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Representatives of the following six national liberation movements also took part in the Conference, without the right to vote: *Frente de Libertação de Moçambique*; *Frente Nacional para a Libertação de Angola*, *Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola*, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Seychelles People's United Party, and the Zimbabwe African People's Union.

Observers from the following 26 inter-governmental organizations attended the Conference: the African Development Bank, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Productivity Organization, the Commission of the European Communities, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Council of Arab Economic Unity, the Council of Europe, the European Economic Community, the European Parliament, the International Olive Oil Council, the International Wheat Council, the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, the International Seed Testing Association, Istituto Italo-Latino Americano, the International Regional Organization of Plant Protection and Animal Health, the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States, Organisation commune africaine, malgache et mauricienne, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration, and the South Pacific Commission. Also attending were observers from 161 international and national non-governmental organizations.

The Conference elected Giuseppe Medici (Italy) as its President and Aftab Ahmad Khan (Pakistan) as Rapporteur-General. Representatives of the following 18 States were elected Vice-Presidents: Algeria, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Cuba, Ghana, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Nigeria, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Sudan,

Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, the USSR and Venezuela.

The Conference appointed a Credentials Committee composed of Belgium, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Senegal, the USSR, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States, Venezuela and Zambia. On 14 November 1974, the Committee recommended that the Conference accept the credentials submitted in accordance with the rules of procedure, and accept provisionally those credentials not in the form prescribed by the rules of procedure. The Conference adopted these recommendations. Reservations or observations were expressed by a number of States.

The USSR, for instance, said that the unilateral invitation to the representatives of the Saigon Administration to participate in the Conference was inconsistent with the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet-Nam signed in Paris, France, on 27 January 1973, which clearly established that there were two Governments in South Viet-Nam. The fact that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam had not been invited to the Conference, the USSR continued, had prevented the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, which had been invited to the Conference, from participating; as a result, the universal character of the Conference was seriously prejudiced.

Egypt, Madagascar, Peru, Romania and Sweden also considered that the Provisional Revolutionary Government should have been invited to the Conference.

The representative of the Republic of Viet-Nam said it was incorrect to state that there were two Governments in South Viet-Nam; the Paris Agreement had referred to a single Government.

China said that the presence of the Government of Lon Nol (Khmer Republic) as the representatives of the Khmer people was illegal, and that the Royal Government of the National Union of Cambodia should be represented. Afghanistan, Cuba, Iraq, Romania and Somalia supported this view.

The representative of the Khmer Republic stated that he had refrained from replying to attacks on his Government in view of the humanitarian objectives of the Conference, and that his Government sincerely hoped for national reconciliation.

The World Food Conference established three main Committees to study the substantive items of its agenda.

The First Committee was concerned with measures for increasing food production in developing countries and developed countries, and policies and programmes for improving con-

sumption patterns in all countries; the Second Committee was to deal with measures to strengthen world food security and arrangements to follow up Conference decisions; and the Third Committee was concerned with specific objectives and measures in the area of international trade and adjustment which were relevant to the food problem, including measures towards stabilization, and expansion of markets for exports from developing countries.

The World Food Conference was opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who observed that it was difficult to review the sequence of events leading to the food crisis without dismay at the lack of foresight and common interest shown by individuals, Governments and the international community. The general failure to meet the target of a 4 per cent annual increase in over-all agricultural production called for by the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade³ had resulted in heavy food imports and consequent drains on foreign-exchange reserves of many developing countries.

Food production, the Secretary-General continued, would have to more than double by the end of the century in order to meet anticipated needs; such a programme would require an unprecedented effort of international co-operation.

In opening the general debate, the Conference's Secretary-General observed that since the General Assembly convened the Conference in December 1973, the food crisis had been aggravated by many disruptive factors, including inflation, unemployment, monetary instability and the energy crisis, but that the deeper causes of the world food problem lay in rural poverty and the use of traditional rather than modern agriculture in the developing countries.

He declared that it was up to the Conference to provide the means and the policy support for implementing a strategy for a world food policy, based on increasing food production in the developing countries, improving consumption and distribution of food, and establishing a better system of food security. He also stressed that without follow-up action, Conference efforts would be in vain, and noted a Preparatory Committee proposal for a high-level mechanism to provide integrated and continuing attention to Conference recommendations. He also urged that food aid be linked with the national agricultural development programmes of the recipient countries and warned against the use of food aid as an instrument of foreign policy.

A general debate was held in which representatives of 104 States, a number of United Nations bodies and international organizations, national liberation movements and non-governmental or-

ganizations addressed the Conference. This was followed by detailed consideration of the agenda in plenary meetings and in meetings of the three main Committees.

On 16 November 1974, the Conference adopted a Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition and a series of resolutions on the questions before it.

Decisions of the Conference

On 16 November 1974, the World Food Conference adopted the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, which consisted of a preamble and 12 principles.

By the preamble to the Declaration, the Conference recognized that the grave food crisis afflicting the peoples of the developing countries, where most of the world's hungry and ill-nourished lived, and where more than two thirds of the world's population produced about one third of the world's food, was not only fraught with grave economic and social implications, but also acutely jeopardized the most fundamental principles and values associated with the right to life and human dignity as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The situation of the peoples afflicted by hunger and malnutrition arose from their historical circumstances, especially social inequalities, including in many cases alien and colonial domination, foreign occupation, racial discrimination, *apartheid* and neo-colonialism in all its forms, which continued to be among the greatest obstacles to the full emancipation and progress of the developing countries. The situation had been aggravated in recent years by a series of crises in the world economy. All countries, the Conference declared, were equal and had the full right to participate in the decisions on the food problem.

The well-being of the peoples of the world largely depended on the adequate production and distribution of food, as well as the establishment of a world food security system, which would ensure adequate availability of and reasonable prices for food at all times, irrespective of periodic fluctuations and vagaries of weather and free of political and economic pressures. It was necessary to apply the principles of national independence, sovereignty and non-interference to encourage peaceful co-operation among States, in order to develop agricultural production and improve food security.

Also by the preamble, the Conference among other things recognized that for a lasting solution of the food problem all efforts should be made to eliminate the widening gap which sepa-

³ See Y.U.N., 1970, pp. 319-29, resolution 2626(XXV) of 24 October 1970, containing text of the Strategy.

rated developed and developing countries and to bring about a new international economic order.

The Conference went on to state in the preamble that developing countries reaffirmed their belief that the primary responsibility for ensuring their own rapid development rested with themselves, and declared their readiness to continue to intensify their individual and collective efforts to expand their mutual co-operation in the field of agricultural development and food production, including the eradication of hunger and malnutrition.

The Conference then stated that, consistent with the aims and objectives of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order of 1 May 1974 (see pp. 324-26), it solemnly proclaimed the following principles.

1. Every man, woman and child had the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop fully and maintain his physical and mental faculties. Society already possessed sufficient resources, organizational ability and technology to achieve this objective. Accordingly, the eradication of hunger was a common objective of all countries, especially of the developed countries and others in a position to help.

2. It was a fundamental responsibility of Governments to work together for higher food production and a more equitable and efficient distribution of food between countries and within countries. Governments should initiate immediately an attack on chronic malnutrition and deficiency diseases among the vulnerable and lower income groups and, in order to ensure adequate nutrition for all, formulate appropriate food and nutrition policies based on adequate knowledge of available as well as potential food resources. The importance of human milk in this connexion was to be stressed on nutritional grounds.

3. Food problems must be tackled during the preparation and implementation of national plans and programmes for economic and social development, with emphasis on their humanitarian aspects.

4. It was a responsibility of each State concerned, in accordance with its sovereign judgement and internal legislation, to remove obstacles to food production and to provide proper incentives to agricultural producers. Of prime importance for the attainment of these objectives were measures of socio-economic transformation by agrarian, tax, credit and investment policy reform, and the reorganization of rural structures, such as reform of the conditions of ownership, the encouragement of producer and consumer co-operatives, the mobilization of human resources, both male and female, in the developing countries for an integrated rural development, and the involvement of small farmers, fishermen and landless workers in attaining the required food production and employment targets. Moreover, it was necessary to recognize the key role of women in agricultural production and rural economy in many countries, and to ensure that appropriate education, extension programmes and financial facilities were made available to women on equal terms with men.

5. Action should be taken to promote a rational exploitation of marine and inland water resources in order to meet food requirements, preferably for direct human consumption.

6. Efforts to increase food production should be complemented by prevention of the wastage of food.

7. To give impetus to food production in developing countries, and in particular in the least developed and most seriously affected among them, urgent and effective international action should be taken by the developed countries and other countries in a position to do so to provide sustained additional technical and financial assistance on favourable terms in a sufficient volume on the basis of bilateral and multilateral arrangements. This assistance must be free of conditions inconsistent with the sovereignty of the receiving States.

8. All countries, and primarily the highly industrialized countries, should promote the advancement of food production technology, and its transfer, adaptation and dissemination for the benefit of the developing countries.

9. To assure the proper conservation of natural resources for food production, all countries must collaborate in order to preserve the environment, including the marine environment.

10. All developed countries and others able to do so should collaborate technically and financially with the developing countries, and developing countries should co-operate among themselves, to expand land and water resources for agricultural production and to assure a rapid increase in the availability, at fair costs, of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and other chemicals, high-quality seeds, credit and technology.

11. All States should strive to readjust their agricultural policies to give priority to food production, recognizing, in this connexion, the interrelationship between the world food problem and international trade. In the determination of attitudes towards farm support programmes for domestic food production, developed countries should take into account the interests of the food-exporting developing countries, in order to avoid detrimental effect on their exports. Moreover, all countries should co-operate to devise effective steps to deal with the problem of stabilizing world markets and promoting equitable and remunerative prices, where appropriate through international arrangements, to improve access to markets through reduction or elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers on the products of interest to the developing countries, to substantially increase the export earnings of these countries, to contribute to the diversification of their exports, and apply to them, in the multilateral trade negotiations, the principles as agreed upon in the 1973 Tokyo Declaration of the Ministers of Contracting States to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade,⁴ including the concept of non-reciprocity and more favourable treatment.

12. As it was the common responsibility of the entire international community to ensure the availability of adequate reserves of world food supplies, including emergency reserves, all countries should co-operate in the establishment of an effective system of

⁴ See Y.U.N., 1973, pp. 967-69, for text of the Declaration.

world food security by: (a) participating in and supporting the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture; (b) adhering to the objectives, policies and guidelines of the proposed international undertaking on world food security; (c) earmarking, where possible, stocks or funds for meeting international emergency food requirements as envisaged in the proposed international undertaking on world food security, and developing international guidelines to provide for the co-ordination and the utilization of such stocks; and (d) co-operating in the provision of food aid for meeting emergency and nutritional needs, as well as for stimulating rural employment through development projects.

In addition to these 12 principles, the Conference stated that all donor countries should accept and implement the concept of forward planning of food aid and make all efforts to provide commodities and/or financial assistance that would ensure adequate quantities of grains and other food commodities.

The Conference further affirmed the determination of the participating States to make full use of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Declaration and the other decisions of the Conference.

The World Food Conference, on 15 and 16 November, adopted the following resolutions without taking votes on them.

Objectives and strategies of food production

By resolution I on the objectives and strategies of food production, the Conference, among other things, called upon developing countries to: (a) accord a high priority to agricultural and fisheries development; (b) formulate food production and food utilization objectives, targets and policies, for the short, medium and long term, with full participation of producers, their families, and farmers' and fishermen's organizations, taking into account general development goals and good environment practices; (c) take measures for agrarian reform and a progressive change in the socio-economic structures in rural areas; and (d) develop adequate supporting services for agricultural and fisheries development, as well as credit facilities and incentives.

Also, the Conference called upon all Governments to increase substantially their official development assistance to agriculture in developing countries, especially the least developed and the most seriously affected countries, including capital assistance on soft terms, technical assistance, transfer of appropriate technology and programme loans for imports of essential inputs. It also urged Governments to contribute to the Special Programme of emergency aid for the countries most seriously affected by the economic crisis (established by the General Assembly at its sixth

special session earlier in 1974) and to the International Fund for Agricultural Development proposed by the Conference.

The Conference urged developed countries to adopt and to implement agricultural policies which encouraged expansion of food production, while taking into account a satisfactory level of income for producers and the need for maintaining reasonable prices for consumers.

The Conference requested Governments to make arrangements for developing countries to have access to inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural machinery and equipment; and it requested all countries to reduce the waste of food and agricultural resources, in particular land, water and all forms of energy, and to ensure the rational utilization of fisheries resources.

The Conference also urged FAO, in consultation with UNDP and other relevant international institutions, with due regard for national sovereignty: to formulate economic, social, physical and biological criteria for selecting additional areas for food production; to make an inventory of financial resources available; and to indicate ways and means for carrying out programmes and projects for additional food production.

The Conference also requested the World Bank, regional banks, UNDP, FAO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and other international agencies: to increase substantially their assistance for agriculture and fisheries in developing countries, giving priority to programmes benefiting the poorest groups and placing equal emphasis on economic and social benefits; to simplify the procedures for the granting of such assistance; and to mobilize the support of the entire international community for this task.

Priorities for agricultural and rural development

Priorities for agricultural and rural development were set down in resolution II. The Conference called on Governments to bring about appropriate progressive agrarian reforms to provide means of information and motivation and other institutional improvements in rural areas aimed at employment and income generation, at organizing, activating and assisting the rural population, including nomads, for participation in integrated rural development, and at eliminating exploitative patterns of land tenure, credit and marketing systems where they still prevailed.

The Conference also requested all Governments to intensify their efforts in the formal and non-formal education of rural people, taking into account the special role of women, and called upon Governments to support the food production and rural development programmes re-

quired to achieve their national and international food production objectives, bearing in mind the development of technology and the establishment of price relationships.

Among other things, the Conference also called upon UNDP, FAO, the World Bank and other international and bilateral agencies to give greater importance to social criteria so as to implement broader and longer-range programmes of rural development, and urged Governments, UNDP, and the other international and bilateral agencies to accelerate planning and implementation of rural development programmes and to devote greatly expanded resources to them.

Fertilizers

The World Food Conference, by resolution III, called for increased support of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme by international organizations and bilateral agencies in order to meet the needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most seriously affected by economic crisis. It also called for grants, concessional loans, technology, and technical assistance to help developing countries import and produce fertilizers.

The Conference recommended that co-operative ventures among countries producing fertilizer raw materials, and fertilizer-producing and -consuming countries, be established to promote more economic and stable fertilizer production and supply systems.

The Conference also recommended that FAO, UNIDO, and the World Bank organize a programme to help developing countries improve fertilizer plant operations, and that they undertake an analysis of the long-term fertilizer demand and supply position to provide the elements of a world fertilizer policy; it asked that all countries introduce fertilizer quality standards and measures for the most efficient use of available fertilizer, including mineral and alternative fertilizers.

Food and agricultural research, extension and training

By resolution IV the World Food Conference urged all Governments to evaluate and strengthen their national agricultural research, training and extension programmes. The Conference also requested national, regional, and international institutions to examine the possibilities of new as well as traditional food crop, livestock and fisheries production systems, the efficient uses of land, water and fertilizer, the improvement of the nutritional quality of conventional and non-conventional foods, and the problems relating to the use of new lands.

The Conference, among other things, also rec-

ommended intensified research on the impact of different ecological conditions on agricultural production, particularly in tropical, arid and semi-arid areas, on the application of meteorological information, and on the development of coastal fisheries and inland aquaculture. It further recommended that FAO collect and disseminate research data, and that the feasibility of using remote-sensing techniques in agriculture, including the use of data from earth resources satellites, be studied. It also recommended that countries co-operate to reduce the loss of specialized technical personnel from developing countries, and that means be found to facilitate the acquisition of equipment for agricultural research and experimental development by the developing countries.

Nutrition

Policies and programmes to improve nutrition, including the establishment of a global nutrition surveillance system, were dealt with by resolution V. The Conference recommended: that all Governments formulate food and nutritional plans and policies, and for that purpose assess the extent and degree of malnutrition in all socio-economic groups as well as the pre-conditions for improving their nutritional status; that FAO, in co-operation with WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank, WFP, UNDP, and UNESCO, assisted by the Protein Advisory Group of the United Nations System, prepare a project proposal for assisting Governments to develop intersectoral food and nutrition plans.

Among other things, the Conference also recommended that Governments take steps to: initiate or strengthen existing food and nutrition intervention-programmes for a substantial part of the vulnerable groups; include nutrition education in educational programmes at all levels; strengthen basic health and planning services and improve environmental conditions, eliminate water-borne diseases and provide treatment for those suffering from protein-energy malnutrition; consider the key role of women, improve their nutrition, their educational levels and their working conditions, and encourage and enable them to breast-feed their children; and review the feasibility of new special feeding programmes, particularly among the vulnerable groups, and explore the possibility of meeting deficiencies by fortifying foods.

National and international aid for emergency supplementary feeding programmes was also requested.

Use of land resources

Soil protection and conservation techniques as well as measures to intensify crop production and

grazing and to cultivate new lands were recommended by Conference resolution VI. The Conference recommended that FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme and UNESCO, in co-operation with WMO and other competent international organizations, prepare an assessment of lands which could be brought into cultivation. It also urged FAO to select the appropriate ways and means to establish a world soil charter, as a basis for the rational use of land resources.

Water management

By resolution VII on scientific water management, the Conference recommended that Governments and international agencies such as FAO and WMO take urgent action concerning: (a) exhaustive surveys on climatic, hydrological and irrigation potential, hydropower potential and desert spread; (b) the rapid expansion of irrigation capacities; (c) the development of techniques for the use of brackish water for food production; (d) the reclamation of areas affected by waterlogging, salinity and alkalinity, and prevention of salinization of irrigated areas; (e) the identification of ground-water resources, exploration of the economic feasibility of using non-conventional sources of water, and research and development in the most economical use of water; (f) the sound exploitation of ground-water resources, water harvesting and conservation; (g) flood protection and flood control measures; (h) the establishment of drainage systems and steps to control salinity in swampy areas and areas exposed to tidal inundation; and (i) the application of all necessary measures and development of techniques to combat desert spread.

The Conference, among other things, called on international institutions and bilateral and multilateral aid agencies to provide developing countries with assistance to implement these measures. It also urged Governments and international agencies to initiate or strengthen research and training in water technology related to specific farming systems, to make appropriate arrangements for meeting energy requirements for irrigation, and to encourage intensive research on the use of solar hydroelectric power, geothermal and wind energy in agricultural operations.

Women and food

The Conference took decisions, as well, on the question of women and food. By resolution VIII, it called on all Governments to involve women fully in the decision-making machinery for food production and nutrition policies, and to provide education and training for women on an equal basis with men in food production and agricultural technology, and in marketing and distribu-

tion techniques. Among other things, it also called on Governments to provide women in law and in fact with the right to full access to all medical and social services, and particularly to special nutritious food for mothers and the means to space their children.

Balance between population and food supply

The need to achieve a balance between population and food supply was expressed in resolution IX. The Conference called on Governments to support, as a longer-term solution to the world food problem, rational population policies which would ensure that couples had the right to determine the number and spacing of births, in accordance with national needs.

Pesticides

By resolution X, the Conference recommended international co-ordination to facilitate the supply of necessary pesticides and equipment. Encouragement of local manufacture and the establishment of revolving reserve stocks were also recommended, as were a co-ordinated programme to increase the efficiency of protection measures, and continuing programmes of research on resistance in both plants and pests and on the residual effects of pesticides in soils, water, crops, livestock, environment, and human habitat.

Control of African animal trypanosomiasis

By resolution XI the Conference, recognizing that African animal trypanosomiasis limited rural development in general, and animal production in particular, and that proper control could open up vast areas of land for animal and crop production, recommended that FAO and other interested international organizations launch a long-term programme for its control, as a matter of urgency and high priority.

Seed industry development

Governments of developing countries were urged by the Conference to make short- and long-term commitments to seed industry development, and FAO was asked to strengthen its programme of aid in this field. These recommendations were embodied in resolution XII.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

The immediate establishment of an International Fund for Agricultural Development to finance agricultural development projects primarily for food production in the developing countries was called for by Conference resolution XIII.

The Conference decided that all developed countries and developing countries in a position to do so should contribute to the Fund, and that disbursements from the Fund should be carried

out through existing international and/or regional institutions. The Fund should be administered by a Governing Board consisting of representatives of contributing developed countries, contributing developing countries and potential recipient countries, taking into consideration equitable distribution of representation among these three groups and regional balance among potential recipients.

The Conference also decided, among other things, that the Fund should become operative as soon as the United Nations Secretary-General determined, in consultation with countries having pledged contributions, that it held promise of generating substantial additional resources for assistance to developing countries, and that its operations had a reasonable prospect of continuity.

Reduction of military expenditures for the purpose of increasing food production

By resolution XIV the Conference called on States participating in the Conference to take necessary measures for the most rapid implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly and organs of the United Nations pertaining to the reduction of military expenditures for the purpose of development, and to allocate a growing proportion of the sums so released to the financing of food production in developing countries and the establishment of emergency food reserves.

The representatives of Albania, China and Iran expressed reservations concerning this resolution.

Representatives of the following countries stated that they would have abstained had the Conference voted on this resolution: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Food aid to victims of colonial wars in Africa

By resolution XV, which dealt with the question of food aid to victims of colonial wars in Africa, the Conference requested the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of WFP to take immediate action to intensify food aid to the populations of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and São Tomé and Príncipe.

The Conference also requested the United Nations Secretary-General and the heads of all organizations within the United Nations system to assist the national liberation movements or the Governments of those countries to form comprehensive plans of national reconstruction, and invited all Governments and non-governmental organizations to give their assistance to compen-

sate for damage arising out of struggles for national liberation.

Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture

By resolution XVI, the Conference decided that a Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture should be established, to be operated by FAO. The Conference requested all Governments to participate in the System and it asked FAO, in co-operation with other international organizations concerned, particularly the International Wheat Council, to formulate arrangements and submit them for final approval by participating Governments. The Conference also requested the Governments participating in the System to furnish current information and forecasts, and to amplify and improve their data collection and dissemination services as necessary.

The Conference, among other things, requested FAO, WMO, WHO, the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics and other sources urgently to assist Governments in strengthening the collection and dissemination of data in specified fields, and to co-ordinate this action with that of the World Food Council.

The Conference also requested WMO, in co-operation with FAO, to: (a) provide regular assessments of current and recent weather on the basis of information currently assembled through the World Weather Watch; (b) expand and establish joint research projects, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas, and to investigate weather/crop relationships; (c) strengthen global weather monitoring and data processing systems in order to make them directly relevant to agricultural needs; and (d) encourage investigations on adverse weather conditions and climatic variations.

Albania and China expressed reservations on the adoption of resolution XVI on the grounds that it involved national sovereignty.

International Undertaking on World Food Security

By resolution XVII, the Conference endorsed the objectives, policies and guidelines of the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security, and urged all Governments to cooperate in bringing it into operation as soon as possible. Among other things, it invited Governments to study the feasibility of establishing grain reserves to be located at strategic points.

The Conference also urged Governments and the concerned international and regional organizations to provide the necessary technical, financial and food assistance to develop and implement appropriate national food stocks policies

in developing countries, including the extension of storage and transport facilities, so that these countries could effectively participate in a world food security policy.

China expressed reservations concerning this resolution on the grounds that the resolution involved national sovereignty and that some of the articles on the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security were not sufficiently explicit. Albania expressed similar reservation. Thailand also recorded reservations.

An improved policy for food aid

By resolution XVIII the Conference affirmed the need for continuity of a minimum level of food aid, in order to insulate food aid programmes from excessive fluctuations in production and prices, and recommended that all donor countries accept and implement the concept of forward planning of food aid, making all efforts to provide commodities and/or financial assistance to ensure at least 10 million tons of grains as food aid a year, starting from 1975.

The Conference requested cereals-exporting and -importing countries, as well as current and potential financial contributors, to meet as soon as possible to consider ways and means to increase food availability and financing facilities during 1975 and 1976 for the affected developing countries and, in particular, for those most seriously affected by the current food problem.

It urged all donor countries to channel more food aid through WFP, to consider increasing the grant component in their bilateral food aid programmes, to consider contributing part of any food aid repayments to supplementary nutrition programmes and emergency relief, and to provide to food aid programmes additional cash resources for commodity purchases from developing countries.

The Conference also recommended that the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme, when reconstituted as recommended by the Conference (see resolution XXII below), be entrusted with the task of formulating proposals for more effective co-ordination of multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental food aid programmes and of co-ordinating emergency food aid.

It further recommended that Governments, where possible, earmark stocks or funds for emergency requirements, as envisaged in the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security, that international guidelines for such emergency stocks be developed as a part of the proposed Undertaking, and that part of the emergency stocks be placed at the disposal of WFP, in order to increase the Programme's capacity to render speedy assistance.

The representative of Thailand expressed reservations on this resolution, stating that while Thailand was in favour of food aid provided on a grant basis, it did not approve of the provision of food aid on concessional terms, which could have an adverse effect on the trade of exporting developing countries.

International trade, stabilization and agricultural adjustment

The Conference also dealt with aspects of international trade, stabilization and agricultural adjustment. In adopting resolution XIX, the Conference called upon all Governments to co-operate in promoting an expansion and liberalization of world trade with special reference to food products. Accordingly, it requested all Governments to co-operate, among other things, towards the progressive reduction or abolition of obstacles to trade and all discriminatory practices, taking into account the principle of most-favoured-nation treatment as applicable in GATT.

The Conference urged Governments to take measures aimed at securing additional benefits for the international trade of developing countries to increase their foreign exchange earnings, the diversification of their exports, the acceleration of the rate of growth of their trade, and to attain stable, equitable and remunerative prices, particularly for food and agricultural products.

Among other things, the Conference called upon all Governments to co-operate in taking measures to prevent speculative practices aimed at destabilizing markets and attaining extra profits and to devise effective steps for dealing with the problem of stabilizing world markets, particularly in respect of food-stuffs.

The Conference urged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to intensify its efforts in considering new approaches to international commodity problems and policies and in elaborating further the proposals for an over-all integrated programme for commodities, with particular reference to food-stuffs, and urged Governments participating in the intensive *ad hoc* consultations on commodities, as well as other Governments, to achieve results in the fields of access to markets and pricing policy.

Further, the Conference called upon Governments of developed countries, in determining attitudes towards farm support programmes for domestic food production: to take into account the interests of the food-exporting developing countries, in order to avoid detrimental effects to their exports; to allow and facilitate the expansion of food and agricultural imports from developing countries in competition with domestic production; and to increase field assistance to the developing countries in export promotion activities

and mechanisms, and in the training of agricultural marketing and trade personnel.

The Conference requested the responsible international bodies to give priority to consultations and negotiations for reaching agreements on reduction or elimination of barriers to and restrictions on international trade and enabling substantially improved access of agricultural and food products of developing countries to the markets of developed countries, in accordance with the basic objectives of GATT, including the concept of non-reciprocity and more favourable treatment through differential measures in favour of developing countries. The Conference also requested: all developed countries to implement, improve and enlarge their schemes under the generalized system of preferences and to consider its extension to food and agricultural commodities; FAO to take full account of Conference decisions in formulating and implementing the proposed strategy of the international agricultural adjustment; and countries and organizations concerned to devote special attention to the problems of developing countries in transporting food-stuffs.

It then invited the developing countries to expand their mutual economic co-operation and it stressed the need for measures assuring the poorer section of the rural population of their share in the opportunities and benefits offered by trade expansion.

The World Food Programme and other international organizations concerned were requested to give priority to the use of cash resources available for food aid for purchases in developing countries.

The Conference urged the developed countries and other countries concerned, as well as international financial institutions, to consider providing assistance to developing countries in cases of balance-of-payments difficulties arising from fluctuations in export receipts or import costs, particularly with regard to food; it also requested the Governments of all countries and international organizations concerned to give the highest possible priority and the most favourable terms to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and to developing countries most seriously affected by economic crises.

Representatives of China, Cuba, Germany (Federal Republic of), India, the Philippines, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela made statements explaining their position on this resolution.

Arrangements for follow-up action

Another Conference resolution (XXII) was concerned with arrangements for follow-up action. The Conference called upon the General Assembly to establish a World Food Council, at

the ministerial or plenipotentiary level, to function as an organ of the United Nations reporting to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, and to serve as a co-ordinating mechanism to provide over-all, integrated and continuing attention to the co-ordination and pursuit of policies concerning food production, nutrition, food security, food trade and food aid, as well as other related matters, by the agencies of the United Nations system.

The Conference set out proposed terms of reference for the Council, including the following provisions.

(1) Members of the World Food Council should be nominated by the Economic and Social Council and elected by the Assembly, taking into consideration balanced geographical representation.

(2) The Council should elect its President on the basis of geographical rotation. It should be serviced within the framework of FAO, with headquarters at Rome.

(3) The Council should review periodically major problems and policy issues affecting the world food situation, and the steps being proposed or taken to resolve them by Governments and by the United Nations system and its regional organizations, and should further recommend remedial action as appropriate. The scope of the Council's review should extend to all aspects of world food problems in order to adopt an integrated approach to their solution.

(4) The Council should establish its own programme of action for co-ordination of relevant United Nations bodies and agencies. While doing so, it should give special attention to the problems of the least developed countries and the countries most seriously affected.

(5) The Council should maintain contacts with, receive reports from, give advice to and make recommendations to United Nations bodies and agencies with regard to the formulation and follow-up of world food policies.

(6) The Council should work in full co-operation with regional bodies to formulate and follow up policies it approved.

The Conference also recommended that FAO establish a Committee on World Food Security as a standing committee of the FAO Council. The Committee, which should submit periodic and special reports to the World Food Council, should also:

(a) keep the current and prospective demand, supply and stock position for basic food-stuffs under continuous review, and disseminate information on developments;

(b) make periodic evaluations of the adequacy of current and prospective stock levels, in order to assure a regular flow of supplies of basic

food-stuffs to meet requirements in domestic and world markets, including food aid requirements, in time of short crops and serious crop failure;

(c) review the steps taken by Governments to implement the proposed International Undertaking on World Food Security; and

(d) recommend short-term and long-term policy action as necessary, to assure adequate cereal supplies for minimum world food security.

Further, by this resolution the Conference recommended that the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme be reconstituted to enable it to help evolve and co-ordinate short-term and longer-term food aid policies recommended by the Conference, in addition to discharging its existing functions. The reconstituted Committee was to be called, and function as, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. The Committee, which was required to submit periodic and special reports to the World Food Council, should also:

(a) provide a forum for inter-governmental consultations on food aid programmes and policies, with particular reference to securing improved co-ordination between bilateral and multilateral food aid;

(b) review periodically general trends in food aid requirements and food aid availabilities; and

(c) recommend to Governments, through the World Food Council, improvements in food aid policies and programmes on such matters as programme priorities, and composition of food aid commodities.

The Conference further recommended that the Governing Board of the proposed International Fund for Agricultural Development submit information to the World Food Council, and that the Council receive reports from relevant bodies on the state of world food trade, as well as on increased trade liberalization and access to international markets for food products exported by developing countries.

The Conference also called for follow-up action on the questions of fertilizers, nutrition, research and the establishment of the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture. It asked that a Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in Developing Countries be established, its main functions being to encourage a larger flow of external resources for food production, improve the co-ordination of activities of different multilateral and bilateral donors providing financial and technical assistance for food production, and ensure a more effective use of available resources.

The Conference also requested the Development Committee (the Joint Ministerial Committee

on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank) to keep under constant review the adequacy of the external resources available to developing countries for procurement of food and necessary food production inputs, particularly fertilizers and pesticides, and for investment in food production and distribution systems, and to consider in association with the Consultative Group new measures to achieve the required volume of transfer of resources.

Other decisions

By other decisions, the Conference requested the United Nations General Assembly to defray all travel costs and other related expenses of the representatives of national liberation movements participating in the Conference and expressed appreciation to the President and people of Italy for hosting the World Food Conference.

Post-Conference action by Economic and Social Council and General Assembly

On 29 November 1974, the Economic and Social Council took note of and transmitted the report of the World Food Conference to the General Assembly, requesting that careful and priority consideration be given to the recommendations of the Conference, especially those on the establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Council. This action was embodied in decision 59(LVII), which was adopted without objection on the suggestion of the President of the Council.

On 17 December 1974, the Assembly acted on those recommendations when it established the World Food Council and called for a meeting of interested countries to work out the details of an International Fund for Agricultural Development.

The Assembly expressed satisfaction with the report of the World Food Conference and endorsed the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition and the resolutions adopted by the Conference. It called upon Governments to implement the Conference decisions, requested the Secretary-General and the heads of United Nations bodies to take expeditious action in line with the Conference resolutions, and invited organizations of the United Nations system to consider and implement the resolutions.

The Assembly established the World Food Council at the ministerial or plenipotentiary level

to function as an organ of the United Nations, reporting to it through the Economic and Social Council, and having the purposes, functions, and mode of operation set forth by the Conference (see Conference resolution XXII above).

The Assembly decided that the World Food Council should consist of 36 members nominated by the Economic and Social Council and elected by the Assembly for a term of three years, taking into consideration balanced geographical representation. The first meeting of the World Food Council was to be convened no later than 1 July 1975.

The Assembly also decided, among other things, to review at its regular 1975 session actions taken to resolve the world food problem as a result of the World Food Conference.

Further, it asked the Secretary-General to convene urgently a meeting of all interested countries, including representatives of the contributing developed countries, the contributing developing countries, the potential recipient countries and all interested institutions, to work out the details of an International Fund for Agricultural Development.

These actions were embodied in resolution 3348(XXIX), adopted by the Assembly without objection on the recommendation of its Second (Economic and Financial) Committee. The Second Committee approved the draft resolution, as proposed by its Vice-Chairman, by consensus on 11 December 1974.

(For text of resolution 3348(XXIX), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

During the Second Committee's consideration of the report of the World Food Conference, a number of Members, including Canada, India and Zambia, stressed the importance of action to implement the decisions of the Conference.

Pakistan felt that the Conference had been relatively successful. Though it had not succeeded in making a firm commitment to the developing countries, it had confirmed the need for a global strategy. The developed and developing countries must act together to cope not only with the long-term problems but also with the imminent disaster situation. One of the first issues for the World Food Council, the representative of Pakistan said, would be the provision of immediate relief to the most seriously affected countries.

The United States said it considered the world food problem to be the most important problem currently facing the international community. By its action, the Assembly had laid the foundations for future action; its efforts should not cease until needy countries had become self-sufficient with regard to food production.

China expressed the opinion that the world food problem was inseparably linked with the current struggle of the developing countries to combat colonialism, imperialism and great-power hegemonism, and to break down the old international economic order and establish a new one. The developed countries, China continued, should bear the main responsibility for aid to countries experiencing acute food difficulties. However, the developing countries could assist one another on a voluntary basis. Any international measures should be taken with strict respect for the sovereignty of all countries.

The USSR considered that the improvement of the food situation depended on the maintenance of international peace and on disarmament. Further, the policy of *détente* contributed to the implementation of agrarian reform in the developing countries and the alteration of the land ownership system which was vitally required for the eradication of the consequences of colonialism and neo-colonialism. The USSR pledged continuing aid to the developing countries in the agricultural sphere. Similar views were expressed by Czechoslovakia.

Sudan's representative outlined the types of aid needed by the developing countries to develop their natural resources. He called for attention to be focused on: greater production of food-stuffs with high nutritional value; reduction of the cost of production and distribution of food and reduction of international food prices; better systems to avoid food shortages; improvement of international terms of trade for food products from developing countries; and minimum levels of consumption for the poorest sectors of the population and elimination of food wastage in the richest countries.

Algeria expressed the hope that the decisions of the World Food Conference would in practice take the form of concrete measures carried out without discrimination on grounds of race, ideology or membership of a particular geographical group.

France said it was prepared to co-operate in an international effort but would not make its food aid policies conditional upon guidelines aimed specifically at a particular group of countries.

In a separate action, the General Assembly decided that the report of the World Food Conference should be issued as a United Nations publication in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. This action was taken on 17 December 1974 without a vote on the recommendation of the Second Committee, which approved the decision on 11 December 1974.

Documentary references

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Economic and Social Council—1974 organizational session
Plenary meetings 1887, 1889, 1891.

- E/5437 and Corr.1. Basic programme of work of Council for 1974 and consideration of provisional agenda for 56th session.
E/5439. Provisional agenda for organizational session for 1974.
E/L.1573. Actions arising out of decisions of General Assembly at its 28th session. Note by Secretariat, Section B 3.
E/L.1578. Calendar of meetings. Draft decision prepared by Secretariat.
E/5544. Resolutions of Economic and Social Council, 1974 organizational and 56th sessions (decision 2(LVI), para. (a) (iv), p. 31).

Economic and Social Council—56th session

Economic Committee, meetings 683, 684, 686.
Plenary meeting 1896.

- E/5454. Report of Preparatory Committee for World Food Conference on its first session, Headquarters, New York, 11-15 February 1974.
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E/L.1585. Participation in World Food Conference. Note by Secretary-General.
E/AC.6/L.548 and Rev.1. Draft resolution and revision proposed by Economic Committee Chairman, as orally amended by USSR, approved unanimously by Economic Committee on 14 May 1974, meeting 686.
E/5513. Report of Economic Committee.

Resolution 1840(LVI), as recommended by Economic Committee, E/5513, adopted by consensus by Council on 15 May 1974, meeting 1896.

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3180(XXVIII) of 17 December 1973 in which the Assembly decided to convene a World Food Conference at Rome in November 1974,

Having considered and taken note of the report of the Preparatory Committee of the World Food Conference on its first session,

Taking note of the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations entitled "Appraisal of prospective food deficits and food aid needs,"

1. *Decides* to convene the World Food Conference from 5 to 16 November 1974;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite:
 - (a) All States* to participate in the Conference;
 - (b) The representatives of the liberation movements now recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States to participate in the Conference without the right to vote;
 - (c) The interested organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to participate in the Conference;
 - (d) Other interested intergovernmental organizations to be represented by observers;
 - (e) Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to send observers to the Conference;
 - (f) Other non-governmental organizations which might have a specific contribution to make to the work of the Conference to send observers to the Conference;

3. *Urges* the Preparatory Committee of the World Food Conference at its second session to complete the draft provisional agenda for the Conference and the discussion of the other questions listed in paragraph 2 of the report of the Committee on its first session;

4. *Recommends* that the period allocated to the second session of the Preparatory Committee should be extended, if necessary, for the completion of the tasks assigned to it in paragraph 3 above;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make available as early as possible all relevant documentation, so that a comprehensive and in-depth consideration of the progress of the preparatory work as well as of the scope of the Conference can be made by the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-seventh session;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts being made by the Secretary-General of the World Food Conference in order to ensure maximum support for the Conference;

7. *Expresses its belief* that the results of the World Food Conference will constitute an important contribution to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to development and international economic co-operation called for in General Assembly resolution 3172(XXVIII), of 17 December 1973, and thus to the Assembly itself.

* For the interpretation of the phrase "all States" see E/5513, para. 11.

Economic and Social Council—57th session

Plenary meeting 1916.

- E/5533. Report of Preparatory Committee for World Food Conference on its 2nd session, Geneva, Switzerland, 4-8 June 1974.
E/5540. Report on meetings of executive secretaries of regional economic commissions, New York (21 and 22 January 1974) and Geneva (24-26 June 1974).
E/NGO/18. Statement submitted by non-governmental organization in category I consultative status with Council.
E/5570. Resolutions of Economic and Social Council, 57th session (decisions 23(LVII) and 24(LVII)).
E/5578. Summary of financial implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by Council during its 56th and 57th sessions. Report of Secretary-General.

Deliberations of the Conference

Report of World Food Conference, Rome, Italy, 5-16 November 1974 (E/CONF.65/20). U.N.P. Sales No.: E.75.II.A.3.

- E/CONF.65/PREP/6. Assessment. Present food situation and dimensions and causes of hunger and malnutrition in world. Magnitude of food problem in future and possible approaches to a solution. Preliminary paper on assessment of present food situation and future outlook, submitted by Secretary-General of Conference.
E/CONF.65/3. Assessment of world food situation: present and future.
E/CONF.65/4. World food problem: proposals for national and international action.
E/CONF.65/6. Report of Preparatory Committee for World Food Conference on its 3rd session, Rome, Italy, 23 September-4 October 1974.
E/CONF.65/9. Recommendations of World Population Conference relevant to World Food Conference. Note by Secretary-General of Conference.
E/CONF.65/11. World food situation in mid-October 1974. Note by Secretary-General of Conference.
E/CONF.65/14. Declaration of Rome Forum on World Food Problems. Note by Secretary-General of Conference (circulating Declaration).

Post-Conference action by Economic and Social Council and General Assembly

Economic and Social Council—resumed 57th session
Plenary meetings 1928-1930.

E/5586. Note by Secretary-General (transmitting report of Preparatory Committee for World Food Conference on its 3rd session, Rome, 23 September-4 October 1974 (E/CONF.65/6)).

E/5587 and Add.1-4. Note by Secretary-General (transmitting report of World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (E/CONF.65/20)).

E/5570/Add.1. Resolutions of Economic and Social Council, resumed 57th session (decision 59(LVII)).

General Assembly—29th session

Second Committee, meetings 1587-1598, 1600, 1601, 1641, 1653.

Fifth Committee, meeting 1694.

Plenary meeting 2323.

A/9603. Report of Economic and Social Council on work of its 56th and 57th sessions, Chapters III A and IV H.

A/9603/Add.1. Addendum to report of Economic and Social Council, resumed 57th session, Chapter I E 1.

A/C.2/L.1390, A/C.5/1663. Administrative and financial implications of World Food Conference resolution XX in E/5587. Statements by Secretary-General.

A/C.2/L.1416. Note by Secretary-General (drawing attention of Second Committee to extract from report of FAO Council on its 64th session).

A/C.2/L.1421. Draft resolution proposed by Vice-Chairman of Second Committee, as orally amended by Vice-Chairman, approved by consensus by Second Committee on 11 December 1974, meeting 1653.

A/C.2/L.1424, A/C.5/1664. Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution in A/C.2/L.1421. Statements by Secretary-General.

A/9978. Administrative and financial implications of, *inter alia*, draft resolution X and draft decision III in A/9886/Add.1. Report of Fifth Committee.

A/9886/Add.1. Report of Second Committee (part II) (on report of Economic and Social Council), draft resolution X and draft decision III.

Resolution 3348(XXIX), as recommended by Second Committee, A/9886/Add.1, adopted without objection by Assembly on 17 December 1974, meeting 2323.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3180(XXVIII) of 17 December 1973, in which it recognized that the principal task of a world food conference consisted in developing ways and means whereby the international community as a whole could take specific action to resolve the world food problem within the broader context of development and international economic co-operation,

Further recalling its resolutions 3201(S-VI) and 3202(S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing, respectively, the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

Having considered the report of the World Food Conference, held in Rome from 5 to 16 November 1974, and Economic and Social Council decision 59(LVII) of 29 November 1974 thereon,

Considering that urgent action should be taken by the international community on the resolutions adopted at the World Food Conference,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the World Food Conference;

2. Commends the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the World Food Conference

and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for their contributions to the success of the Conference, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Italy as host of the Conference;

3. Endorses the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition and the resolutions adopted at the World Food Conference;

4. Calls upon Governments to take urgent action to implement the resolutions adopted at the World Food Conference and to achieve the goals established therein;

5. Requests the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly and of the specialized agencies to take expeditious action in line with the resolutions adopted at the World Food Conference;

6. Invites the organizations of the United Nations system to consider on an urgent basis the resolutions adopted at the World Food Conference and to take the necessary steps for their effective implementation;

7. Establishes a World Food Council at the ministerial or plenipotentiary level to function as an organ of the United Nations, reporting to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council and having the purposes, functions and mode of operation set forth in resolution XXII adopted by the World Food Conference on 16 November 1974;

8. Decides that the World Food Council shall consist of thirty-six members to be nominated by the Economic and Social Council and elected by the General Assembly for a term of three years, taking into consideration balanced geographical representation, with one third of the members retiring every year and the retiring members being eligible for re-election;

9. Requests the Economic and Social Council to nominate the members of the World Food Council at its resumed fifty-seventh session for election by the General Assembly at its current session;

10. Decides that the first meeting of the World Food Council shall be convened no later than 1 July 1975, and for this purpose the members of the Council shall undertake necessary consultations as soon as possible;

11. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to take immediate action for establishing a secretariat for the World Food Council, as set forth in resolution XXII of the World Food Conference;

12. Decides to review, at its thirtieth session, actions taken to resolve the world food problem as a result of the World Food Conference and, to this end, requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at that session on the implementation of the resolutions of the Conference;

13. Further requests the Secretary-General to convene urgently a meeting of all interested countries, including the representatives of the contributing developed countries, the contributing developing countries and the potential recipient countries, and all interested institutions, to work out the details of an International Fund for Agricultural Development as envisaged in resolution XIII of the World Food Conference, bearing in mind paragraph 6 of that resolution.

A/9631. Resolutions adopted by General Assembly during its 29th session, Vol. I, 17 September-18 December 1974. Other decisions, p. 78 (item 12, para. (c)).

Economic and Social Council—resumed 57th session
Plenary meetings 1933, 1934.

E/5770/Add.1. Resolutions of Economic and Social Council, resumed 57th session (decision 63(LVII)).

Other documents

E/5488. Annual report of Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1973-1974, Chapter II D.

Emergency measures for easing fertilizer and pesticide supplies

On 14 May 1974, the Economic and Social Council acted to help meet the critical shortage of fertilizers and pesticides in the developing countries. The Council, noting that most developing countries were faced with grave problems of food scarcity and rapidly increasing food prices, and that many of them had difficulty obtaining the required amounts of fertilizers at reasonable prices, requested the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to draw up immediately an emergency plan of operations, including the establishment of a fertilizer pool, and to call an emergency session of the FAO Council to approve the plan and put it into effect.

The Economic and Social Council requested the FAO Director-General to invite countries to contribute fertilizers or cash to this pool and to invite developing countries to submit requests for fertilizers on a grant or subsidized basis. It also requested him to distribute widely, as a matter of urgency, an analysis of the world situation regarding the supply and demand for fertilizers and pesticides, including an analysis of constraints on increased production and the under-utilization of existing productive capacity.

The Council called upon those developed countries manufacturing fertilizers and pesticides to expand exports to developing countries at reasonable prices, bearing in mind the serious balance-of-payments difficulties of the developing countries. It called upon developed countries and others in a position to do so, as well as international institutions, to give technical and financial aid and capital equipment to developing countries on the softest possible terms to enable them to use fully their existing productive capacity.

The Council also urged the international community, and especially the developed countries, to give the necessary capital and technical assistance to developing countries in order to process their own raw materials into semi-finished or finished fertilizer products.

The Council further called upon the World Food Conference (scheduled to meet in November 1974) to consider, *inter alia*, the medium-term and long-term aspects of the fertilizer problem, and requested the Secretary-General to bring these proposals to the attention of all Member States, to appeal for an urgent and positive response, and to submit a preliminary report to the Council at its next session, opening in July 1974.

These decisions were embodied in resolution 1836(LVI), which was adopted without objection by the Council on the recommendation of its

Economic Committee. The Committee approved the draft resolution by acclamation on 9 May 1974. It had been sponsored at the sixth special session of the General Assembly in April 1974 by New Zealand and Sri Lanka and was co-sponsored in the Economic Committee by Colombia. The Assembly had decided, on 1 May 1974, to refer the two-power draft resolution to the Economic and Social Council for action. (See p. 321 for further details.)

(For text of resolution 1836(LVI), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

On 19 July 1974, the FAO Council approved the immediate establishment of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. On 31 July, the Economic and Social Council heard a preliminary report of the Secretary-General on the response to requests for aid to the Scheme. At that time, pledges of assistance had been received from Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States.

On the same date, the Economic and Social Council, with the adoption of resolution 1879(LVII), welcomed the FAO Council's action in establishing the Scheme and appealed to Governments of industrialized countries, and others in a position to do so, to make contributions immediately in the form of fertilizers or cash. It also invited the Governments of developing countries to submit requests under the Scheme and keep the Director-General of FAO informed of their needs, and invited Governments of exporting countries to keep FAO informed of the availability of fertilizers, and plans for their production to meet the minimum demands of the developing countries.

The Economic and Social Council once again emphasized the need for Governments of countries manufacturing and exporting fertilizers and pesticides to make them available to developing countries at reasonable prices, and again called for the provision of technical and financial assistance on the softest possible terms. At the same time, the Council urged Governments of developed countries to ensure that low-priority uses of fertilizers were reduced to a minimum.

The Council also requested that the Secretary-General appeal for an urgent and positive response from Governments.

Resolution 1879(LVII) was proposed by Democratic Yemen, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Yugoslavia. Oral drafting amendments were made by Australia and by the United States. The resolution was adopted without a vote on 31 July 1974.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

The Director-General of FAO submitted a progress report on the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme to the Economic and Social Council in November 1974. The Director-General stated, in evaluating the world fertilizer situation, that fertilizer prices were at unprecedentedly high levels, supplies were limited, and several countries were unable to obtain their minimum current requirements. The International Fertilizer Supply Scheme had focused its activities on: assessment of the uncovered fertilizer requirements of developing countries, with special attention to the countries most seriously affected by economic crisis; assessment of the availability of fertilizers in producing countries; assessment of financial resources to match shortfall and supplies; and practical arrangements to provide fertilizers to developing countries on receipt of requests.

On the basis of field missions and studies, the Scheme had estimated that the uncovered fertilizer requirements of 21 particularly affected countries amounted to 930,320 tons of plant nutrients as at 24 October 1974. Of this total short-

fall, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan accounted for 87 per cent. As at 21 October 1974, 18 official requests for 520,921 tons of fertilizer had been received.

Various pledges of fertilizer and cash had been received, and continuous contact was maintained with the United Nations Emergency Operation to seek additional financing. The Scheme had also established co-operative arrangements with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

In concluding his report, the FAO Director-General observed that the success of the Scheme had been limited by the shortage of fertilizer resources and cash. The Scheme needed to have firm commitments of support at the earliest possible date from Governments which had not yet responded.

On 29 November 1974, the Economic and Social Council took note with satisfaction of the Director-General's progress report. The Council took this action without a vote on the proposal of its President.

Documentary references

Economic and Social Council—56th session
Economic Committee, meetings 680, 683, 684.
Plenary meetings 1893, 1895.

E/5496. Adoption of agenda. Matters arising from resolutions and decisions adopted by General Assembly at its 6th special session requiring attention or action by Economic and Social Council. Note by Secretariat.

E/5496, Annex: Draft resolution III, sponsored in *Ad Hoc* Committee of 6th Special Session by New Zealand and Sri Lanka, co-sponsored in Economic Committee by Colombia, as orally amended on proposal of Economic Committee Chairman, approved by Economic Committee by acclamation on 9 May 1974, meeting 683.

E/5511. Report of Economic Committee (on study of problems of raw materials and development), draft resolution I.

Resolution 1836(LVI), as recommended by Economic Committee, E/5511, adopted without objection by Council on 14 May 1974, meeting 1895.

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware that over a quarter of mankind is living at a level of bare subsistence,

Noting that the ensuring of adequate food supplies is a matter of utmost priority to all countries and particularly to developing countries,

Noting further that most developing countries are faced with grave problems of food scarcity and rapidly increasing food prices, resulting in malnutrition, with the threat of starvation becoming a near reality,

Acknowledging that the Governments of many developing countries are experiencing difficulties in obtaining the required quantities of fertilizers at reasonable prices,

Recognizing that all constraints on increasing food production should immediately be removed,

Acknowledging also that the area for immediate priority that will have a major impact on food supplies and food prices is that of fertilizers,

Appreciating that an emergency multilateral effort by the world community would enable urgent supplies of fertilizers and pesticides to be deployed promptly and rationally to those developing countries in greatest need,

Considering the urgent need to increase the supply of fertilizers to developing countries, to assist them to finance their fertilizer imports, and to provide them with the necessary technical and financial assistance to process their own raw materials into semi-finished or finished fertilizer products,

1. Requests the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations:

(a) To draw up immediately an emergency plan of operations for increasing the supply of fertilizers to developing countries, including the establishment of a fertilizer pool, and to call an emergency session of the Council of that Organization to approve the plan of operation and put it into effect;

(b) To invite countries to contribute to this pool fertilizers or cash for the purchase of fertilizers;

(c) To invite developing countries to submit requests for fertilizers from this pool on a grant or subsidized basis;

(d) To distribute widely as a matter of urgency an analysis of the world situation regarding the supply and demand for fertilizers and pesticides, including an analysis of constraints on increased production and of the under-utilization of existing productive capacity;

2. Calls upon those developed countries manufacturing fertilizers and pesticides substantially to expand exports to developing countries at reasonable prices, bearing in mind their serious balance-of-payments difficulties, and to increase production particularly for that purpose;

3. Calls upon developed countries and other countries in a position to do so, as well as international institutions, to extend technical and financial assistance and capital equipment on the softest possible terms to developing countries so as to enable them to utilize fully their existing productive capacity;

4. Urges the international community, and especially the developed countries, to give the necessary capital and technical assistance to developing countries in order to process

their own raw materials into semi-finished or finished fertilizer products;

5. *Calls upon* the World Food Conference to consider, *inter alia*, the medium-term and long-term aspects of the fertilizer problem;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring these proposals urgently to the attention of all Member States, to appeal for an urgent and positive response, and to submit a preliminary oral report on the replies received to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-seventh session.

Economic and Social Council—57th session
Plenary meetings 1916, 1918, 1928, 1929.

E/L.1609. Letter of 20 July 1974 from Director-General of FAO to Secretary-General (transmitting extracts from report of 63rd session of FAO Council, Rome, Italy, 15-19 July 1974).

E/L.1611. Egypt, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Yugoslavia: draft resolution.

E/L.1611/Rev.1. Democratic Yemen, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Yugoslavia: revised draft resolution.

Resolution 1879(LVII), as proposed by 10 powers, E/L.1611/Rev.1, as orally amended by Australia, by United States and by sponsors, adopted without vote by Council on 31 July 1974, meeting 1918.

The Economic and Social Council.

Recalling its resolution 1836(LVI) of 14 May 1974 concerning emergency measures in regard to the supply of fertilizers and pesticides,

Having heard the report of the Secretary-General, made in pursuance of that resolution,

Noting with appreciation the action taken by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, also in pursuance of that resolution,

Reaffirming its continued concern at the scarcity and prevailing high prices of fertilizers and pesticides,

1. *Welcomes* resolution 1/63 adopted on 19 July 1974 by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in pursuance of the request for action expressed by the Economic and Social Council, and especially the approval contained in that resolution for the immediate establishment of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, and in pursuance thereof:

(a) *Re-emphasizes* the need for the immediate implementa-

tion of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme as outlined in resolution 1/63;

(b) *Calls upon* all Governments to participate fully in the Scheme;

(c) *Appeals* to Governments of industrialized countries and others in a position to do so to make contributions immediately to the Fertilizer Pool in the form of fertilizers or of cash;

(d) (i) *Invites* the Governments of developing countries to keep the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations informed of their current fertilizer and pesticide import requirements and to submit requests for fertilizers under the Scheme;

(ii) *Invites* the Governments of exporting countries to keep the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations informed regularly of the availability of fertilizers and of plans for their production to meet the minimum demands of the developing countries;

2. *Re-emphasizes* the need for Governments of countries manufacturing and exporting fertilizers and pesticides to implement urgently paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1836(LVI), with a view to making available fertilizers and pesticides to developing countries at reasonable prices;

3. *Urges* Governments of developed countries to ensure wherever possible that low-priority uses of fertilizer are reduced to a minimum;

4. *Calls upon* the developed countries, and others in a position to do so, to take all possible steps, including the provision of technical and financial assistance on the softest possible terms through all appropriate institutions, to assist developing countries to improve their fertilizer production;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to bring the present resolution urgently to the attention of Governments and to appeal for an urgent and positive response;

6. *Requests* the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to report to the Economic and Social Council at its resumed fifty-seventh session on the progress of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme.

E/5596. International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. Report of Director-General of FAO.

A/9603/Add.1. Addendum to report of Economic and Social Council, resumed 57th session, Chapter I E 2.