

Report of the

ELEVENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Lomé, Togo, 16-27 June 1980



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FAO Member Nations in the African Region (at 16 June 1980)

Algeria	Guinea	Nigeria
Angola	Guinea-Bissau	Rwanda
Benin	Ivory Coast	São Tomé and Príncipe
Botswana	Kenya	Senegal
Burundi	Lesotho	Seychelles
Cameroon	Liberia	Sierra Leone
Cape Verde	Madagascar	Sudan
Central African Republic	Malawi	Swaziland
Chad	Mali	Tanzania
Comoros	Mauritania	Togo
Congo	Mauritius	Tunisia
Ethiopia	Morocco	Uganda
Gabon	Mozambique	Upper Volta
Gambia	Namibia	Zaire
Ghana	Niger	Zambia

Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Africa

First	—	Lagos, Nigeria, 3-12 November 1960
Second	—	Tunis, Tunisia, 1-10 November 1962
Third	—	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3-15 September 1964
Fourth	—	Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 9-19 November 1966
Fifth	—	Kampala, Uganda, 18-29 November 1968
Sixth	—	Algiers, Algeria, 17 September-3 October 1970
Seventh	—	Libreville, Gabon, 14-30 September 1972
Eighth	—	Rose Hill, Mauritius, 1-17 August 1974
Ninth	—	Freetown, Sierra Leone, 2-12 November 1976
Tenth	—	Arusha, Tanzania, 18-28 September 1978
Eleventh	—	Lomé, Togo, 16-27 June 1980

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

REVIEW AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PROGRAMME
OF ACTION OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORM
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (WCARRD) IN AFRICA

For the Attention of FAO

1. Reiterated that FAO, as the lead agency, in collaboration with other members of the United Nations system, should catalyse and coordinate the provision of technical and financial assistance at the national and regional levels to requesting countries in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action (58).
2. Supported the Director-General's arrangements for voluntary funds to support the implementation of the Programme of Action and to augment FAO's other extra-budgetary resources for this purpose in accordance with WCARRD and FAO Conference resolutions (60).
3. Emphasized the need for the intensification of the trypanosomiasis control programme and the related development of the freed areas in order to increase agricultural and livestock production in the Region (61).
4. Recommended that request from countries for technical assistance should be derived from the special fund and some delegates accordingly requested assistance (66).

For the Attention of Governments

1. Noted the serious necessity by countries to consider resolving the problems of agrarian and rural development indicated by WCARRD and of committedly implementing the resolutions of that Conference (59).
2. Emphasized that efforts should be directed principally towards the development of land through preservation and conservation to retain the balance of the ecosystems in arid and semi-arid zones of the Region (61).
3. Appealed for coordination of efforts of various institutions concerned with the implementation of the on-going or proposed agro-silvi-pastoral development programme especially in the Sahelian countries (61).
4. Recommended that governments should take steps towards the establishment of national coordinating mechanisms at an appropriate level to ensure interministerial coordination, and that effective arrangements be made for researchers in the Faculties of Agriculture to liaise with other Extension Officers of Ministries of Agriculture to ensure that the benefits of research findings of member universities reach rural population (63).

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED RURAL
DEVELOPMENT (CIRDAfrica)

For the Attention of FAO

1. Observed that CIRDAfrica should be action-oriented and not another social research centre (69).

For the Attention of Governments

1. Appealed to those countries which have not yet signed the agreement to do so (69).

REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO
STRENGTHEN WORLD FOOD SECURITY

For the Attention of FAO

1. Regarding food information and early warning systems, the Conference agreed that they were a major pre-requisite for improved food security and welcomed FAO's assistance to interested governments in setting up or improving national systems (78).
2. Agreed that the advantages of sub-regional reserves for other parts of the region should be further explored (82).
3. Expressed its strong support for the Director-General's Plan of Action on World Food Security (84).
4. Endorsed the Director-General's initiatives to turn the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR), currently operating on an informal and voluntary basis, into a legally-binding convention and expressed the hope that minimum annual target of 500 000 tons of grain for the IEFR would soon be achieved (84).
5. Expressed the hope that the International Monetary Fund would give urgent and careful consideration to the proposal for additional balance of payments support for meeting the rise in food bills of food deficit countries (85).

For the Attention of Governments

1. Appealed to the international community to provide additional aid to meet the current emergency needs of the Region (74).
2. Requested food aid donors to give more favourable consideration to the use of food aid for food security (79).
3. Appealed for the support of donors and international financing agencies, as soon as a plan for the sub-regional reserve scheme had been adopted (80).
4. Agreed to give priority attention to the possibility of coordinating national reserve policies and the facilitation of inter-rate exchange (81).
5. Felt that the benefits of mutual food trade agreements should be given further consideration (82).

REGIONAL FOOD PLAN FOR AFRICA (AFPLAN) - FOLLOW-UP MEASURES
TAKEN AT NATIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

For the Attention of FAO

1. Called upon UNDP and other financing agencies to provide the necessary funds to enable FAO mount strategy review missions (90).
2. Stressed the importance of the Programme of Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development which was endorsed by the FAO Conference in 1979 and recalled the request made at the Ninth FAO Regional Conference held in November 1976 in Freetown to transfer the Coordinating Unit to the region (93).
3. Proposed that FAO intensified its programme of providing national, sub-regional and regional assistance in training personnel in project identification, formulation, evaluation and monitoring (99).

For the Attention of Governments

1. Recommended countries concerned to cooperate with FAO in the execution of the Programme on Animal Trypanosomiasis and to become members of the Commission on African Animal Trypanosomiasis (93).
2. Emphasized the need and opportunity for utilizing large parts of the areas now infested by the tsetse fly for food and agricultural production (93).
3. Considered that governments with the support of FAO, should further intensify their efforts to improve national capabilities in policy formulation and planning and implementation of programmes and projects for agricultural and rural development (95).
4. The need for a better coordination and harmonisation of the activities of inter-governmental organizations was stressed (96).
5. Warned that a too heavy reliance on external resources would make countries too dependent and would be in conflict with the African Strategy for Economic Development and Self-reliance (98).

AFRICAN FOOD COMMODITY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

For the Attention of FAO

1. Recommended that FAO should be requested, taking into account the comments summarized above, to consult with countries concerned in order to mobilize support for the proposal (109).
2. Recommended that FAO should be requested to prepare a project proposal so that, as soon as financing support was obtained, the work of the pilot project would be continued and developed (109).

For the Attention of Governments

1. Such a Board could be responsible for building food reserve stocks, to be replenished regularly by Member Governments and international organizations (106).
2. Suggested that each country should consider setting up a special unit dealing with food security (106).

THE CHANGING LAW OF THE SEA AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FISHERIES
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA

For the Attention of FAO

1. Recommended that training courses on aquatic pollution be continued on a sub-regional basis (112).
2. Recommended that FAO in consultation with other relevant international bodies intensify efforts in assisting member countries of the region in controlling and preventing pollution (112).
3. Suggested that FAO should consider the possibility of establishing a regional agricultural training school for the Portuguese-speaking countries of the Region (113).
4. Called upon the international community and other donor agencies to provide maximum support to the Programme (120).
5. Called on the UNDP and other donors to give FAO's EEZ Programme their full support (122).

For the Attention of Governments

1. Recommended that a number of measures (as outlined in the paragraph 113) should be given the highest priority (113).

FORESTRY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
ARID AND SEMI-ARID ZONES OF AFRICA

For the Attention of Governments

1. Recommended that Governments should:...(128)
2. Recommended that Governments should further develop with the support of FAO and other international agencies...(129)
3. Stressed that these organizations and countries together with FAO...(131)

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Organization of the Conference

1. The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held in the Maison du Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais, Lomé, Togo, from 16 to 27 June 1980. The Technical Committee which preceded the Plenary Session was held from 16 to 20 June 1980.
2. Delegates from 41 Member Nations, as well as observers from Member Nations outside the Region, Permanent Observer of the Holy See, Representatives of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, and observers from inter-governmental organizations and representatives of National Liberation Movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) attended the Meeting. A full list of participants is given in Appendix B.

Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur

3. At its first working session the Conference elected Mr. Anani Gassou, Honourable Minister of Rural Development of the Republic of Togo, by acclamation as Chairman of the Plenary Session. In a short acceptance speech, Mr. Anani Gassou thanked the distinguished delegates for having confided in him to guide the affairs of the Conference.
4. The Conference then elected Mr. Geremew Debele, Minister of Agriculture, Ethiopia, Mr. Germano José Gomes, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Angola, Mr. Brah Mahamane, Minister of Rural Development, Niger, as first, second and third Vice-Chairmen respectively. Mr. Wally N'Dow, National CILSS Coordinator, The Gambia, was elected as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda

5. The Conference considered and adopted the provisional agenda and timetable. The agenda as adopted is reproduced in Appendix A.

Inaugural Ceremony

6. His Excellency the President, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, President of the Republic of Togo and Founder of the Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais (RPT), who had earlier heard the Director-General of FAO deliver his keynote address, welcomed delegates to Lomé, the capital of Togo. In expressing great appreciation for the Director-General's tireless efforts, courage and dynamism to promote the establishment of the New International Economic Order, he reiterated his full support to the Director-General for waging war against hunger, poverty and disease. These objectives, he noted, fell within the framework of the policy established by his Party, the RPT.
7. The President and Founder of RPT extended a special welcome to the delegation of Zimbabwe, and congratulated the people of that country for their resounding victory over apartheid and racism and pledged his continued support for the Liberation Movements of Namibia and South Africa.
8. Referring to the recent Lagos Extraordinary Economic Summit of Heads of States and Government, the President appealed for speed to implement the Lagos Plan of Action. In Togo, he said, the people have become aware of the deteriorating food situation and its adverse consequences to economic development. Accordingly since 1977 RPT had been attacking this problem resolutely with the ultimate objective to attain self-sufficiency in food. To realize this objective it had become necessary to undergo radical transformation and the population have been mobilized through campaigns, demonstrations and seminars in order to improve public awareness of the gravity of the food situation and to take steps to avert the trend. Resources have also been mobilized and incentives such as better prices, tax holidays to promote investment into agriculture have been granted. Several agricultural development programmes have been launched and agrarian reform measures were being pursued to rationalize and improve land use.

9. Some tangible results have been achieved. Grain deficits caused by persistent drought in the recent past have been overcome and other staples were in adequate supply. The attainment of self-sufficiency required resources both material and human. It was for this reason that he supported FAO efforts to mobilize resources to combat calamities, and to improve food security and imports. He appealed for international cooperation so that the scourges of hunger and disease could be eradicated.

10. He regretted the selfishness of wealthy nations who continued to plunder prices of agricultural products. International economic relations would not improve unless the imbalances were eliminated. In concluding his statement, he reiterated the determination of Togo to achieve self-sufficiency. In this respect he appealed for sub-regional and regional cooperation.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Statement by the Director-General of FAO

11. In his keynote address, the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Edouard Saouma, paid special tribute to the President, His Excellency General Gnassingbe Eyadema, the President of the Republic of Togo and Founder of the Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais. He expressed appreciation for the tireless efforts being made by the President in the service of Togo and Africa. The Director-General, referred, in particular, to the exemplary policy of rural development being pursued by the Government of Togo. He praised the decision of the Government to reserve 35 percent of total investments for the rural sector.

12. The Director-General expressed his pleasure in welcoming Zimbabwe as an observer and expressed the wish that the country would soon join FAO as a full member. With this latest attainment of independence, Africa's position has been strengthened in the fight against poverty and hunger. He reiterated FAO's continued support to National Liberation Movements recognized by the OAU.

13. On the importance of Africa to FAO, the Director-General informed the Conference that the Region has been the largest beneficiary of FAO field projects and activities both financed from regular programme budget and extra-budgetary funds. Under the Technical Cooperation Programme, Africa was a beneficiary of 434 projects valued at US\$ 175 million. Some US\$ 21 million or 82 percent of total food aid was granted to Africa under FAO Food Security Assistance Scheme. Some 906 projects in Africa valued at US\$ 507 million were implemented by FAO with the support of 1 050 experts and consultants (or 44 percent of its personnel) working in close collaboration with national staff. FAO had prepared several agricultural development projects in Africa which attracted financial assistance to the tune of US\$ 1.126 billion during the five-year period of 1975-1979. FAO was also implementing new programmes such as the development of Exclusive Economic Zones and the control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis.

14. These few examples, the Director-General stated, were a manifestation of FAO readiness to respond readily to the needs of Africa. He, as the top executive of the Organization, continued to ensure that he kept abreast with the problems of agricultural development in Africa through regular visits to countries and attending meetings of cardinal importance to the Region. The latest of such meetings he attended was the Lagos OAU Extraordinary Economic Summit of Heads of States and Government. It was at this Summit that agriculture was accorded its rightful significance in the Plan of Action, thus ending that tradition in which agriculture continued to remain the poor relative in budgetary apportionment.

15. The Director-General reiterated that sustained development of the secondary and the tertiary sectors of the economies of Africa would only be realized through a sound agricultural base capable of feeding the population, halting the exodus to the urban centres, transforming a subsistence economy into an exchange one and turning the producer into a consumer. Agriculture, therefore, had to develop in order to enlarge its contribution to national economic objectives especially in the field of employment generation, income distribution, earning foreign exchange, industrialization through the valorization of agricultural raw materials and the attainment of a measure of food self-sufficiency.

16. Commenting on the food situation in Africa, the Director-General regretted that despite efforts to reverse the declining trend in food supply in Africa, the level of self-sufficiency in the main food productions had receded frightfully and the gap between the needs and availabilities had widened. The eminent threat of locust damage to food crops would further worsen the food situation. It would require cooperation to combat the menace.

17. Food imports had increased from 4.2 million tons in 1970 to 11 million in 1978 and it was envisaged that it would increase to 15 million by 1985 if the trend continued. The worsening situation had resulted in increased requests for food aid and a serious erosion of the foreign reserves. This would in turn divert resources needed for development to food purchases. And yet, the Director-General observed, Africa possessed a rich patrimony of human and natural resources necessary for agricultural and overall economic development.

18. Conscious of the gravity of problems facing agricultural development in Africa, FAO had been carrying out and have initiated various measures to ameliorate the situation. A five-point Plan of Action of the World Food Security had been drawn up. He informed the Conference that the Plan had been adopted by the FAO Conference in 1979 and by the United Nations General Assembly. He also informed the Conference that the recent Lagos Summit endorsed the Plan and went even further to propose the establishment of national strategic reserves of at least 10 percent of total production. It also appealed for an early conclusion for cooperative arrangements in establishing regional reserve stocks in order to achieve the objective of collective self-reliance.

19. The Director-General regretted that the contribution to the International Emergency Food Reserve has been sporadic, and the annual target of 500 000 tons of grain had never been met. To ensure that the target could be reached, he proposed that IEFR be transformed into a real international convention duly signed and ratified. This multilateral mechanism, he stressed, would ensure that the target could be reached and complement bilateral aid. The Director-General also informed the Conference that FAO and the World Food Council had recently submitted to the International Monetary Fund for consideration a proposal for providing balance of payment support to countries which were obliged to meet shortfalls through purchases of food products, especially low-income, food-deficit countries.

20. The Director-General also informed the Conference of the steps FAO was taking to increase resource flows to the agricultural sector of developing countries, increase WFP contribution, improve market prospects for primary and processed agricultural products, replenish and increase the resources of IFAD and guarantee more stable and equitable prices to exports. He appealed to African leaders to support his initiatives during the forthcoming Special Session of the General Assembly and in the subsequent international negotiations. He concluded his statement by drawing the attention of the Conference to a phrase by Latin Philosopher Seneca that "it is not because things are difficult that we do not dare; it is because we do not dare that they are difficult".

Statement by the Representative of the Secretary-General of the
Organization of African Unity (OAU)

21. In his statement, the Representative of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, Mr. Paul Etyang, welcomed the delegation of Zimbabwe. He informed the Conference that the recent Lagos Summit noted that the effect of unfulfilled promises of global development strategies had been more sharply felt in Africa than in the other continents. Conscious of this fact, the Summit adopted a Programme of Action for the economic development of Africa. The Lagos Plan of Action has given the highest priority to food and agricultural development on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Food Plan as approved by African Ministers of Agriculture in Arusha in 1978.

22. On the deteriorating food situation in Africa, the OAU Representative, regretted that shortfalls in food supply had led to increasing food imports resulting in serious in-roads into foreign reserves. He noted further that this determination was due to

inadequate allocation of resources and inappropriate policy formulation for the agricultural sector. Agriculture required increased investment, provision of credit and extension services with appropriate emphasis being given to improving the living conditions of the rural population.

23. He informed the Conference that the Lagos Plan of Action prescribed concrete measures in respect of reduction of post-harvest losses, crop and livestock production, and fishery and forestry exploitation. It also called for regional cooperation in establishing food reserve stocks on a sub-regional and regional basis. OAU, in collaboration with relevant technical agencies was prepared to mobilize the necessary political will in order to achieve the objective of collective self-reliance.

24. In concluding his statement, the OAU Representative expressed concern that there were serious constraints holding back improvement in food production. These included problems of land tenure systems and access to land, operation of money lenders and middlemen, limited spread of adopted technology, high interest rate on agricultural credit, and problems of balance of payments. He cautioned against reliance on food aid which was being used as a political weapon in foreign policy. He drew the attention of the Conference to "The Final act of Lagos", which provided an institutional frame and target years by which the all-important sectoral approaches could be realized leading to an African Common Market and eventually to an Economic Community by the Year 2000.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

25. Dr. Adebayo Adedeji, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in his statement expressed deep appreciation for the cooperation he has been able to enjoy with the Director-General of FAO. This cooperation has enabled ECA together with FAO to undertake the execution of a number of regional projects. One such example of cooperation was, under the technical leadership of FAO, in the work of the Inter-agency Working Group consisting of OAU, ECA, ADB, IFAD and WFC in preparing The Programme of Action for the Development of Food and Agriculture in Africa - 1980-85, which formed the Chapter on Agriculture in the Lagos Plan of Action endorsed by the OAU Heads of State and Government in Lagos in April 1980.

26. Dr. Adedeji expressed concern at the worsening food situation in Africa which he attributed principally to inadequate budgetary support to the agricultural sector, defective agrarian structures and lack of appropriate policies to motivate the farmers. The Lagos Plan of Action prescribed specific measures to improve food production and supplies. The Lagos Plan has recommended technical measures which, if adopted, would make a significant progress towards the achievement of 50 percent reduction in post-harvest losses by 1985. The Action Plan also spelt out technical improvements which should be adopted in the field of crop and livestock production as well as fish and forestry exploitation. It called upon coastal states to review their fishing agreements. Policies which would generate sufficient inducements to the farmers should be pursued backed by research and strong well-informed extension services. He appealed for regional cooperation to achieve the objective of collective self-reliance. He also appealed to the international community to provide the necessary financial support to assist in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

Statement by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme

27. The Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) Mr. Vogel, in his statement, informed the Conference that self-sufficiency in food supply, food production and security, and food aid were issues of concern to the WFP. He noted that the challenges being faced in these areas were of a global nature. Recently the Committee on Food Aid Policy and Programmes reviewed the food situation and estimated that some 18 million tons would be needed annually in food aid by 1985. But the level of food aid had not yet reached the target of 10 million tons established in 1974 by the World Food Conference. The proposal of the FAO Director-General that the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR) should become a legally binding international convention was therefore relevant because the number of countries vulnerable to disasters and calamities was growing.

28. He informed the Conference that WFP aid reached US\$ 122 million with Africa absorbing 34 percent. The outlook for 1980 remained bleak with aid demand growing in the Sahel and requests from East Africa increasing. He further informed the Conference that WFP was also supporting food production in critical areas such as in settlement areas of displaced persons, and disaster areas affected by floods, drought or other calamities. In this respect, total annual food aid between 4.5 to 5.5 million tons by 1985 would be required as project food aid. Currently, however, WFP was shipping only 1.5 million tons to food aid projects. It was, therefore, essential that WFP have support of donors to improve delivery.

29. The WFP Executive Director informed the Conference that WFP supported critical rural development projects especially those highly suitable for improving rural environment. Some of the projects enhanced the participation of women in rural development activities. In addition WFP has tried to link its development programmes with food security such as supporting national strategic food reserves in which WFP played a catalytic role. He enumerated a number of projects in different countries being supported by WFP. Hence WFP he noted, was adapted to agricultural development in Africa, and the attainment of self-sufficiency in food supply. For this reason WFP should not be regarded as an institution which existed to feed but to use food aid appropriately to guarantee capital development with the ultimate objective to meet the needs of the people especially the poorest segment of the population.

Statement by the Vice-Chairman of the World Food Council

30. In a brief statement, the Vice-Chairman of the World Food Council, Mr. Ghissasi, stated that the problems of the deterioration in food production, consumption, nutrition and security were also matters of concern to the World Food Council (WFC). He referred to the recent launching of an appeal to help the countries suffering from food shortages to prepare national food strategies. He regretted that Africa continued to remain the continent with the lowest rate of food production while at the same time its population was growing at a much higher rate. Consequently an increasing number of Africans were suffering from malnutrition. This could best be handled through the adoption of appropriate strategy for food production and WFC, he noted, was prepared to help in defining policies and programmes in this respect. Some 17 countries in Africa had expressed willingness to prepare food strategies and WFC would be prepared to assist but its role would remain purely catalytic.

31. The Vice-Chairman stated that the WFC strongly supported the Director-General's efforts in mobilizing resources to support food and agricultural production. He commended the Director-General for his initiatives to make IEFER a legally binding international convention and the proposal for balance of payments support for low-income food-deficit countries. He regretted the growing international protectionist trade policy and appealed for liberalization to promote trade.

Summary of Country Statements

32. In their statements, many delegations voiced deep concern on the persistent deterioration of the food situation in Africa. They stressed that despite abundant land, water, livestock, fishery and human resources, Africa continued to be plagued by a worsening food supply situation. It has now become essential to consolidate the countries political independence by satisfying food needs, through eradication of food shortages, famine and malnutrition.

33. Delegations observed that internal and external factors were involved in the downward trend of food production in Africa. It was noted that structural imbalances in demographic features have caused disruption of the rhythm between the rate of agricultural production and population growth. This in part was due to the marginal attention given to the agricultural sector. It was therefore essential that appropriate sectoral policies were formulated, taking into account rural development needs.

34. Many delegations indicated that the food problem remained a basic concern of their national governments, and that efforts were being made to ensure self-sufficiency in food needs both in quantitative and qualitative terms. Along this line some of the principal steps being taken by governments included: (i) the collectivization of agricultural production through the establishment of agropastoral farms, the regrouping of producers into farming cooperatives to facilitate the provision of services and agricultural credit, mechanical cultivation; (ii) the organization of peasant, youth and women associations, and the organizations of communal villages; (iii) the mobilization of savings in rural areas to support agricultural development; (iv) and the organization and management of state farms or commercial farms abandoned by the expatriate large-scale farmers, and the establishment of agro-industrial units. In addition some measures being implemented have been designed to enhance the participation of the population both men and women including the youth in development. Attempts were also being made to improve the living conditions in rural areas by the provision of the essential social infrastructure in order to halt the rural exodus. Some measures included the execution of programmes designed to improve agrarian structures and the improvement and distribution of the national wealth and income. In several countries it was necessary to plan and implement programmes for the reconstitution of the livestock herd through such measures as disease control, pasture improvement, etc. and also to implement a programme of resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced victims of disasters.

35. Other measures being taken included the (i) development of underground water reserves and other necessary agricultural infrastructure such as the construction of irrigation dams, barrages, etc. needed to combat the manace of persistent drought; (ii) orientation of scientific research to meet development needs; (iii) the improvement of seeds and livestock through research and animal breeding, and arrangement for their supply to the farmers through an organized system of distribution; (iv) the operation of a variety of farmer incentives such as tax exemption, subsidy on inputs, payment of remunerative prices, and early announcements of producer prices to enable farmers to formulate their production plans, subsidized services and marketing arrangement. The training of farmers and technical staff has also received priority attention.

36. In the field of fishery resources, delegations outlined steps being taken to improve both the maritime and inland fisheries. As regard forestry, it was pointed out that national governments have been rationalizing forestry policy paying particular attention to the role of forest in soil conservation, fuel wood and its integration in rural development. Many delegations emphasized the programme of reafforestation being undertaken to avert desert encroachment. Measures were also being taken to support research and training institutions in the field of forestry.

37. Some other measures being adopted at the national level aimed at: (i) the provision of extension services to promote the spread of appropriate technology; (ii) the formulation and execution of programmes to reduce post-harvest losses including pest control; and (iii) inducing investment into the agricultural sector through an institutional framework like the establishment of Agricultural Development Banks and the formulation of National Food Plans for which many delegations requested technical assistance.

38. Delegations, however, regretted that their efforts were being frustrated by a host of negative factors. In the Sahelian countries and other arid and semi-arid areas, drought continued to have a devastating effect on food production. In the island countries, especially in the South-west Indian Ocean, which already had limited land base for development, cyclones, drought and other natural calamities continued to damage crops, livestock and properties with alarming regularity. The locusts remained a frightful menace to many countries. These factors coupled with communication difficulties continued to limit the food security capacity of these countries.

39. Urbanization has been increasing with a disrupting effect on the labour force for the rural and agricultural sector. National efforts have also been frustrated by the increase in the prices of imported technical production inputs especially the oilbased fertilizer and

the high interest rate of agricultural credit. It was regretted that these events were taking place at a time when prices of exportable agricultural commodities, which remained the largest foreign exchange earner, were falling. The degrading and unfavourable external terms of trade together with rises of oil prices had been one of the principal reasons for the depletion of foreign reserves and the doubling of indebtedness of many African countries. Consequently many delegations appealed for trade liberalization in order to expand export trade, and they deplored the current tendency of some developed nations towards trade protectionist policy. A few delegations suggested that to promote food production in Africa, some percentage of the current bilateral aid for fertilizer should be channelled through the FAO Fertilizer Supply Scheme. The flow of investment into the agricultural sector from internal and external sources should be increased.

40. Many delegations welcomed FAO collaboration with ECA and OAU in the preparation for the Lagos Extraordinary Economic Summit and their ability to articulate a Programme of Action to focus attention on the stark reality of the worsening food situation and rural poverty in Africa. The 1980's, they stated, should be a decade of action and victory over under-development and rural poverty.

41. Some delegations from Portuguese-speaking countries, in expressing similar sentiments, appealed to FAO to make special consideration to launch specific programmes for these countries whose participation in FAO development activities have been and would continue to be disadvantaged by linguistic problems. They also appealed to FAO to establish a lusophone aquaculture research and training centre, in one of the Portuguese-speaking countries, and Angola offered to host such a centre if the proposal was found feasible and practical.

42. In their endeavour delegations noted, FAO had been an ally and had played a pioneering role in tackling the problem of agricultural development. Delegations paid special tribute to the Director-General for the steps he had already taken to implement the decision taken during the last FAO Regional Conference for Africa held in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania. They also paid special tribute to the Director-General for having convened an important World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) and the speedy steps he had taken to implement the resolutions of the Conference. Special reference was made to the initiative and efforts the Director-General has been making and continues to make to mobilize the necessary financial resources to support the implementation of the Programme of Action of WCARRD, and appealed to donor agencies to respond to his efforts by providing increasing resources. The Conference also noted with appreciation the steps the Director-General had taken to establish a Regional Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Africa (CIRDAfrica). Those delegations who had not yet ratified the agreement indicated that their governments were in the process of doing so through relevant legislative machinery. Delegations of Ghana, Sierra Leone, Egypt and Mozambique informed the Conference that ratification of the Agreement was in its final stage. Kenya said that the Government has already ratified the agreement. There was overwhelming support for regional cooperation in particular to achieve the objective of collective self-reliance. Appeal was made for the implementation of the Nairobi recommendation of Plan of Action for TCDC. In this respect also many delegations commended the Pilot Scheme on African Commodity Intelligence Service, and also the preferential trade area being proposed for Eastern and Southern Africa. Such schemes would promote intra-regional cooperation in trade.

43. The Conference supported the Director-General's proposal to transform the present International Emergency Food Reserve into an International convention. There was also overwhelming support for the Director-General's proposals for food financing facilities and an appeal was made to the International Monetary Fund to support the proposal. The Conference also strongly supported the Director-General's effort in taking steps to strengthen food security in general.

44. The Conference declared its complete satisfaction with the dynamic work of FAO in Africa and with its leadership. A large number of countries made statements of support for the re-election of Dr. Edouard Saouma as Director-General.

Other Statements

45. In a brief statement, the Vice-President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Mr. Moise Mensah, informed the Conference that a distinctive feature of the Fund was that it constituted an exemplary cooperative endeavour between industrialized countries, Oil-Producing and Exporting Countries (OPEC) and developing countries. Its main purpose was to mobilize additional resources required for agricultural development for its developing member countries with special emphasis on improving the living conditions of small farmers and landless peasants who constituted the Fund's target group.

46. During the first two years of its operation, IFAD has been able to commit about US\$ 500 million in loans and grants. Twelve loans valued at US\$ 140 million, 80 percent of which were on highly concessional terms, went to Africa and 60 percent of the technical assistance grants provided by the Fund went to Africa. Of the 12 projects, approved by the Fund, 8 were for integrated rural development projects while 2 were for range management and livestock development, and the other 2 aimed at the development of credit for small farmers and the strengthening of agricultural institutions.

47. Since 1979 several programme formulation missions have been mounted to enable the Fund to support additional aid projects. It was the Fund's objective that by 1985 it would finance at least 1 project in every African member country. Mr. Mensah noted with appreciation assistance being received by IFAD from FAO in the formulation of pipeline projects. He expressed great appreciation for the efforts the Director-General was making in order to assist IFAD in shortening the project cycle thereby enabling quicker transfer of financial resources to developing member countries. He also informed the Conference that the Fund was trying its best to improve cooperation with member countries with the ultimate objective of promoting the development of food production. IFAD's particular focus on improving the capacity and social condition of the farmer necessitated the active involvement of local institutions in the formulation and design of projects. To this end IFAD would extend technical assistance to member countries to strengthen the local capabilities and project analysis and preparation.

48. In concluding his statement, he noted that financing projects also raised the problem of replenishment. It was therefore desirable to replenish the Fund for the 3-year period of 1981-1983 and this replenishment, he appealed, should be completed by 1980 to enable IFAD to pursue its operations. Consultation, he said, would soon take place.

49. Some observers from member countries outside the Region also joined others in expressing concern for the deteriorating food situation in Africa which raised enormous humanitarian problems which require close partnership between Africa and the developed and developing world. Some of the problems required proper scientific management which FAO and other bilateral technical agencies could offer. Their countries were prepared to help although some of the problems, political in nature, were outside their competence although they could play some advisory role but the ultimate responsibility rested with the developing country's political authority. They noted that structural and institutional problems of agricultural development were beyond control of any individual country, especially in respect of violent fluctuation in world commodity and oil prices, world inflationary trend, etc. Other problems that had a direct effect on agricultural development and therefore require international cooperative effort were in such fields as research, capital assistance, food security, etc. Mention was made of the Lomé II Convention and its spectrum of technical and capital assistance.

50. A representative of UNIDO expressed appreciation for excellent cooperation between his Organization and FAO. He informed the Conference that rural development was also the pre-occupation of this Organization. To this end, he stated, some agro-based and agro-related industries would contribute to the improvement of income, employment generation in rural areas for the traditionally under-developed rural areas.

51. A representative of the Arab Bank for Economic Development of Africa informed the Conference that the declining trend in food production was also the concern of his Organization, and the Bank was giving priorities to financing agricultural development projects aiming at increasing growth, expanding agricultural infrastructure, etc. Since

1975 the Bank gave global credit at low interest rate of 3 percent. Some US\$ 90 million had been allocated to support projects dealing with food and agricultural development especially in the field of integrated rural development, livestock and crop production, etc. The Bank, he said, has also been acting as a catalyst in channelling Arab funds into the agricultural sector.

52. Moreover the support given to the traditional sectors, the Bank has also been supporting rehabilitation projects in areas that have been hit by natural disasters. In response to FAO appeal, for instance, the Bank gave some US\$ 50 million for FAO-executed rehabilitation projects such as the construction of water points, silos, improvement of animal husbandry, etc. Several countries have benefitted from the aid. The Bank also has been supporting inter-governmental organizations such as OICMA, OCLALAV, etc.

Implementation of FAO Priority Programme in the Region

53. Dr. Samba Cor Sar, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, introduced document ARC/80/9 which dealt with the implementation of FAO Priority Programme in the Region. The period under review, he stated, was of significant importance because of the benchmark which has been laid by the orientation of FAO priority programmes to respond to the needs of its member countries. This has been reinforced by the recent Lagos Summit Conference of the OAU Heads of State and Government which endorsed FAO priority areas for future agricultural development. The period was also remarkable because of increased consultation between FAO and its member countries. This has enabled the Organization to reshape its priority programmes in order to reflect the wishes of member countries. Dr. Sar also reviewed some programmes such as EEZ, Trypanosomiasis, Locust and other pest control, Regional Food Plan, Forestry development, etc. These programmes would require financial support and FAO would do all it could to mobilize resources. FAO, he said, would also assist in the preparation of projects suitable for UNDP support during its Third Programming Cycle.

54. During a brief debate, it was recommended that FAO should take into account the Lagos Summit Plan of Action in preparing its programme of work. On cooperation it was pointed out that some countries could not afford to establish expensive training institutions like the veterinary training establishment. Cooperation in sharing training facilities would be of great benefit to some of these countries. Some delegations noted that often when preparing priority programmes, attention was confined to the main land and the islands relied only on ad hoc action taken to tackle disasters. Appeal was made to FAO to initiate action to establish a framework to tackle the problem of the islands on a permanent basis as has been done for other areas prone to disasters. It was also suggested that FAO should promote the strengthening of sub-regional structures and the exchange of information of results of projects being implemented in the Region to avoid duplication of efforts.

Activities of FAO Regional Bodies

55. Dr. Samba Cor Sar, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, reported briefly on document ARC/80/10 dealing with the development of fisheries, forestry, food and nutrition and agricultural statistics regional commissions. He expressed the hope that the Conference would study and make concrete recommendations on measures designed to improve the efficiency of these bodies.

56. As regards the activities of the Agricultural Statistics Commission, it was pointed out that statistics were basic in any policy formulation. It was therefore recommended that the Commission should help in improving agricultural statistics services in the Region in order to improve policy formulation.

Review and Follow-up Action Arising From the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) in Africa

57. The Conference reviewed document ARC/80/2 which gave a brief overview of the main recommendations of the 10th FAO Regional Conference, as well as of the Programme of Action of WCARRD. The document also gave a resume of the conclusions of the World Conference and of the follow-up action taken at the international and regional levels and reviewed the on-going programmes on rural development. Finally the document underlined the necessity of rural development in the region with particular attention to the needs of the poorest people, highlighting the importance of evaluation, monitoring and policy formulation requirements, as well as a commitment by the countries to improve their efforts in rural development.

58. In considering the document the Conference unanimously commended FAO for what have already been done on the follow-up of WCARRD and it unanimously supported the recommendations contained in the document. It noted that rural development was of cardinal importance in Africa since about 70 percent of the population live in rural areas deriving livelihood principally from agriculture. Any break-through in rural development would therefore benefit the masses of the population. It was for this reason, that many delegates commended FAO for the part it was playing in promoting rural development at national, regional and international levels. To this end FAO role as a lead agency was commended especially in mobilizing other agencies support actions to promote agrarian reform and rural development. Accordingly the Conference reiterated that FAO, as the lead agency, in collaboration with other members of the United Nations system, should catalyse and coordinate the provision of technical and financial assistance at the national and regional levels to requesting countries in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action.

59. The Conference, however, noted the serious necessity by countries to consider resolving the problems of agrarian and rural development indicated by WCARRD and of committedly implementing the resolutions of the Conference.

60. As regards the mobilization of financial resources to support the implementation of the Programme of Action, the Conference noted with appreciation efforts being made by FAO to raise funds. Accordingly the Conference strongly supported the Director-General's arrangements for voluntary funds to support the implementation of the Programme of Action and to augment FAO's other extrabudgetary resources for this purpose in accordance with WCARRD and FAO Conference resolutions.

61. Many delegations outlined measures being taken at the national level in line with the WCARRD Programme of Action. Regarding land as a basic resource for development, many delegations indicated that many people in rural areas still did not have access to land but many countries have taken or were in the process of taking measures to rationalize land tenure systems. Some delegations emphasized that efforts should be directed principally towards the development of land through preservation and conservation to sustain the balance of the ecosystems in arid and semi-arid zones of the region. They appealed for coordination of efforts of various institutions concerned with the implementation of the on-going or proposed agro-silvi-pastoral development programme especially in the Sahelian countries. The Conference was satisfied with the efforts being made to combat the menace of trypanosomiasis as it would make more land available for agriculture and livestock. It also emphasized the need for the intensification of the trypanosomiasis control programme and the related development of the freed areas in order to increase agricultural and livestock production in the Region.

62. A number of delegations also indicated how the rural populations were being involved in development decision-making especially through their farmers cooperatives, peasant and a variety of other forms of associations. It was observed that rural development was being hampered by lack of technical know-how on the part of the farmer, inability to provide efficient extension services due to lack of a network of feeder roads, rural water supply

and transport facilities, high cost of agricultural inputs, high interest rate of agricultural credit, and lack of knowledge of the latest technical information. The amelioration of these bottlenecks would improve access to various services particularly marketing, the provision of agricultural credit, extension services, etc..

63. Combined with measures to improve and expand rural education and training programmes, these measures would ameliorate constraints holding back rural development and enhance the prospects for future progress. To this end the Conference recommended that governments should take steps towards the establishment of national coordinating mechanisms at an appropriate level to ensure inter-ministerial coordination, and that effective arrangements be made for researchers in the Faculties of Agriculture to ensure that the benefits of research findings of member universities reach the rural population.

64. Some delegations indicated that some established national institutions or newly established bodies have been entrusted with the role of coordinating, planning and monitoring progress in rural development. Some delegations also mentioned that steps were being taken to promote women participation in development.

65. The Conference generally agreed that the most important issue in any aspect of rural development was the under-privileged rural people. It noted with satisfaction the emphasis being placed on the rural poor in efforts to promote rural development. To this end any rural development programme should endeavour to provide the basic social, economic, agricultural and commercial infrastructure in order to improve the living conditions of the rural population and also to improve the distribution of technical production inputs, extension services, marketing and check the exodus of rural population to urban centres. It was however noted that any effort being made to improve the welfare of the rural population was being frustrated by adverse international terms of trade, imbalances in the international economic relationship and poor domestic resource base.

66. Having made these remarks the Conference endorsed the proposal for establishing benchmarks for social indicators which could be used to monitor future progress. The Conference noted with satisfaction and endorsed FAO readiness to offer technical assistance to countries in establishing such benchmarks. Many delegations recommended that request from countries for technical assistance should be derived from the special fund and some delegates accordingly requested assistance.

67. In clarifying a few points, the Secretariat reiterated that it was time for action to implement what governments wished to achieve at the national level. As regards the Special Funds, the Conference was informed that FAO so far had been able to obtain a pledge for a total amount of US\$ 10 million within 6 months. The Fund would be used to support national actions and guidelines were already being prepared for the use of the Fund and request for technical assistance was already being received for the following priority areas: (i) access to land or production inputs as one of those actions being supported to bring about structural changes in tenurial systems; (ii) people participation which remained the backbone of rural development; (iii) establishing socio-economic indicators to measure progress and improvement, and countries concerned have agreed to establish national benchmark; (iv) dissemination of information; and (v) strengthening education and training programmes for rural development.

Progress Report on the Establishment of the Regional Centre for Integrated Rural Development

68. In reviewing document ARC/80/3, the Conference was informed that a Government Consultation held in Arusha, Tanzania from 18 to 21 September 1979 adopted an agreement to establish the Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Africa (CIRDAfrica). The Governments of 34 African States were represented and signed the agreement itself on behalf of their Governments. As of April 1980, after 6 countries, namely Tanzania, Botswana, Cape Verde, Upper Volta, Zambia and Zaire, have ratified the agreement, the Centre has become operational and the Governing Council would be held in a near future. The objectives of the Centre would be to assist national action and promote regional cooperation relating to

integrated rural development in Africa through a network of national institutions in Member States and to act as a servicing institution for these Member States with respect to integrated rural development.

69. Delegations unanimously supported the establishment and operation of CIRDAfrica which could work with a network of national rural development institutions in assisting in the follow-up of the WCARRD Programme of Action. They also appealed to those countries which have not signed the agreement to do so. Some delegations whose governments have not yet ratified the agreement or lodged the instrument of accession to the agreement, have indicated that appropriate steps were being taken to ratify it. A few delegations, however, observed that CIRDAfrica should be action-oriented and not another social research centre. It should be able to guide national governments in matters of rural development and it should also take cognisance of the diversity of approaches to rural development country by country and not adopt a blanket regionalized approach. It was also suggested that the Centre should promote technical cooperation among developing countries in line with the Nairobi recommendation of Plan of Action.

70. Although noting with satisfaction progress made in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for CIRDAfrica, a few delegations urged that the circulation of the PWB should not be limited to those countries which have already ratified the agreement but to all potential members of the Centre. In clarifying some points, the Secretariat pointed out that the draft PWB would be circulated. The Secretariat further informed the Conference that three documents were under preparation and would be circulated. They included (i) PWB; (ii) Financial Regulations; and (iii) Rules of Procedures. The Centre would be established when the Governing Council would meet and the meeting would be preceded by an informal Technical Committee Meeting preferably to be held in conjunction with the next FAO Council Session in Rome, November 1980.

Regional Implications of International Action to Strengthen World Food Security

71. The Conference considered this item on the basis of document ARC/80/4, together with 2 Supplements, one giving relevant extracts from the report of the recent Fifth Session of the Committee on World Food Security and the other containing revised and updated versions of some of the statistical tables given in the basic document. It felt that the Secretariat paper gave a comprehensive and full review of the subject and expressed its full support for the Proposals for Future Action given in Section III of the document.

72. The Conference recognized that the fundamental solution to the food security problem in Africa lay in increasing the availability of food produced in the region itself. Thus, the problems of rural development, increased food production and reduced post-harvest food losses (also discussed under other items of the agenda) were in the long run the most important elements in achieving food security.

73. Regarding the reduction of post-harvest losses, the Conference stressed the importance of improving storage facilities in order to lessen the losses incurred. The Conference welcomed FAO's Action Programme for the Prevention of Post-Harvest Losses but pointed out that, in addition to technical advice and assistance in developing suitable methods, there was a need for both extension work and credit in order to ensure that the methods were adopted.

74. The Conference recognized that many countries of the Region were currently in a particularly precarious situation regarding food supplies. The incidence of drought had been particularly severe and many countries had not been able to cover even their most urgent food import requirements. There was danger of a new upsurge in locust activity in Nigeria and Cameroon. The Conference noted that the FAO Early Warning System lists 23 countries of the Region as suffering from food shortages. Total world resources obtained for emergency food aid have been insufficient and, with larger amounts of aid being provided for refugees, less aid has been available for populations struck by natural disasters. The Conference appealed to the international community to provide additional aid to meet the current emergency needs of the Region.

75. The Conference took note of the findings of the paper that food production in the Region continued to lag behind population growth so that consumption was having to be met by an increased dependence on cereal imports. Even with greater self-sufficiency from increased output and reduced losses, the need for some cereal imports would continue, although the degree of dependence would be reduced. The Conference felt that consideration should also be given to changing consumption patterns as another way to decrease the need for imports. It agreed that the tendency for increased consumption of agronomically risky and/or imported food commodities at the expense of agronomically well-adapted traditional staple food should be discouraged by pricing policies and by nutrition research programmes.

76. It was pointed out that, for some countries, the information on recent trends in food production given in the document was misleading for purposes of judging domestic food availability because output of export commodities, such as sugar, were included. This situation needed to be taken into account in the criteria used for defining low-income, food-deficit countries. It was also pointed out that the use of national data for assessing the food situation in a country could be misleading for those countries where local climatic variations were sufficient to cause large differences between areas in crop conditions and food availabilities.

77. It was underlined that the proposals for future action given in the paper should not be considered to be exhaustive. The attention of the Conference was drawn to the need for international action on the prices of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, machinery and pesticides, most of which had to be imported by African countries. The need for better prices for export commodities on international markets was also stressed as another factor which affected the achievement of food security for people of the Region.

78. The Conference expressed its appreciation of FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System and its Food Security Assistance Scheme (FSAS). It felt that both these activities were making a real contribution to food security in the Region. Regarding food information and early warning systems, the Conference agreed that they were a major pre-requisite for improved food security and welcomed FAO's assistance to interested governments in setting up or improving national systems. It was pointed out that, for some small countries or in areas where agro-climatic conditions extended across borders, early warning systems involving several countries should be considered.

79. The Conference noted that in addition to the special support being given to the CILSS, eleven countries of the Region were now being assisted to improve their food security situation by the Food Security Assistance Scheme (FSAS). The planning and establishment of national food reserves was a vital component of food security and the mobilization of external assistance for this purpose was important. While in the long-run, it was hoped that grain output would increase sufficiently to allow the stocks to be maintained from local production, or from other countries in the region, the initial building up of reserve stocks would often have to rely on imported grains and the Conference requested food aid donors to give more favourable consideration to the use of food aid for food security. The Conference hoped that the scope of the Scheme could be enlarged to cover more countries and that, to this end, more resources would be made available to it.

80. The Conference was informed about the work being undertaken by FAO in conjunction with CILSS. Concerning the feasibility study for establishing a coordinated national and sub-regional food security scheme, it was planned that the report by FAO would be submitted before the end of 1980 and would then be discussed at a Ministerial meeting. It was likely that the strengthening of national stocks would be proposed, together with coordination at the sub-regional level. Stocks of up to 350 000 tons of grain would be needed and enormous investments would be required. The Conference appealed for the support of donors and international financing agencies, as soon as a plan for the sub-regional reserve scheme had been adopted.

81. The Conference welcomed the actions being taken to examine the feasibility of holding collective food reserves at the sub-regional level in the Sahel. It felt that sub-regional schemes, combining a strengthening of national stocks with the establishment of a sub-regional reserve as a second line of defence, could make a valuable contribution to regional food security. In this respect, the Conference noted that the Southern African Heads of State, at their recent Summit Conference, had agreed to give priority attention to the possibility of coordinating national reserve policies and the facilitation of inter-state exchanges.

82. The Conference agreed that the advantages of sub-regional reserves for other parts of the Region should be further explored. It also felt that the benefits of mutual food trade agreements should be given further consideration. These might take the form of loans of food between countries of the region for repayment in cash or in kind and, in other circumstances, joint import arrangements to reduce transport and handling costs might be advantageous.

83. Regarding other global aspects of food security, the Conference expressed the view that, since the adoption of the International Undertaking on World Food Security by the World Food Conference in 1974, progress in international action to achieve world food security had been disappointing. Negotiations on a new International Grains Agreement had been adjourned, although a new Food Aid Convention had been adopted. However, this was only in force until June 1981 and, although the quantities of cereals involved (7.6 million tons) were significantly higher than in the previous Convention, they were still below the minimum objective of 10 million tons set by the World Food Conference. The Conference noted with regret that total allocations of cereals as food aid for all purposes were only 9 million tons in 1979/80 compared with the 9.7 million shipped in the previous season, and that the pledges to the World Food Programme (WFP) had not yet reached the targets for either the 1979-80 or the 1981-82 biennium.

84. The Conference expressed its strong support for the Director-General's Plan of Action on World Food Security. It welcomed the decision of the last session of the Committee on World Food Security to set up a special working party to examine the adequacy of existing arrangements to improve the state of preparedness to cope with acute and large-scale food shortages. The Conference endorsed the Director-General's initiatives to turn the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR), currently operating on an informal and voluntary basis, into a legally-binding convention and expressed the hope that minimum annual target of 500 000 tons of grain for the IERF would soon be achieved.

85. The Conference drew attention to the great difficulty which many countries of the Region were experiencing in finding the foreign exchange necessary to pay for essential imports of food commodities and, in this regard, expressed the hope that the International Monetary Fund would give urgent and careful consideration to the proposal for additional balance of payments support for meeting the rise in food import bills of food deficit countries.

86. The Conference established an informal group in order to prepare a "pre-draft" of a possible resolution on food security to be considered at the Plenary Session of the Conference. This informal group prepared a text which has been circulated as "Pre-draft Resolution 1/80" to the Technical Committee.

Regional Food Plan for Africa (AFPLAN) - Follow-up Measures
Taken at National, Sub-regional and Regional Levels

87. The Conference, in reviewing document ARC/80/5 and the revised version of the Regional Food Plan, expressed appreciation of the information provided by the Secretariat on the most important follow-up activities undertaken in response to the Arusha Resolution 4/78 on the Regional Food Plan for Africa by Member States and the inter-governmental organizations in Africa.

88. It noted with satisfaction that the Regional Food Plan had been endorsed at the highest political level in Africa. It was informed that, based on the Plan, a Programme of Action for the period 1980-1985 had been prepared by FAO in collaboration with OAU, ECA, ADB, IFAD

and WFC, and that this Programme now formed part of the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, adopted by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Africa at the Economic Summit Meeting held in Lagos, April 1980.

89. The Conference expressed its serious concern with the continued worsening of the food situation in the region. The rates of growth of population had remained high in most African countries and had not been matched by equal increases in food production. As a result, the food gap had further widened and countries had become increasingly dependent on imports, especially of cereals. Today, each person in Africa had, on the average, considerably less access to food than was the case ten years ago, and average dietary standards had fallen below nutritional requirements. Hunger, malnutrition and starvation afflicted more and more people every year. The immediate causes of this depressing state of affairs had been disease and pest damages, recurring droughts, inadequate spread of improved and adopted technology, insufficient and inappropriate research, poor extension and other services, and lack of rural infrastructure. The poor performance of the food and agricultural sector in many African countries reflected socio-economic as well as institutional constraints that inhibited the flow of resources to the sector and militated against enhanced productivity in rural areas.

90. Since the food crisis of the early 1970s, most African countries had assigned highest priority to the development of their food and agricultural sectors. Many delegates stated that their Governments view the development of the agricultural sector as the vehicle for stimulating national economic growth, bringing about a more equitable distribution of income between the rural and urban communities, and improving the standards of living of the rural population. It was with this broader development objective that most African Governments had conceived their food policies and programmes as an integral part of their national and sectoral plans. The Conference was informed that FAO was also taking this approach in assisting countries in the preparation of their food development strategies and programmes. The Conference welcomed the initiative taken by FAO for the launching of Strategy Review Missions which would help governments in carrying out their task of reviewing strategies, redesigning existing policies and programmes and identifying new priority ones. The Conference called upon UNDP and other financing agencies to provide the necessary funds to enable FAO to mount these missions.

91. In most of the African countries, 1980 marked the end year of the national development plans adopted in the late 1970s. As new development plans were now under preparation, the time was opportune for governments to reflect the objective of reversing the trend of declining food self-sufficiency by 1985 in the formulation of these plans. The Regional Food Plan, which provided for this purpose the sub-regional framework, deserved to be kept in view.

92. Delegates and representatives of inter-governmental organizations informed the Conference, about their policies, programmes and projects in response to the Arusha Resolution 4/78. The Conference noted with satisfaction that the activities undertaken were well in line with the priorities indicated in the Regional Food Plan, but it also expressed serious concern that the enormous efforts undertaken by governments and inter-governmental organizations with the support of international agencies, had not yet led to any reduction in the food gap. Much more concerted efforts, on a sustained basis, were needed to reverse the declining trend in food self-sufficiency. As conditions vary from country to country no standard "recipe" existed for governments to follow in their attempts to solve their food problems. But based on the information provided by delegates, the Conference was able to single out three priority areas for immediate and urgent attention: control of pests and diseases, training and strengthening of institutions at national, sub-regional and regional levels, mobilization of resource flows to the food and agricultural sector.

93. Pests and diseases were major constraints limiting crop and livestock production. The onchocerciasis programme was in a more advanced stage than the programme for the control of trypanosomiasis. A measure of control of onchocerciasis had been achieved and affected

countries with the support of FAO were to further strengthen their efforts to take advantage of this situation and resettle disease-free areas. The Conference, in particular, stressed the importance of the Programme on Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development, which was endorsed by the FAO Conference in 1979 and recalled the request made at the Ninth FAO Regional Conference held in November 1976 in Freetown to transfer the Coordinating Unit to the Region. It also emphasized the need and opportunity for utilizing large parts of the areas now infested by the tsetse fly for food and agricultural production. The Committee stressed the need for strong financial support to the Programme and recommended countries concerned to cooperate with FAO in its execution and to become members of the Commission on African Animal Trypanosomiasis.

94. The attention of the Conference was drawn to the danger of an upsurge of the African Migratory Locust from the Lake Chad Basin area which invaded Nigeria and Cameroon. Recurring outbreaks of the locusts (Desert Locusts, African Migratory Locust and Red Locust) in large parts of the region were a continuing and serious threat to the achievement of food self-sufficiency goals of many African governments. The Conference stressed the importance of further measures to strengthen and coordinate locust control activities in the region and established an ad-hoc working group in order to prepare a draft resolution for consideration at the Plenary Session of the Conference.

95. Weaknesses in agricultural services and institutions, as well as the critical dearth of trained staff were recognized as major constraints in many countries. In this connection the Conference noted with satisfaction that FAO attached highest priority to the crucial areas of institution building and training which were major components of FAO's field and regular programme activities. In many countries of the region FAO provided assistance for the training of extension staff both at the grassroot and the middle level. The Conference considered that governments with the support of FAO, should further intensify their efforts to improve national capabilities in policy formulation and planning and implementation of programmes and projects for agricultural and rural development.

96. The large number of inter-governmental organizations for economic and technical cooperation that existed in Africa, reflected the importance governments attached to this aspect of the New International Economic Order. In spite of the numerous and impressive array of efforts by these organizations, most of these organizations were facing major constraints which hampered their full impact on food production and security. As indicated by several delegates and observers these constraints include a critical shortage of competent professional and technical staff and lack of adequate and timely funding to finance their programmes and projects. The need for a better coordination and harmonization of the activities of these organizations was stressed.

97. The Conference considered the lack of adequate funding of food and agricultural development programmes and projects as a fundamental impediment to achieving the objectives of increased food production and food security. According to document ARC/80/5 substantial investments were required from both domestic and external sources. The share of agriculture in total investments in many national development plans had been unrealistically low and appeared inadequate to support the high growth rates planned for agricultural production. In this connection several delegates supported the suggestions made in paragraph 53 of document ARC/80/5 to determine adequate percentage shares of total investment and recurrent expenditures to be earmarked for agricultural development and food production.

98. Many delegates stressed the point that African countries, especially those poorly endowed with resources, needed a vastly increased and sustained flow of external funds compared with what they had been receiving in the last decade. All delegates warned that a too heavy reliance on external resources would make countries too dependent and would be in conflict with the Africa Strategy for Economic Development and self-reliance.

99. The important role that FAO and in particular its Investment Centre had in mobilizing necessary external resources, was stressed. The Conference also pointed out that the shortage of personnel trained in techniques of project analysis gave rise to series of obstacles in

the carrying out of investment programmes. To overcome this deficiency the Conference proposed that FAO intensified its programme of providing national, sub-regional and regional assistance in the training of personnel in project identification, formulation, evaluation and monitoring.

African Commodity Intelligence Service

100. The Conference considered this item on the basis of document ARC/80/6 and Supplement the latter being more recent, giving up-to-date information and evaluating the experience gained during the operation of the African Commodity Intelligence Service (AFCIS) pilot project.

101. The Conference expressed its satisfaction at the speed with which FAO had acted to implement the request of the last Regional Conference and to start up a pilot project in order to gain experience on the organizational, operational and financial requirements of an expanded and on-going Commodity Intelligence Service.

102. The Conference recognized the difficulties which the pilot project had experienced not only in terms of the limited resources available from the regular programme but also of the limited availability of suitable data which participating countries could provide. However, the Conference felt that an on-going and expanded service based in the region would make a real contribution to the expansion of intra-regional trade in staple food commodities.

103. The Conference agreed that the success of the service would require a strengthening of national agricultural reporting and marketing development services and that this should be an important objective of the next stage.

104. The Conference agreed that a step-by-step approach to the expansion of the Service would be required in view of the large number of countries in the region. This would maintain some flexibility but allow for gradual expansion. Special attention should be paid to the agro-socio-economic groupings of countries within the region which were often already relatively important trading partners. For the same reason, the Conference favoured a sub-regional approach, within an overall regional framework.

105. The Conference stressed the need for national liaison points in each participating country and for strong links with marketing projects and institutions as well as with parastatal and commercial trading bodies. In this regard, the Conference was informed of an ECA project which, with the support of USAID, was concerned with the support and strengthening of institutions in the Region dealing with food marketing.

106. A suggestion was made that, as AFCIS developed, the information generated on the availability and prices of food commodities in different countries might be used by a Regional Food Board. Such a Board could be responsible for building food reserve stocks, to be replenished regularly by Member Governments and international organizations and to be used to make up deficits in other countries, thus adding to regional food security. In this regard, particular attention was drawn to the possibilities of making better use of available protein foods. It was also suggested that each country should consider setting up a special unit dealing with food security.

107. It was suggested that, in the next stage of developing the service, it would be helpful to hold a meeting of representatives from participating countries, who had been involved in the pilot project or on related efforts to increase intra-regional trade. Such a meeting would provide valuable guidance for the further development of the service.

108. The Conference agreed that the next stage of developing the Service should be establishment, at locations within the region to be decided by participating countries, of a project with sub-regional components, along the lines suggested in the Secretariat paper. Financial support should be sought from the countries themselves and from external sources.

109. The Conference recommended that FAO should be requested, taking into account the comments summarized above, to consult with countries, regional and international organizations concerned in order to mobilize support for the proposal. The Conference further recommended that FAO should be requested to prepare a project proposal so that, as soon as financial support was obtained, the work of the pilot project would be continued and developed.

The Changing Law of the Sea and its Implications for Fisheries
Development and Management in Africa

110. The Conference considered this item on the basis of document ARC/80/7 and ARC/80/INF/4. It expressed appreciation on the analysis prepared by FAO. It noted the dramatic effects that the new ocean regime was having on national fisheries and there was general agreement that the analysis demonstrated the importance of extension of the fisheries jurisdiction to the Africa Region. With the reduction of international competition, the countries of the region would have better opportunities to develop their fisheries and processing methods more suitable to local conditions and to allocate to their small-scale fisheries increased shares of the resources they were controlling. It noted also the greater role which inland fisheries and aquaculture could play in augmenting the fish production of the region.

111. Extension of fisheries jurisdiction had strengthened the interest and commitment of governments towards accelerating the development of fisheries. There was an urgent need for governments to review and formulate fisheries development in the context of the changed circumstances and that fisheries development programme should be viewed as part of a government's overall economic policy. Within this context, fisheries could contribute to national objectives by providing needed food supplies, earning or saving foreign exchange, creating employment opportunities and improving socio-economic conditions in fishing communities. With respect to options for development, it was recognized that building local industries through local endeavours alone would be difficult. It was recognized also that at least initially the countries would have to rely on external sources of finance and technology through joint ventures to help accelerate the rate of development.

112. The attention of the Conference was drawn to the dangers of pollution to fisheries located in the EEZs around the continent of Africa and in inland lakes and rivers. It recommended that FAO in conjunction with other relevant international bodies intensify efforts in assisting member countries of the region in controlling and preventing pollution. The Conference expressed its appreciation on the training courses being offered by FAO on Aquatic pollution in relation to protection of living resources and recommended that this be continued on a sub-regional basis.

113. The Conference recommended that the following measures should be given the highest priority. The first would involve the strengthening of sub-regional cooperation for the assessment and monitoring of shared stocks and the formulation of concerted schemes for the management of such stocks. The second would concern the provision of technical advice in specialized fields such as fishery legislation, control and surveillance, prevention and control of pollution, fish and fishing technology, resource evaluation and management of fishery, development planning with emphasis on the formulation and implementation of schemes aiming at replacement of non-African fishing vessels. Finally priority should also be given to the development of new markets both within the region in countries with a deficit in production and outside the region, especially for high-value products. In addition training in all fields, which has remained an essential pre-requisite to ensure effective use of investments and new technology and full achievement of development plans, should also receive priority. The Conference suggested that FAO should consider the possibility of establishing a regional aquaculture training school for the Portuguese-speaking countries of the Region.

114. The Secretariat called the attention of the Conference to the FAO Programme of assistance to developing coastal states in the development and management of fisheries in extended zones of national jurisdiction launched in 1979 by the Director-General as specifically designed to meet the new challenges.

115. The Conference was informed that the programme has two specific aims: to meet the immediate identified needs of developing coastal states and to analyse how fisheries in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) could be developed and managed in the long-term.

116. In the short and medium term, activities within the programme included undertaking inter-disciplinary missions, on request, to assist countries to develop policies and plans; advising on specific questions ranging from resource assessment to national fisheries legislation and enforcement, training administrators and others responsible for the management and development of fisheries in Exclusive Economic Zones; mobilizing bilateral and multilateral funding and promoting collaboration in fisheries development and management through regional bodies and programmes.

117. The long term studies would centre primarily on issues arising in fisheries management at national, sub-regional and regional levels, for example shared stocks or surveillance and enforcement problems, and the preparation of development options based on socio-economic and technical studies of all aspects of fisheries.

118. The Conference noted that an essential characteristic of the programme would be delivered through a network of multi-disciplinary and locally based technical support units financed by UNDP along with contributions from other donors. These units have been designed to respond to the specific needs of groups of countries in natural resources management areas. The selection of these areas would be based upon such factors as shared stocks of fisheries, common problems or opportunities and other natural affinities among the countries concerned.

119. The Conference noted that approximately US\$ 35 million would be required over the next three years to plan and execute the EEZ Programme which would subsequently require extra-budgetary funding in the order of US\$ 18-20 million annually. It was informed that as a result of discussion held with UNDP and other donors, firm agreement had already been reached on the provision of about US\$ 13 million to finance the programme during the 1980-81 biennium. Additional support to the extent of some 8-9 million US dollars was at present being sought from potential donors.

120. The Conference recognized that the rate at which the EEZ Programme could be implemented and the expansion of the network of technical support units would depend upon the success which could be achieved in securing the additional extra-budgetary assistance required. It called upon the international community and other donor agencies to provide maximum support to the programme and endorsed the efforts being made by the Director-General to marshal necessary financial and other forms of assistance required. The Conference acknowledged the essential support already provided by UNDP.

121. Many delegations referred to the importance which should continue to be attached to the Inland Fisheries of the region and to aquaculture development. The Conference stressed the importance of inland fisheries as a source of food and rural employment, and that governments should channel more effort and investment towards developing these resources. The Conference was informed of the high priority being accorded by FAO to inland fisheries and aquaculture programmes which were regarded as complementary rather than competitive activities to marine fisheries. The Conference noted with appreciation the programme for artisanal fisheries development being prepared for operation under the Committee of Inland Fisheries (CIFA) including community fishery centres and the on-going activities of the Regional Aquaculture Training and Research Centre in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Several delegations commented on the need to give extra assistance and support to the inter-country programmes concerned with fresh waters and aquaculture.

122. The Conference strongly endorsed FAO's Programme of Assistance in the development and management of fisheries in extended zones of national jurisdiction and called on the UNDP and other donors to give it their full support.

123. The Conference established an informal group in order to prepare a "pre-draft" of a resolution on the Assistance to Development and Management of Fisheries in the Africa Region to be considered at the Plenary Session of the Conference. This informal group prepared a text which has been circulated as "Pre-draft Resolution 3/80" to the Conference.

Forestry and Rural Development with Special Reference
to Arid and Semi-Arid Zones of Africa

124. The Conference considered document ARC/80/8 on Forestry and Rural Development with special reference to arid and semi-arid zones of Africa. There was general agreement on the description and analysis presented on the ecological problems and the constraints to development that characterize these zones. It was noted that these problems and constraints affect most African countries as they have part or all of their territory under low and erratic rainfall.

125. The Conference agreed that dry lands have been highly vulnerable to erosion by wind and water, that there is a risk of degradation of these lands and that their loss to desert made them a concern of high priority. It further agreed that, in general, people living in these low rainfall areas have little benefits from social and economic progress while their traditional relationship to land has often been disrupted.

126. The Conference fully recognized the role that forestry could play in the development process under arid conditions through its contribution to food production, animal husbandry, fuelwood and charcoal production, generation of employment and income, provision of animal protein from wildlife, edible fruits and medicinal plants and environmental amelioration. It further recognized that the participation of the rural people living in arid and semi-arid zones in mobilizing the potential of forestry in rural development was of paramount importance.

127. The Conference noted with satisfaction the information provided by many delegates indicating the high priority currently accorded by their countries to the betterment of rural life and improvement of the human environment through communal forest plantations, village woodlots and other forestry activities with the participation of the rural people.

128. Considering the crucial role of forestry in protecting the environment, as well as an inseparable component of the total land use system as an important contribution to rural development in the region with emphasis to the arid and semi-arid areas, the Conference recommended that governments should (i) review and adjust where appropriate their land use policies, their legislative and administrative structures to ensure a systematic integration of forestry in rural development and adequate forestry inputs to national and regional development plans and programmes; (ii) involve the active participation of local people in forestry programmes and projects from the designing to the implementation stages; (iii) adopt adequate policies and institutional measures to extend technical and financial support to rural people so that they can integrate forestry into their land use practices; (iv) strengthen the training of forestry personnel at all levels and include appropriate elements in the content and orientation of courses to promote a better understanding of rural development and agricultural practices by the forestry profession; (v) include forestry elements in extension activities particularly to encourage the planting of trees by farmers and rural communities; (vi) include fuelwood production in their overall energy policy, particularly for rural areas through the growing of trees for fuel, the consideration of wood for energy as an integral component of forest management and the improvement of technologies and equipment for forestry, transport and conversion of wood into energy; (vii) envisage the use in rural areas of other sources of energy such as biogas, to eventually replace fuelwood use for domestic purposes; (viii) promote in collaboration with FAO, forestry research centres whose findings would be applied to arid and semi-arid areas for the purposes of increasing food production.

129. Recognizing that there has been considerable scope for intra-regional and inter-regional cooperation in enhancing the role of forestry in rural development, the Conference recommended that governments should further develop with the support of FAO and other international agencies the exchanges of knowledge and experience among foresters, rural planners and professionals of other relevant disciplines and that they coordinate their research efforts particularly in the use of improved tree species adapted to arid conditions and in the integration of trees and forests in their land use and agricultural production systems.

130. The Conference expressed its appreciation of the role of FAO in promoting forestry and its contribution to rural development in the region and recommended that FAO increase its resources to: (i) further support all those efforts by Governments aimed at integrating forestry in rural development policies, plans and projects; (ii) devote increased attention to forestry training and extension and support in particular the establishment of university level forestry education institution for francophone countries; (iii) include, where appropriate, forestry components in its agricultural and rural development projects; (iv) support research activities related to the role of forestry in rural development, particularly at regional and sub-regional levels; (v) assist in establishing regional or sub-regional data bases for facilitating storage and dissemination of data and information essential for integrated rural forestry development planning; (vi) assist the planning and investment analysis capacity of governments in order to attract financial and technical support from national sources and through bi- or multilateral channels for the implementation of forestry projects for rural development; (vii) step up its efforts in ensuring the availability of wood for energy through forest plantation and through improved forest management.

131. The Conference noted with appreciation the information provided by delegates and observers on the role of the WFP, the World Bank, the ECA, the OAU, the IUCN and certain industrialized countries in assisting African countries in their efforts related to environment conservation, forestry and rural development. It stressed that these organizations and countries, together with FAO, should increase and harmonize their activities to support countries of this region in solving the problems of forestry and rural development principally by enhancing national self-reliance, strengthening relevant national institutions and providing financial and technical support for execution of projects.

Representation of Africa on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

132. The Conference felt that because of the technical nature of research, it was essential to maintain continuity of representatives on this Group. Accordingly the Conference endorsed the extension of the terms of office of Kenya and Senegal for a period of two years, 1981-1982. In a brief statement both delegations of Kenya and Senegal thanked delegates for their re-electing them to serve on CGIAR.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

Consideration and Adoption of the Report

133. The Conference considered the report of the Technical Committee and adopted it by acclamation.

134. The Conference considered and adopted the following resolutions on: (i) Food Security; (ii) The Control of the Present Upsurge of the International African Migratory Locust; (iii) Programme of Assistance for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Africa Region; and (iv) Assistance to the Sahelian Countries.

RESOLUTION 1/80

Food Security

The Conference

Recalling Resolution 4/78 on the Regional Food Plan for Africa adopted at the 10th FAO Regional Conference in Arusha, Tanzania, in September 1978,

Recognizing that food security at the national level would, above all and particularly in the long run, depend on increased national food production and the reduction of post-harvest losses so that dependence on food imports could be reduced,

Aware that there is considerable scope for expanding food production in Africa, provided that appropriate policies, programmes and projects are formulated and provided that substantial resources both domestic and external are made available,

Noting that regional initiative such as sub-regional cereal reserve stocks, mutual food trade agreements and control of migratory pests are also important steps towards increased self-reliance within Africa,

Welcoming the initiative taken by the CILSS Council of Ministers, with the assistance of FAO, to examine actively the establishment of a coordinated national and sub-regional food security scheme, and the priority attention given to strengthening food security in the Declaration on Development Cooperation by the Summit Conference of the Southern African Heads of State at Lusaka,

Mindful of the fact that, at least for some time to come, some countries of the Region will continue to need concessional supplies of cereals due to difficulties in financing their import needs, whether required for immediate consumption or for the building of adequate reserve stocks,

Recalling Resolution 3/79 on World Food Security of the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference,

Convinced of the urgent need for all governments in the Region to implement, individually and collectively, the FAO Plan of Action on World Food Security in all its aspects,

Expressing grave anxiety at the critical food shortages currently affecting many countries in the Region, resulting from serious drought and other causes including political pressure,

Stressing that these current shortages demonstrate the continued vulnerability of many countries in the Region to food crisis owing to crop failures or other disasters - both natural and man-made, the low reserves, and the inadequate availability of food aid to meet serious shortages, and stressing the need to strengthen preparedness for meeting acute and large-scale food shortages,

Expressing serious concern that the minimum annual target of 500 000 tons of grain of the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR) has not been achieved and noting with satisfaction the decision of the Committee of Food Aid Policies and Programmes to consider at its Tenth Session the proposal of the FAO to develop the IEFR into a legally-binding convention,

Expressing disappointment that regular pledges to the WFP for the 1979-80 biennium corresponded to only about 84 percent of the target of 950 million, and that about 75 percent of the minimum pledging target of US\$ 1000 million for 1981-82 has so far been achieved,

Considering also that periodic shortfalls in domestic food production and increases in import lead to exceptionally large food import bills in many developing countries which imposes a heavy burden on their scarce foreign exchange resources and slows down the progress of their economic development,

1. Calls on Governments of the Region to intensify their efforts at national, sub-regional and regional levels to increase food production so as to lessen dependence on food imports; and requests the international community and donors to assist such governments to increase food production;
2. Appeals to the international community to provide additional aid as required to meet the current emergency needs in the Region;
3. Urges governments to develop the IEFR into a legally-binding convention as soon as possible, preferably for at least a three-year period, with a view to guaranteeing the availability of at least 500 000 tons of food per annum to be placed at the disposal of the WFP to meet the urgent and acute emergency requirements of developing countries;

4. Urges all governments in a position to do so to pledge resources to WFP so as to ensure that the targets for the 1979-80 and 1981-82 biennium are fully achieved;
5. Calls on governments of the Region represented on the Board of the International Monetary Fund to give most careful and urgent consideration to the proposal contained in the FAO Plan of Action on World Food Security regarding additional balance of payments support for meeting the rise in food import bills of low-income food-deficit countries, particularly in the event of domestic food shortages and rising import prices;
6. Recommends that all countries of the Region, and particularly those which are vulnerable to recurrent droughts and other natural disasters, take coordinated action by organizing arrangements for mutual assistance in times of crop shortfalls, giving priority attention to the possibility of the coordination of national reserves, and the facilitation of inter-state exchanges of basic foods;
7. Invites governments and the international organizations concerned to provide the necessary technical, financial and food assistance to food security projects in the Region, and through the participation of existing new donors, to strengthen the resources of the FAO Food Security Assistance Scheme and the FAO Programme on Post Harvest Losses.

RESOLUTION 2/80

The Control of the Present Upsurge of the International African Migratory Locust

The Conference,

Having reviewed the recent development of the new upsurge of the African Migratory Locust, arising from the Lake Chad Basin outbreak area, which already invaded parts of Nigeria and Cameroon and is causing serious damage to some crops,

Deeply concerned about the present successive breeding of the African Migratory Locust in Nigeria and the Cameroon within a vast area covering 400 000 km², despite control interventions by the International African Migratory Locust Organization (OICMA) and the national plant protection services of Nigeria and Cameroon,

Recalling the major plague caused by the same species of locust which lasted from 1928 to 1941 invading 32 sub-Saharan African countries, leaving in its wake famine, disease, and human misery,

Seriously concerned by the risk that the present upsurge, if not immediately controlled, may result in another general plague threatening the food security in a larger part of the continent,

Noting the control efforts undertaken so far, but recognizing the precarious financial situation of OICMA which renders it incapable of coping with the large infestation outside the well defined outbreak area, and aware of the limitations of the national plant protection services of Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad to cope with the present situation,

Concerned about the reappearance of locust upsurges during the past few years: the desert locust (1977-1979), the African Migratory Locust (1978-1980) and the Red Locust (1980),

Recognizing that the control of locust plagues requires a close collaboration between the national plant protection services and the regional organizations,

Recalling the importance of strengthening, and of ensuring the continuity and effectiveness, of the activities of the national plant protection services and of the Regional Locust Control Organizations (OCLALAV, OICMA, DLCO-EA and RLCO-CSA).

Recognizing the important role played by FAO since 1950 in the field of locust control, mobilization and coordination of aid supplied in this context to the governments and the Regional Organizations and the special attention granted by the Director-General to this problem,

Expressing its thanks to all the States and International Organizations which provide their assistance in locust control,

PART I (IMMEDIATE)

1. Earnestly urges the Governments of Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad to continue their efforts to avail all possible technical, material and financial resources in collaboration with OICMA and FAO to combat the present upsurge;
2. Invites the Governments of Member States of OICMA and of the other Regional Locust Control Organizations to discharge their financial obligations, making good any arrears, and provide voluntarily additional assistance to meet the present locust crisis;
3. Urgently appeals to the international community to offer its immediate assistance in personnel, equipment, pesticides and finance for the effective suppression of the present African Migratory Locust upsurge to avoid the spread of the swarms;

PART II (LONG TERM)

4. Appeals to the FAO in collaboration with the International Community, Donor countries and Member States of OAU to examine the possibility of ensuring technical and financial support to guarantee the efficient functioning on a permanent basis of the Regional Locust Control Organizations;
5. Recommends that the Member States of the Regional Locust Control Organizations, as well as the other Member States of OAU strengthen, with the assistance of the international community, their national plant protection structures to allow them to contribute effectively to locust control and to reduce as much as possible the losses caused by other plant and stored product pests;
6. Strongly suggest the replenishment of the reserve funds of the regional organizations for the purpose of meeting locust emergency situations; and,
7. Recommends that FAO continue to play its leading role in the coordination of the locust control efforts.

RESOLUTION 3/80

Programmes of Assistance for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Africa Region

The Conference,

Recognizing that fundamental changes in the regime of the oceans, and in the practice of States in regard to the extension of their jurisdiction over fisheries, offer unprecedented opportunities and entail concomitant responsibilities for coastal States to ensure the rational management and optimum use of the living resources off their shores;

Aware that these developments are a manifestation of and a contribution to the efforts to establish a New International Economic Order by securing control over and a more equitable share in the wealth of the sea by the coastal countries by encouraging self-reliance and by promoting greater opportunities for trade in fish and fishery products;

Realizing that in order to take full advantage of these opportunities and to discharge the responsibilities for managing fishery resources and utilizing them for overall social and economic benefit, many States of the Region will urgently need considerable assistance;

Convinced that FAO has the necessary competence and experience and has for many years made significant contribution to the development of fisheries and is now in a unique position to play a key role in assisting African coastal States in their efforts to meet these challenges;

Recognizing also that the optimum utilization of the fisheries resources in the Region requires the development of both coastal and deep sea fisheries, as well as inland fisheries and aquaculture, in particular small-scale fisheries conducted mainly by artisanal fishermen;

Realizing the importance and urgency of implementing the Director-General's new Programme of Assistance for the Development and Management of Fisheries in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ programme) through a network of sub-regional technical support units funded by UNDP to respond to the specific needs of groups of countries in natural management areas of the oceans surrounding the African continent or the inland water areas, based upon such factors as shared stock of fisheries, common problems or opportunities and other natural affinities among the countries concerned;

Further realizing that the urgent needs of the countries of the Region will require substantial additional inputs on a sustained basis over a number of years,

1. Calls on the African States to formulate and implement comprehensive policies and programmes to utilize their fishery resources in ways which meet social and economic objectives, as well as promote regional and subregional cooperations and ensure the sound management of these renewable resources;
2. Endorses the Director-General's proposals for a programme of assistance in the development and management of fisheries in the Region, including inter-country programme which it considers an excellent framework for the planning and execution of the assistance required by developing countries in the Region, and requests that these activities be continued and intensified;
3. Urges international, regional, bilateral and other donor agencies and financial institutions to give maximum support to the EEZ and inter-country programmes of assistance being provided by FAO and to increase their inputs towards the development, management and conservation of fisheries of countries in the Region;
4. Requests the Director-General to continue and intensify efforts to mobilize financial, technical and other forms of assistance required to implement the EEZ programmes including surveillance and other related programmes for the small-scale artisanal fisheries, inland fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the Africa Region; and,
5. Invites the Director-General to seek additional resources from the UNDP in the third programming cycle (1982-86) to support these important regional fisheries development programmes, particularly in the Eastern Central Atlantic, both northern and southern sectors, in the South-West Indian Ocean, in the field of aquaculture promotion and for inland fisheries activities concentrated on the major lakes and river basins shared by Member States.

RESOLUTION 4/80

Assistance to the Sahel Countries

The Conference,

Recalling Resolution 7/76 of the 10th Regional Conference held in Arusha and concerning drought problems in Africa and their implications on self-sufficiency in food,

Noting with satisfaction the permanent assistance which the Director-General of FAO is providing without cease to the member countries of the CILSS,

Welcoming the progress made by FAO in the feasibility study on food security stocks in the Sahel, requested by the CILSS Council of Ministers,

Noting: (1) that the major findings of the study with regard to the establishment of these Food Security stocks both at the national and regional levels will be discussed at a technical meeting in September/October 1980, between the countries concerned, the CILSS and FAO;

(2) that FAO will submit a project to the CILSS before the end of 1980,

1. Requests FAO to continue giving high priority to this project in view of its contribution to the improvement of food security in the Sahel;
2. Urges donors and international financing agencies, as soon as the project for the establishment of food security stocks both at the national and regional level is adopted by the CILSS Council of Ministers, to give it special attention by providing technical and in particular the necessary financial resources to enable the implementation of the projects as soon as possible.

Any Other Business

135. The Conference observed a one-minute silence in memory of the late Amos Adelola, Executive Secretary of the OAU Scientific Technical and Research Commission, who died during the Conference. On behalf of the Conference and himself, the Director-General sent three telegrams of condolences to the family of the deceased, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Secretary-General of the OAU.

Date and Place of the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Africa

136. The delegates of the Republic of Senegal and the Kingdom of Lesotho extended invitations of their Governments to host the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Africa in 1982.

137. The Director-General thanked the delegates for the kind invitation and indicated that, in consultation with Member Nations, he would give serious consideration to the invitation in arriving at a final decision.

Closing of the Conference

138. In his closing statement, the Director-General noted with appreciation the high level of representation at the Conference indicating the importance member countries attached to the food and agriculture situation in Africa. Country statements made during the Conference would help in shaping FAO Programme of Work in the Region. The Director-General also stated that he was gratified to note that FAO enjoyed considerable support in the Region, and on his part he would spare no effort in meeting the needs of Africa. FAO programme, he noted, already favoured the Region and he was particularly happy to note that several countries were already in the process of preparing or planning to formulate national food plans.

139. The Director-General expressed appreciation for the support given to a five-point Programme of Action for Food Security. In particular he expressed gratitude for the support received in favour of his proposal that the International Emergency Food Reserve should become a legally-binding convention including the proposal for balance of payments support for food deficit countries. He was also happy to note measures being taken by national governments to improve food security. He would, therefore, do his utmost to implement the recommendations regarding the Food Security Programmes.

140. He informed the Conference that he had been able to mobilize resources, although modest, from both bilateral and multilateral agencies to support the implementation of programmes such as WCARRD follow-up, Post-harvest Losses, Seed Development, International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, International Emergency Food Reserve, etc.. As regards trypanosomiasis control he expressed the hope that Zimbabwe would join the Organization soon so that its experience in the control of the disease could also benefit other countries. The Director-General informed the Conference that he had been able to alert the international community on the danger of the upsurge of locust in East Africa two years ago, and currently in West Africa. Response to his appeal has been encouraging. Because of this support, campaign against locust has been successful.

141. He further informed the Conference that resource mobilization would remain a cardinal pre-occupation of the Organization. In this respect FAO continued to enjoy cordial relation with both bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, many of whom continued to accord priority to agricultural development. The operation of the Technical Cooperation Programme had been beneficial in this respect and he promised to expand TCP resources. He further informed the Conference that he would take into account the problem of energy when considering future programme of work. He concluded his statement on the note that when he took over as Director-General, there were only 35 Africans under the Regular Programme but the number had been increased to 70 including two Assistant Director-General and two Divisional Directors.

142. The delegates of Tunisia, Mali and Swaziland expressed sincere appreciation for the excellent arrangements made by the Government of the Republic of Togo for the success of the Conference and the numerous facilities placed at the disposal of the participants which made their stay in the country a pleasant and memorable one. Thanks were also extended to members of the FAO Secretariat and all those who had worked hard to the success of the Conference. Mr. Anani Gassou also thanked all delegates for their valuable contributions to the proceedings of the Conference. He also thanked the members of the FAO Secretariat and all the local staff who had worked tirelessly to bring the Conference to a successful conclusion.

143. The Eleventh Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa was then declared closed.

A G E N D A

Technical Committee
(16-20 June 1980)

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening of Technical Committee
2. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda

II. SELECTED ISSUES OF AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Review and follow-up of the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) - African Region
 - 1a. Progress Report on the Establishment of the Regional Centre for Integrated Rural Development
2. Regional Implications of International Action to Strengthen World Food Security
3. Regional Food Plan for Africa (AFPLAN) - Follow-up Measures taken at National, Sub-Regional and Regional Levels
 - 3a. African Food Commodity Intelligence Service
4. The Changing Law of the Sea and its Implications for Fisheries Development and Management in Africa
5. Forestry and Rural Development with special reference to Arid and Semi-Arid Zones of Africa

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

APPENDIX A

ANNEXE B

Plenary Session
(23-27 June 1980)

IV. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda and Timetable

V. STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO

VI. STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

VII. STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

VIII. STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WFP

IX. GENERAL DEBATE ON THE SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA INCLUDING COUNTRY STATEMENTS

X. FAO PRIORITY PROGRAMME IN THE REGION

1. Implementation of the FAO Priority Programme in the Region
(Report by the FAO Regional Representative for Africa)
2. Activities of FAO Regional Bodies

XI. REPRESENTATION OF AFRICA ON THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (CGIAR)

XII. CONCLUDING ITEMS

1. Any other Business
2. Consideration of the Report of the Technical Committee
3. Consideration and Adoption of the Report
4. Date and Place of the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Africa
5. Closing of the Conference

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

ARC/80/1	Provisional Agenda
ARC/80/1(a)	Provisional Annotated Agenda
ARC/80/2	Review and Follow-up of WCARRD
ARC/80/3	Progress Report on Establishment of Regional Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Africa
ARC/80/4	Regional Implications of International Action to Strengthen World Food Security
ARC/80/5	Regional Food Plan for Africa - Follow-up measures
ARC/80/6	African Food Commodity Intelligence Service
ARC/80/7	The Changing Law of the Sea, its Implications for Fisheries Development and Management in Africa
ARC/80/8	Forestry and Rural Development with Particular Reference to Arid and Semi-Arid Zones of Africa
ARC/80/9	Implementation of the FAO Priority Programme in the Region
ARC/80/10	Activities of FAO Regional Bodies in the Region
ARC/80/11	Representation of Africa on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
<u>ARC/INF Series</u>	
ARC/80/INF/1	Information Note
ARC/80/INF/2	Provisional Timetable
ARC/80/INF/3	Provisional List of Documents

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

16-20 June 1980

Organization of the Committee

1. The Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held in the Maison du Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais, Lomé, Togo, from 16 to 27 June 1980. The Technical Committee Meeting which preceded the Plenary Session was held from 16 to 20 June 1980.

2. Delegates from 41 Member Nations, as well as observers from Member Nations outside the Region, Permanent Observer of the Holy See, Representatives of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, and observers from inter-governmental organizations and representatives of National Liberation Movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) attended the meeting. A full list of participants is given in Appendix B of the Conference Report.

Inaugural Ceremony

3. In his opening statement, Dr. Samba Cor Sar, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, paid tribute to the Government of the Republic of Togo for its warm hospitality and the facilities made available for the Technical Committee Meeting. On behalf of the Director-General, he welcomed the delegates and observers. He expressed regret for his inability to attend the last FAO Regional Conference for Africa held in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania but noted with great satisfaction the role Mr. Almamy Sylla, then the Representative of the Director-General, played in the conduct and deliberations of the Conference. Dr. Sar then invited Mr. Anani Gassou, the Minister of Rural Development to formally open the Meeting of the Technical Committee.

4. In a short welcome address, Mr. Anani Gassou, Minister of Rural Development of the Republic of Togo welcomed delegates to Lomé and wished them a pleasant stay in the capital. Mr. Gassou reminded the delegates of the gravity of food situation in Africa, a continent where an estimated 60 to 70 million people still did not have enough to eat. It was for this reason that no efforts should be spared in combating the menace of food shortages. He, however, noted with satisfaction that the deliberations of the Committee would focus on some cardinal aspects of agrarian structures with particular reference to food production and security including fishery exploitation, forestry and rural development. The discussion would enable delegates to map out the necessary scenario of the gravity of the food situation and changes needed in production patterns in order to tackle the problems.

5. Mr. Gassou regretted that the transfer of exotic technology has had a destabilising effect on the socio-economic evolution of African population through a systematic abandonment of traditional production methods. He noted, however, that Africa has become aware of the danger of heavy reliance on exotic technologies. To relieve Africa from the scourges of hunger, malnutrition, disease and ignorance, it has become necessary for Africa to achieve self-reliance in food supply through an indigenous development process with the active participation of the people who would remain the principal target for generating self-sustaining autonomous development.

6. As regards cooperation, Mr. Gassou noted that complementarity especially in horizontal and vertical relations existed which could promote the objectives of collective self-reliance, and the existing regional and sub-regional groupings manifested an awareness of this horizontal relationship. Efforts should therefore be directed towards setting up regional infrastructure in particular in the field of education and training, and scientific research.

7. Regarding vertical relations, Mr. Gassou drew the attention to a statement that 'equality within inequality is inequality'. He regretted that the North-South dialogue usually ensured that the inequality in economic relations was maintained in any mechanism designed to foster international relations. He appealed to delegates to adopt a coordinated approach so that a more meaningful establishment of the New International Economic Order would be envisaged.

8. Commenting on the declining food situation in Africa, Mr. Gassou regretted the continuing policy bias in favour of export crops at the expense of the food production sector. He appealed for an increase in efforts to step up food production to reverse the declining trend paying particular attention to the improvement of production structures and farmer incentives.

9. Mr. Gassou also expressed concern at the rapidly increasing urbanisation which was upsetting labour activity. He noted that if current development policy bias towards the urban centres continued, the problem of declining food production would not be reversed. This state of affairs would have an adverse effect on rural development because it would disintegrate social structures, destabilise the rural sector and render all efforts to modernise living conditions ineffective. He concluded his statement by once more drawing the attention of the Committee to the gravity of the food situation not only in Africa but also in the Third World in general.

Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur

10. At its first working session, the Committee elected Mr. Arouna Sema, Directeur-Général du Développement Rural, Ministry of Rural Development, the Republic of Togo, by acclaim as its Chairman. In a short acceptance speech, Mr. Arouna expressed his gratitude to the delegates for having been honoured by being asked to guide the deliberations of the Technical Committee.

11. The Committee then unanimously elected Mr. Bel Hadj Amor Mohsen, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to FAO, Rome, Mr. Amir A. Khalil, Permanent Representative of Sudan to FAO, Rome, as first and second Vice-Chairman respectively. Mr. A.M. Khoza, Director of Veterinary Services, Swaziland, was unanimously elected as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda

12. The Technical Committee considered and adopted the provisional agenda and timetable. The agenda as adopted is reproduced in Appendix A.

OFFICERS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Chairman	Sema Arouna
Président	(Togo)
First Vice-Chairman	Bel Hadj Amor Mohsen
Premier Vice-Président	(Tunisie)
Second Vice-Chairman	Amir A. Khalil
Deuxième Vice-Président	(Sudan)
Rapporteur	A.M. Khoza
	(Swaziland)

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