

100th Session

5 - 7 November 1991

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**REPORT OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS**

(Rome, 15 - 19 July 1991)

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(as of 19 July 1991)

**MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION
BY THE COUNCIL**

The Committee wishes to draw the attention of the Council to the following matters in particular:

1. Its review of the main issues in the world commodity situation and outlook (paras. 7 to 15).
2. Its review of the activities of the Intergovernmental Commodity Groups and the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal (paras. 16 to 36).
3. Its review of the implementation of a European single market (paras. 37 to 41).
4. Its review of recent developments in protectionism in agricultural trade and of selected issues in agricultural policy reform as (a) follow-up to Conference Resolution 2/79 and (b) follow-up to the GATT Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (paras. 42 to 62).
5. Its review of international action relating to agricultural commodities in other organizations (paras. 63 to 72).

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on Commodity Problems held its Fifty-eighth Session from 15 to 19 July 1991 at FAO Headquarters, Rome. Of the 78 member countries of the Committee for the biennium 1990-91, 61 were represented at the session. Five Member Nations of the Organization, one UN Member State, the Holy See and eleven international organizations participated as observers. The list of participants, including observers, is given in Appendix A.
2. The Session was opened by Mr H. Carandang, the outgoing Chairman of the Committee. The Committee thanked him for his services to the Committee and expressed its appreciation of the contribution which he made to its work.
3. The Committee elected Mr Sidaty Aidara (Senegal) as Chairman, Mr Waleed A. Elkhereiji (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) as First Vice-Chairman, and Mr Hagen Streichert (Germany) as Second Vice-Chairman.
4. The statement of the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, was delivered on his behalf by the Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department, Mr B.P. Dutia. The statement of the Director-General is reproduced in Appendix B.
5. In adopting the agenda reproduced in Appendix C, the Committee agreed to consider items 6(a) and 6(b) together and accordingly to transpose items 6 and 7.
6. The Committee was assisted during the Session by a Drafting Committee composed of the delegations of Australia, Belgium, Honduras, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, and the United States of America under the Chairmanship of Ms C.M. Ramirez de Lopez (Honduras).

II. REVIEW OF THE WORLD COMMODITY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

7. The Committee reviewed the world commodity situation and outlook on the basis of information contained in documents CCP: 91/16 and CCP: 91/22. The Committee generally agreed with the assessment presented in these documents.
8. The Committee noted that since its last session growth of the world economy had slowed and there had been decreases in the world market prices of commodities. It noted with concern that for commodities primarily exported by developing countries the decline in real prices was 9 percent between 1989 and 1990 and that for commodities primarily exported by developed countries the prices in real terms fell by 5 percent. The Committee was particularly concerned that since the beginning of the 1980s the real prices of agricultural exports from the developing countries had fallen by 35 percent, and for the developed countries by 17 percent.
9. The Committee noted with concern the large decreases in export prices of commodities of special importance to developing countries. Foremost amongst these were the beverage crops, and declines in prices of coffee and cocoa had been particularly large both between 1988 and 1990 and over the past decade. The real export prices of sugar, oilseeds and natural rubber, among other important export commodities of the developing

countries, had also continued to decline. Furthermore, the Committee noted that in the cases of coffee, cocoa and natural rubber, large stocks had been accumulated which would continue to place downward pressure on the international market with devastating effects on the economies of the producing countries.

10. The Committee noted that the Intergovernmental Group on Tea had undertaken an assessment of the influence of currency fluctuations on the international tea market. Some delegates considered that this analysis should be expanded to cover other commodities as fluctuations in currency exchange rates could impact on trade and foreign exchange earnings. It was suggested that when expanding such assessments, consideration be given to broadening the analysis by using a basket of currencies in addition to the US dollar.

11. The Committee noted that because increases in export volume had more than compensated for reductions in commodity prices there had been a global increase in real earnings or purchasing power of agricultural exports both in recent years and over the longer term. In 1989 the purchasing power of agricultural exports had increased 5 percent relative to 1988 and 10 percent relative to the level of the start of the 1980s, at the global level. However, the developing countries only registered increases of approximately half those for the world as a whole and the Committee noted with particular concern that the purchasing power of agricultural exports from many countries had actually declined. Between 1980 and 1989 decreases in the value of these exports in exchange for manufactured goods and crude petroleum had occurred in many countries of Africa where the decline was 28 percent, and in Latin America and the Caribbean where the overall decline was 18 percent.

12. Some delegations suggested that more attention be given to the medium-term outlook for individual commodities in order to facilitate decisions on investments, marketing and developmental strategies, particularly for those commodities facing structural surpluses. The Committee noted that a number of Intergovernmental Groups were undertaking such studies and the willingness of the Secretariat to consider extending this work in light of priorities of the individual Groups. The Committee also noted with approval that projections of prospects for all main agricultural commodities to the year 2000 were currently underway, to be completed in 1992, in a number of instances in close collaboration with other commodity bodies. As regards the longer term, the Committee noted that the FAO study Agriculture Toward 2000 (AT 2000) was to be updated for the 27th FAO Conference in 1993.

13. The Committee noted that imports of food by the developing countries rose 14 percent in 1989 to US\$ 61 000 million. These imports exceeded their earnings from food exports of US\$ 48 000 million, by an unprecedented amount. Delegations from developing countries expressed their deep concern that this deterioration had further exacerbated the severe debt problem confronting their countries including the low-income food-deficit countries and had led to undesirable changes in dietary patterns and greater dependency on imports. These delegations considered that greater attention should be given to stimulating the production and productivity of traditional foods such as roots and tubers and others and their utilization in developing countries, supported by multilateral and bilateral technical and financial assistance. In this regard, the Committee noted work already undertaken by FAO in analysing the role of staple foods in meeting domestic and regional food requirements and expressed the desire that this work be expanded and that the various Intergovernmental Groups or Committees should follow this up.

14. For 1991 the Committee noted that the slight growth of the world economy that had been forecast was more likely to be accompanied by higher prices for manufactured goods than an overall increase in agricultural commodity prices. For many exporters of agricultural commodities a negative influence on their prices was likely to be a further increase in the quantities offered on the world market. In particular it was expected that the large existing stocks would continue to constrain prices for cocoa, coffee, rubber, dairy products and wool on world markets. However, forthcoming harvests were expected to be influential particularly for those commodities such as rice, cotton, jute and oilseeds, for which stocks were insufficient to compensate for possible production shortfalls.

15. The Committee considered that the deterioration in world agricultural trade was reflected in most indicators of trade performance both for developing and developed countries. The Committee therefore underlined the need for major trade reform and the importance of achieving an early and successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The Committee also noted that activities of FAO Intergovernmental Groups now designated as International Commodity Bodies by the Common Fund for Commodities could make a significant contribution to the improvement of agricultural trade of developing countries.

III. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMODITY GROUPS

16. The Committee reviewed the activities of the Intergovernmental Groups (IGGs) and progress made in their work on the basis of the reports of those Groups which had met since the Committee's last session.

17. The Committee endorsed the following reports of its Intergovernmental Groups:

- Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres: Twenty-fifth Session, October 1989 (CCP: 91/5); Twenty-sixth Session, October 1990 (CCP: 91/9).
- Rice: Thirty-third Session, March 1990 (CCP: 91/7); Thirty-fourth Session, March 1991 (CCP: 91/12).
- Oilseeds, Oils and Fats: Twenty-third Session, March 1990 (CCP: 91/6); Twenty-fourth Session, June 1991 (CCP: 91/14).
- Hard Fibres: Twenty-third Session, October 1989 (CCP: 91/3); Twenty-fourth Session, October 1990 (CCP: 91/10).
- Bananas: Eleventh Session, October 1989 (CCP: 91/4); Twelfth Session, June 1991 (CCP: 91/13).
- Grains: Twenty-fourth Session, November 1990 (CCP: 91/11).
- Tea: Eighth Session, October 1990 (CCP: 91/8).
- Citrus: Eighth Session, September 1989 (CCP: 91/2).

18. In endorsing these reports, the Committee expressed its appreciation for the work of the Groups and generally, supported the recommendations made. It appreciated the continued usefulness of the Groups in enhancing market transparency, in identifying and analysing problems and in seeking suitable remedial measures.

19. The Committee welcomed a significant development which had taken place since its last session, i.e. the decision taken by the Executive Board of the Common Fund for Commodities at its Fifth Meeting in February 1991, to designate eight FAO Intergovernmental Groups, plus the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade as International Commodity Bodies (ICBs). The Committee noted that the Groups' functions as ICBs were to identify, prepare and sponsor research and development and market promotion projects for financing by the Fund's Second Account. The designation of these bodies reflected the international standing of the IGGs and provided a new dimension to their activities. The Committee noted further that with the exception of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, all the FAO bodies designated came under its own jurisdiction, i.e. the Intergovernmental Groups on Bananas; Citrus Fruit; Hard Fibres; Meat; Oilseeds; Oils and Fats; Rice; Tea and the Sub-Group on Hides and Skins. In some cases, namely bananas, meat, oilseeds and hard fibres, work had been underway for some considerable time to develop project proposals. In the case of bananas and oilseeds priorities had already been established by the Groups and they would be established at the forthcoming Session of the IGG on Hard Fibres. Project identification work had begun on citrus and rice and was underway on tea and on hides and skins.

20. Regarding the Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats, a large number of delegates recalled the strong and continuing opposition voiced by many countries, including the Cairns Group and ASEAN, to the rebalancing proposal made by the EC at the Uruguay Round of MTNs since in their view this proposal would introduce a high level of protection for EC oilseeds and cereal substitutes. They noted that the EC Council of Ministers had not yet pronounced itself on a reported modified proposal to exclude the oilseeds sector from rebalancing, and that therefore the original proposal was still on the table. Thus, they felt that the concern of many countries was reflected, and was still being reflected, in the appeal made by the Philippine delegate at the 24th session of the Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats to the EC Commission, the EC Council of Ministers and the governments of the EC member states to withdraw officially, categorically, definitely and definitively the rebalancing proposal.

21. The Committee noted the statement of the observer of the EC, speaking on behalf of the EC member states. He reviewed the recent evolution of the Community oilseed sector and also explained that the EC Council of Ministers was currently considering proposals by the EC Commission to reform the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), including the oilseeds sector. A decision on the latter was scheduled for 31 October 1991 in order to respond to the conclusions of the GATT "soya panel". Questioned, he stated that the proposals for the reform of the CAP, which were not part of the Uruguay Round negotiations, did not include proposals on rebalancing which are part of the Community's offer in the Uruguay Round, but the reform was expected to result in a better balance of the EC's agricultural commodity sectors. As to the rebalancing proposal in the Uruguay Round, the Commission as the Community's negotiator had indicated during the Ministerial Meeting in December 1990 where flexibility might be possible within a global and balanced solution. These questions were further pursued in the Community's institutions and within the GATT and it would therefore be difficult for him to go into further detail on this subject at this Session.

22. As regards the Intergovernmental Group on Rice, several delegates commended the special study on the Cost of Producing Rice in Selected Countries, especially given the difficult nature of the task, but said that a direct comparison of cost was of limited use in

view of the inconsistencies of the data on costs provided by countries. Several other delegates pointed to its usefulness to exporting and importing countries as well as for identifying new technologies and requested that more in-depth analysis be made in selected countries. In this connection, some delegates stressed the importance of including China in future studies on rice policies and costs of production. Some delegates also suggested that in reviewing countries' rice policies more attention should be paid to the implications that structural adjustment programmes have had on these countries.

23. Some delegates stressed the importance of the Guidelines for national and international action currently followed by various intergovernmental commodity groups and the need to revise these Guidelines to take account of current conditions. They noted that both the Intergovernmental Group on Rice and the Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats had agreed to postpone the discussion of whether the Guidelines needed to be revised until after the outcome of the Uruguay Round was known, so that this outcome could be taken into account in revising them.

24. Regarding the Intergovernmental Group on Grains, the Committee shared the view that cyclical shifts from surplus to tight supplies would remain a feature of the world grain economy in the future. Some delegates expressed the view that agreement under the the Uruguay Round negotiations could even increase such variations in global supplies. In their view, declining government involvement in supply management programmes would reduce the volume of world stocks and global supply of grains would increasingly reflect the impact of annual variations in climate on production. They added that even if global grain trade were liberalized, government interventions would be indispensable to ensure a certain level of domestic supply, especially in the developing countries: in certain other countries it might be sufficient for governments to undertake measures to protect the resource base and/or storage policies. Some other delegates disagreed with this view and were of the opinion that the most constructive and appropriate activity for governments was to ensure a free and fair trading system and that those involved in production, processing and marketing activities had the necessary information for decision taking. The Committee appreciated the Group's discussion of the possible effects of trade liberalization on the size of cereal stocks and endorsed the decision of the Group to continue work in this field. It suggested in particular an investigation of the relationship between private and government stocks as well as the modalities of their build-up and release. The Committee also encouraged the Group to continue its analytical work on traditional grains.

25. Regarding the IGG on Hard Fibres and its Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries, the hope was expressed that the price arrangements operated by the IGG would mitigate the impact of declining market prices on the economies of producing countries and ensure a better remuneration to hard fibre producers. In this context it was mentioned that the relative long-term friendliness towards the environment of the use and disposal of hard fibres provided an advantage to these natural fibres over their competing synthetic substitutes, an aspect which had been highlighted by the Group.

26. Regarding the Intergovernmental Group on Tea, the Committee affirmed the high importance which the Group gave to tea promotion in increasing tea consumption. The Committee agreed that promoting tea as a healthy drink would be an essential component of any generic promotion campaign for tea. Some delegates saw little need for the Group to become involved in researching health aspects as the WHO would be better suited to assume

this task. The Committee took note of the suggestions of a number of delegates that funds available under the Second Account of the Common Fund might be used to establish regional, or international, networks on tea for research, training, promotion and trade.

27. Regarding the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres, the Committee noted that in its efforts to improve the conditions under which jute and kenaf fibres were marketed, the Group had continued to operate informal price arrangements and to set realistic indicative price levels. The Committee also noted the work of the Group relating to the environmental impact of natural fibres versus synthetics, particularly in the packaging sector. The Committee agreed to the Group's proposed programme of work, in particular with regard to monitoring the competitive position vis-à-vis synthetics. The Committee considered that the activities of the Group in the economic field were complementary to the project work being carried out by the International Jute Organisation, and approved the close working relations established between the two bodies. One delegate informed the Committee of a large-scale kenaf rehabilitation programme being undertaken in his country for the development of raw material for the pulp and paper industry, and requested technical assistance from FAO in this endeavour.

28. Regarding the Intergovernmental Group on Bananas, the Committee noted the underlying strength of the international banana market in recent years which had enabled increasing quantities to be absorbed at relatively firm prices. It also noted that a new and favourable development had been growth in markets of Eastern Europe and the USSR, as well as in developing countries of the Near and Far East. A number of delegates, however, expressed some concern that the present market balance could be endangered if banana exporting countries did not retain free access to their traditional markets and apprehension regarding the possible impact of a single Community market as from 1 January 1993. They emphasized that the best way to enhance growth in the world banana market would be through further trade liberalization and considered that bananas needed to be included in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. In this connection the Committee took note of the statement of the observer of the European Community, speaking on behalf of the EC member states, that in considering proposals for bananas, the Community would take account of all interests at stake in accordance with the declaration of broad objectives and principles of cooperation which had been made at the Eleventh Session of the Intergovernmental Group held in Guayaquil, Ecuador in 1989. The view was expressed that the balance achieved on the world market was precarious and that the danger of over production in the future would exist. The advisability of increased diversification efforts should therefore be stressed.

29. The Committee noted with satisfaction the progress made in completing the revised Banana Improvement Programme and endorsed the Group's recommendation that it be submitted to the Common Fund as soon as practicable. It stressed the need to expand further the Group's banana information network, and in particular supported the medium-term outlook work undertaken on a regular basis by the Group.

30. Regarding the Intergovernmental Group on Citrus Fruit, the Committee noted that the Group had initiated a programme of work which included the assessment of developments and prospects in the global citrus economy, the strengthening of its information network to improve market transparency, and the monitoring of national and international citrus policies. In response to the recommendations of the Eighth session of the Group, an Inter-American

Citrus Network had been established in early 1991 to coordinate developmental efforts on citrus production and to improve the transfer of information and technology. The Committee noted that participating countries were in the process of defining the initial programme of activities of the Network in both the economic and the technical fields, and these would be closely coordinated with and carried out under the broad umbrella of the Group.

31. The Committee noted that the IGGs on Wine and Vine Products and on Meat as well as the Sub-Group on Hides and Skins had to be postponed until early 1992. In regard to the last mentioned commodity an ECDC Workshop on Trade in Hides, Skins and their Derived Products was scheduled to be held in Zimbabwe at the end of July 1991.

IV. REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURPLUS DISPOSAL (CSD)

32. The Committee expressed appreciation for the work of the CSD, the contribution of the Chairman, Dr Akbar Ali Khan of Bangladesh, and his concise summary of the Thirty-third Report of the Subcommittee contained in document CCP: 91/17. The Committee endorsed the Report of the Subcommittee.

33. Several delegates emphasized the importance of the Subcommittee in reviewing food aid transactions and supported its role in overseeing the effective implementation of the Principles of Surplus Disposal concerning procedures for the notification, consultation and reporting of food aid transactions and the establishment of usual marketing requirements. They supported the Principles as an important tool in ensuring that food aid did not adversely affect commercial agricultural markets.

34. Several other delegates while endorsing the useful and continuing role of the Subcommittee were of the view that its efforts in regard to the application of the Principles should be strengthened, especially in regard to the notification and consultation procedures. Some delegates also referred to the possibility that the disposal of agricultural commodities in the form of food aid might increase as a result of the Uruguay Round negotiations and to the need for immediate increased cooperation between the CSD and the GATT to ensure that any new procedures and disciplines regarding export subsidies were followed.

35. A request was made for FAO to reinstate the provision of maize trade data which was of great value in the calculation of usual marketing requirements. The Committee was informed that these data were in the final stage of compilation and would be provided soon to the CSD.

36. The Committee appreciated the important function of the CSD in monitoring transactions involving the disposal of surplus commodities and its invaluable role in ensuring, through continuing review of bilateral and multilateral assistance, that normal commercial trade was not displaced nor local production discouraged.

V. SELECTED COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES: IMPLICATIONS OF A EUROPEAN SINGLE MARKET

37. The Committee reviewed this subject on the basis of document CCP: 91/19 and information provided by the observer from the European Commission, speaking on behalf of the EC member states. The Committee welcomed the document, which described and discussed the consequences for agriculture of the process underway in the European Community to complete the internal market in the Community by the end of 1992. The Committee recognized that the process leading to the single market was not yet complete and therefore that it was not yet possible to undertake a full assessment of the implications of the single market. In particular the Committee noted that the Commission had not yet made proposals on common rules for potatoes, alcohol or bananas; on transitional measures for Spain and Portugal; on the cereals co-responsibility system; and on the agrimonetary system including "green rates", monetary compensation amounts and the "switchover coefficient", matters that were linked to the question of monetary union in the Community. It was not clear therefore in which way there would be a completed single market for agricultural products by the beginning of 1993.

38. The Committee recognized that the EC had a number of special policies for particular commodities that led to differences in the way that these commodities, including sugar, milk, sheep meat, beef, potatoes, bananas, fruit and vegetables, were treated among member states. The Committee noted that there would be a number of other changes in other policies, including indirect taxation, transport and finance, that could have a significant impact on the agricultural sector. In addition it was likely that the single market could lead to a rise in real incomes and have other macro-economic effects on wages and costs of capital within the Community that could have an impact on agriculture. The Committee noted the conclusions of the Secretariat paper that the results of the single market would be a mixture of trade diversion and trade creation, and that implications for third countries varied considerably depending on the future evolution of the common agricultural policy decisions regarding adaptation of the special policies for commodities such as bananas, the outcome of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, the impact of the single market on incomes and efficiency, and on how far and how fast the programme would be achieved.

39. The Committee noted that the Community was implementing many directives concerning harmonized rules in sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, whereas for quality standards the approach was based on comprehensive labelling and on the principle of mutual recognition. Several delegates expressed concern at the possibility that harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary regulations could lead to a reduction in access to EC markets for third country exports. They stressed that the harmonization process should not lead to the adoption of unnecessarily strict standards or standards not based on sound scientific principles and therefore urged that the process should be as transparent and open to third country comments as possible. Several other delegates expressed their concern that the market for tropical fruit and vegetables for Central and South American exporters could be reduced in the single market process.

40. The observer of the EC Commission replied that when harmonized rules were required to safeguard human, animal and plant health, they were limited to what was absolutely necessary and that third country exporters could have recourse to GATT procedures and to legal procedures in the Community. He added that the two principles

being followed were no internal trade barriers and equal treatment for imports and domestic produce. He also re-emphasized the positive effects which the single market could have for third country investors and exporters.

41. Several delegates welcomed the moves towards European integration and, on balance, felt that the single market could offer a real and significant prospect for simplified and liberalized trade with the EC. They also stressed the need for careful monitoring of developments in the single market by the CCP and for extensive consultation on the single market process. The Committee welcomed the assurance given by the observer of the EC to provide the CCP with information on the single market process and to hold consultations with interested countries.

VI. FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO CONFERENCE RESOLUTION 2/79 ON COMMODITY TRADE, PROTECTIONISM AND AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

(a) Developments in Protectionism in Agriculture; and

(b) Follow-up to the GATT Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations

42. The Committee undertook its regular review of developments related to protectionism in agriculture and action taken on Conference Resolution 2/79 on the basis of document CCP: 91/18. It agreed that the document presented a generally balanced overview and analysis of developments in policies and programmes relating to agricultural protectionism. Some delegations provided clarifications and additions to the information in the document.

43. The Committee noted that in the two years since its previous session there had been numerous moves towards a greater orientation of agricultural production to market conditions. In this connection there had been major changes in the countries of the OECD, USSR, Eastern Europe and in the developing countries. However, overall there were still high levels of protection of domestic markets in many agricultural products. In particular the level of agricultural protection in OECD member countries had risen to a record level in 1990. The Committee noted that the level of protection as measured by the Producer Subsidy Equivalent (PSE) in these countries had reached US\$176 000 million according to the OECD Secretariat estimates. Even when the overall level of the PSE for most countries was expressed in their own currency it was still higher than its previous peak. Calculations by the OECD Secretariat also showed that the average level of incentives to agricultural production of member countries in 1990 was 74 percent above levels available from international markets, an increase from the figure of 64 percent in 1989.

44. The Committee also noted that changes in the level of protection, as measured by the PSE, were more a reflection of movements in the levels of prices in international trade than due to changes in policies bearing on protectionism. Some delegates also noted that the benefits to exporters of the small increases in market access that had occurred had been nullified by the decline in prices on international markets.

45. The Committee deplored that agricultural trade protectionism had grown during the past decade as reflected in measures of support and protection. While there had been few instances of significant improvements in market access conditions for some developing countries, subsidization of exports had caused even greater distortions in world agricultural trade.

46. Many delegates stressed the economic and social dimensions of the problems associated with agricultural protectionism, especially in many Third World countries. It was also pointed out that those countries that had reduced protection had to deal with the potentially negative effects of these changes on their farmers and rural communities. However it was also stressed that support to farmers provided through trade-distorting support measures was inefficient and had a negative impact on the development of many economies. Several delegates stressed the need for expanded analysis of the impact of trade liberalization on the developing countries in particular, including on how reductions in protection would enable developing countries to expand their exports and on how it would affect the costs of food in these countries.

47. The Committee welcomed the expansion of the review to cover moves towards a more market oriented economy in the USSR and Eastern Europe and asked that this be featured also in future reviews. The Committee urged that the granting of preferential access to exports from these countries should not be at the expense of other exporters and should instead be part of a general reduction in protection.

48. The Committee noted with concern that increased taxes on coffee and cocoa in certain countries could impede market access for these products and urged that all possible measures be taken to assist producers of these commodities, the majority of whom were Third World countries, in obtaining market access.

49. The observer from the European Community, speaking on behalf of the EC member states, stressed the Community's commitment to supporting the reforms in the USSR and Eastern Europe.

50. The Committee reviewed developments in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, on the basis of document CCP:91/21, and information provided by the observer of the GATT. The Committee welcomed the Secretariat study, which reviewed the developments in the Negotiations since 1989, examined the main issues in the Negotiations, and discussed the costs of failure and the rewards of success of the negotiations, including the implications for developing countries. A number of delegates provided clarifications and additional information on the positions of their countries at the Uruguay Round.

51. The GATT observer described recent developments, including the consultations undertaken by the GATT Director-General which led to an agreement to relaunch the negotiations in February 1991. The observer from the GATT also informed the Committee of the new negotiating structure and of the tabling of the Chairman's "options" paper in July 1991 that set out the alternatives before the negotiators.

52. The Committee emphasized the need to intensify efforts for a successful and rapid conclusion of the Uruguay Round preferably before the end of 1991. The indispensability of successful negotiations on agriculture to a successful conclusion to the Round as a whole was

emphasized even though negotiations on other sectors were of vital importance. In agriculture this would include agreement on the key issues of domestic support for agriculture, market access and export competition, as well as provision relating to sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The Committee stressed that a successful agreement on agriculture would require initiating the process of reform of the trading rules for agriculture, lead to a substantial reduction in the level of support and result in a change in the instruments used to support agriculture. The need for special and differential treatment of developing countries was stressed.

53. Several delegates stressed the importance they attached to the tariffication of non-tariff barriers, the re-instrumentation of domestic support away from trade distorting forms of support, substantial expansion of market access and drastic reduction of export subsidies. They added that agricultural trade liberalization could contribute to commodity price stabilization but noted that high tariffs in combination with special corrective factors, for instance for exchange rate fluctuations, could destabilize markets.

54. The Committee took note of the declaration of the OECD Council at Ministerial Level and the World Food Council Ministers that a successful outcome to the Uruguay Round had the highest priority and declaration of other groups, including the Ministers of the Cairns Group and of the European Council to similar effect.

55. The Committee agreed that failure to conclude a successful agreement on agriculture or to agree on only weak provisions relating to agriculture would have a highly negative impact on agricultural trade, including a likely increase in protectionism and use of export subsidies. Potential difficulties would be faced by countries undergoing structural adjustment and/or transition to market economies, including many developing countries and countries of Eastern Europe.

56. With respect to market access, the Committee stressed that improvements in this area were essential to a successful outcome to the Uruguay Round and noted with concern a number of protectionist measures which went against the principles enunciated in Conference Resolution 2/79, in the Punta del Este declaration which launched the Uruguay Round, as well as in the Uruguay Round Mid-Term Review in April 1989. Many delegates noted that the European Community (EC) had tabled a proposal at the Uruguay Round which included the concept of "rebalancing" the Common Agricultural Policy by reducing protection currently granted to EC cereal production and increasing border protection for oilseeds and oilmeals and a number of other cereal substitutes. It also noted that, at the ministerial Meeting of the Uruguay Round Trade Negotiations Committee in December 1990, the EC had introduced an element of flexibility in its rebalancing proposal consisting in the conditional offer to exclude oilseeds from it, which had not been officially confirmed by the EC Council of Ministers. Many delegates regretted that the earlier proposal still appeared to be on the table despite the appeals to the EC to withdraw it which were made at the Committee's last session and at the last two sessions of the Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats (see para. 21 of Section III of this report). In their view, the proposal was not acceptable, not only because it contravened Conference Resolution 2/79, but also because, especially in the case of oilseeds, it would add a strong element of protectionism to a sector where EC production was already very heavily subsidized and was still expanding. Despite the Maximum Guaranteed Quantity (MGQ) system introduced in 1986 there had been an import substitution effect as well as the need to subsidize exports.

57. Many delegates stated that the rebalancing proposal contradicts the objective of the GATT agricultural negotiations as stated in the Uruguay Round Mid-Term Review agreement and felt that it could jeopardize the outcome of the Round. They also felt that the loss of market opportunities likely to result from its implementation would greatly damage the exporting countries particularly developing countries which depended on the EC import market as an important outlet. They also stated that the EC oilseed production was still increasing and thereby replacing imports.

58. The Observer of the EC, speaking on behalf of the EC member states, stated that the objective of the EC's Uruguay Round proposal was to achieve a lower overall level of support and protection for EC agriculture, and that the rebalancing proposal was therefore in conformity with the Punta del Este Declaration and the Mid-Term Review agreement. He said that during the ministerial negotiations in Brussels in December 1990, the Community delegation had indicated where a conditional flexibility would be possible within the context of a global and balanced solution. He added that EC officials confirmed that this offer of flexibility was still valid. The matter however, should be discussed in the GATT which was the appropriate forum. Regarding the degree of protection currently granted to EC oilseeds, he stated that support prices had been substantially reduced following the introduction of the MGQ system and that, as a result, EC oilseed production had, despite fluctuations, been stable since 1987.

59. Many delegations expressed disagreement with the EC rebalancing proposal for the reasons already indicated above.

60. Regarding the special and differential treatment of developing countries in the Uruguay Round, several delegates outlined their proposals on how to meet the needs of these countries. These included the general recognition that measures adopted should be applied with lower cuts and a longer period of adjustment. The Committee recognized the particular needs of the low-income developing countries. Some delegates stressed the desirability of providing assistance to developing countries so as to enable them to meet higher standards that might emerge from agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Some delegates encouraged additional analytical work on the impact of trade liberalization on developing countries, pointing to studies that appeared to indicate that trade liberalization may not raise cereals prices as much as originally believed.

61. In line with the agreement in the Twenty-fifth FAO Conference for the increased involvement of FAO in international trade relating to the Uruguay Round and its follow-up, the Committee urged that FAO continue its support for the Uruguay Round and for the provision of technical and other assistance to interested participating countries.

62. The Committee made a number of suggestions for further analysis by the Secretariat. In particular it suggested that the Secretariat analyse the impact of trade liberalization, including changes in sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, on developing countries and particularly the low-income countries, and the effects of closer linkage of domestic and international agricultural markets on low-income countries and on the USSR and Eastern Europe. The Secretariat was also requested to analyse ways to ease the transition of low-income countries to conditions of less protected agricultural markets with special consideration being given to the problems faced by low-income food-deficit countries.

VII. INTERNATIONAL ACTION RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES - DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

63. The Committee welcomed document CCP: 91/20, which had been prepared for this agenda item and reviewed recent developments in international action concerning agricultural commodities, as well as the related role of FAO. Some delegates clarified or presented information supplemental to that presented in the document. Information on developments in the Common Fund for Commodities, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) was provided by observers from these organizations.

64. The Committee, noting the limited resources of the Common Fund's Second Account and competition for resources from other ICBs, stressed that the FAO Intergovernmental Groups (IGGs) designated as ICBs should be very selective in recommending projects for submission to the Common Fund and that proposals should meet the highest technical standards. The favourable impact this would have on the Common Fund selection process was underlined by the observer of the Common Fund, who also informed the Committee that the Common Fund could not afford to finance projects which did not convincingly justify costs measured against benefits. Some delegates also pointed to the desirability of co-financing, which the observer of the Common Fund clarified could come from bilateral as well as multilateral donors and from the private sector. Some delegates urged that FAO and the IGGs should assist in securing co-financing resources and that the Second Account of the Common Fund should be expanded.

65. The Committee discussed some other implications of the designation of the IGGs as ICBs in regard to project identification, preparation and sponsoring. A suggestion was made that the CCP might, where appropriate, assume the role of supervisory body of projects sponsored by its IGGs/ICBs. Many delegates, however, stressed that the IGGs themselves, or technical groups established by the IGGs, should serve as supervisory bodies of selected projects. It was recognized that for practical purposes and in view of the considerable technical knowledge required in judging the adequacy of implementation of projects in a number of technical areas, the assignment of project monitoring and supervisory functions would have to be decided in a flexible way on a case-by-case basis and, *inter alia*, bearing in mind the specific conditions applying to various commodities. In this connection, some delegates opposed having the same entity supervise and execute projects. The observer from the Common Fund indicated its preference that implementation and supervision should be carried out by different entities. In this connection, it was noted that the ICBs were constituted by the representatives of Member Governments and that the executing agency would normally be a technical body. The Committee considered that these issues should be examined further with a view to establishing the most harmonious and efficient relationship possible with the Common Fund. It was suggested that a working party, perhaps drawn from Rome-based representatives to the Committee, be set up for this purpose. The Committee agreed that it should continue to be apprised of developments regarding the Common Fund. It was also requested that the institutional and operational development of the Common Fund and its implications on FAO be the subject of a specific agenda item for the next session of the CCP.

66. With respect to recent developments in the Common Fund for Commodities, the observer of the Fund explained that it has now entered its operational phase, receiving and processing project proposals for eventual selection for financing. In response to questions from delegates, he clarified that the initial indicative allocation for disbursements in 1991 under the Fund's second account was approximately US\$ 19 million and that a larger amount was expected to be made available in 1992. There were 21 bodies now designated by the Common Fund as International Commodity Bodies (ICBs); of these 20 were concerned with agricultural commodities. Thus, agricultural commodities would feature prominently in its activities. The observer also stated that the Common Fund's rules prohibited over-concentration on a single commodity and gave special emphasis to projects benefiting the least-developed countries and other small producers/exporters.

67. With respect to regional trade developments, the Committee took note of the vigorous expansion of regional trading schemes, such as the US-Canada Free Trade Agreement, and its possible extension to include Mexico, and the EC Single Market, discussed in paragraphs 37 to 41 of this report. The Committee also noted and welcomed the recent expansion of initiatives of developing countries toward subregional and regional integration arrangements. In particular, it noted and welcomed the Programme of Action and Supporting Measures adopted by the Dakar Conference of West and Central African Agricultural Ministers held in March 1991, and the treaty establishing the African Economic Community signed in Abuja, Nigeria in June 1991. The Committee urged FAO to continue and strengthen its activities to promote economic cooperation and regional and subregional economic integration among developing countries.

68. The Committee noted the decline in the number of commodity agreements with economic provisions. In this connection, a number of delegates emphasized that producer-consumer cooperation must therefore reflect basic supply and demand conditions and focus on facilitating market operations. The Committee also took note of the expansion of generalized preference schemes. The view was expressed that the extension of GSP benefits to Eastern Europe had not eroded preferences available to developing countries. Some delegates expressed concern that increased efforts by the international community to ease the debt servicing burden of developing countries did not seem to have improved significantly their situation and called for more attention to be focused in this area.

69. The Committee strongly supported FAO's continuing collaboration with the GATT, in particular on sanitary and phytosanitary issues through its significant contribution to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention, and with other international agencies and encouraged continued close cooperation.

70. The observer of UNCTAD noted that the 8th Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development would take place in February 1992. The theme would be the strengthening of national and international action for a sound, secure and equitable world economy. With respect to commodities, the Conference will focus on promoting a suitable balance between the supply and demand for commodities, maximizing the positive effects of the commodity sector on economic development, and promoting the development of natural resources on the basis of sustainable development.

71. The observer of the ITC informed the Committee of the Centre's activities promoting trade in agricultural commodities. Inter alia these activities included development of technical cooperation programmes for basic, processed and semi-processed agricultural commodities of major export interest to developing countries reflecting the needs of selected exporting developing countries for technical cooperation in the diversification, processing, marketing and distribution of these commodities and products.

72. The observer of the OECD described the activities of the Organization relevant to agricultural trade, including the yearly review of agricultural trade and policies and the development of a dynamic forecasting model for assessing medium-term prospects for production, consumption and trade of the main agricultural products.

VIII. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION

73. The Committee noted that the Fifty-ninth Session was tentatively scheduled to be held in Rome in mid-1993 and requested the Director-General to set a precise date for the Session in consultation with the Chairman, taking into consideration the schedule of other meetings.

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OBSERVATEURS DES ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES
OBSERVADORES DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS -
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES PRODUCTEURS AGRICOLES -
FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE PRODUCTORES AGRICOLAS**

Mrs. G. PELÁ
Permanent Representative

Rome

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MARGARINE ASSOCIATIONS -
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE LA MARGARINE -
FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE ASOCIACIONES DE LA MARGARINA**

A. S. FRIEDEBERG

Brussels

TROPICAL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

A. S. FRIEDEBERG

London

APPENDIX B

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S STATEMENT TO THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS^{1/}**

15 July 1991

Mr Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates and Observers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, and myself to the Fifty-eighth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. Mr Chairman, it also gives me equally great pleasure to congratulate you and the distinguished delegates of Saudi Arabia and Germany for having been elected as the office-bearers of this important Committee of the Council.

Overall situation

Mr Chairman, as you emphasized, this meeting of the Committee is taking place at a crucial time which is a time of transition - a transition to a new decade which has opened up new aspirations and prospects for peace, for freedom and international cooperation. In many countries, important steps have been taken towards democracy and market-based economic systems. There is renewed interest in regional and sub-regional economic integration. The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations has recently resumed.

These hopeful, and long awaited, signs are very encouraging. But we should also keep in mind that many of the problems confronting agricultural trade have been persisting since the early 1980s and in a number of respects they have worsened. I refer in particular to low and unstable commodity prices and protectionism. As well, a crippling debt servicing burden continues to confront many developing countries.

Overview of the global commodity situation

The 1980s saw a dynamic increase in overall trade but agricultural trade was far less dynamic. The volume rose only slowly and the export prices for many commodities, especially coffee and cocoa, fell sharply, undermining the already frail economies of many developing countries. Overall, their agricultural export prices fell by about one-third in real terms between 1980 and 1990. Although developing countries as a whole struggled to increase the diversity and volume of their agricultural, fishery and forestry exports so as to expand their total value, the growth of the purchasing power of their exports lagged far behind that of the developed countries.

^{1/} Delivered on his behalf by Mr B.P. Dutia, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department.

Moreover, the distribution of economic and trade growth among developing countries was uneven. In recent years, the Near East and the Far East increased their export earnings from agricultural, fishery and forestry products. On the other hand, lower prices and slow growth in the volume caused export earnings to decline in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Africa. Countries relying on exports of one or two basic commodities were particularly adversely affected, wherever located.

I must also underline that short-term international prospects for most major agricultural commodities have worsened. Indeed, with the principal exceptions of rice and bananas, export prices of nearly all of them are today stagnating at the levels of a year ago or have fallen lower.

Thus, agricultural and commodity trade has continued to experience many of the disappointing trends of the 1980s. At the global level, debt servicing problems and related austerity measures stemming from the international debt crisis continue to have a major impact. Inappropriate policies in a number of cases have hampered the struggle to revive economic growth although it is also true that many developing countries have taken substantial strides toward market liberalization. And I need hardly dwell on the effects of conflicts, which continue to affect millions of people in the developing world either directly or indirectly. Equally important is the need to cut drastically wasteful expenditures, especially on armaments. At a time of overall scarcity of resources, it is imperative that the available resources are put to productive use, especially for agriculture and rural development in the fight against hunger and poverty.

Agricultural trade policies

It is a matter of regret that agricultural trade protectionism grew during the 1980s. In the developed countries, measures of support and protection to agriculture rose sharply. There was no significant improvement in market access conditions, especially for developing countries. Subsidization of exports has caused ever greater distortions in world agricultural markets.

Commodity market price instability continued to affect many products, including many tropical products and agricultural raw materials. However, commodity agreements with price stabilization provisions virtually disappeared during the 1980s due to an inability to deal with structural oversupplies, differences between producers and consumers and a general adjustment of perceptions in favour of more market-oriented approaches to commodity trade challenges. Compensatory financing programmes, such as the IMF's special facilities or the EC's STABEX, have offset declines in export earnings to only a limited extent.

What needs to be done

What needs to be done? From our perspective, reform of the world agricultural and commodity trading system is crucially important. Indeed, assisting the development of more liberal agricultural trade conditions is one of the FAO's priority tasks. The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations is the key forum in this regard and it is appropriate and particularly timely that trade developments figure so prominently on your agenda. In our

view, it is absolutely vital that the participants live up to their agreement to achieve specific, binding commitments on domestic supports to agriculture; on market access; on export competition; and to reach agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary issues and that, as pledged, they take into account the particular concerns of developing countries, including net food-importing developing countries.

Resuming negotiations after the impasse in Brussels last December was an important step, but only a first step. Political will and determination are necessary to address agricultural trade and other trade major issues. This afternoon, in London, the Economic Summit of the seven major industrialized countries will begin. It should be hoped that the world leaders assembled there will provide an important impetus to agricultural trade reform.

Trade reform and other major issues of the 1990s

Agricultural trade reform will have major benefits. It can also make an important contribution to dealing with other issues of the 1990s, including structural reform in agriculture, the emergence of regional trading arrangements, and the environment.

Without agricultural trade reform, or with only weak reform, it is difficult to imagine that structural adjustment in agriculture can proceed successfully, particularly the efforts to revise incentives and the role of price signals currently under way in many developing countries and in formerly centrally-planned economies. Subsidization of exports would continue, and perhaps expand, with negative budgetary implications for many countries and disastrous results for competitive exporters.

By contrast, a successful agreement on agricultural trade could lead to reductions in market support and expand export opportunities for agricultural products. The likelihood of price slumps due to competition through export subsidies would be reduced. A successful agreement on agriculture would also make a major contribution to the achievement of the Uruguay Round in other negotiating areas, thereby strengthening the multilateral trade system, maximizing the role of collective decision making and ensuring the even-handed enforcement of rules for settling disputes.

Regional Trade and Integration

The latter part of the 1980s witnessed a resurgence of efforts to promote greater regional economic integration, particularly among industrialized countries and, especially, within the European Community, whose endeavour will be part of your discussion. There has also been an increased interest in trade integration among developing countries in recent years. However, agricultural commodities, so far, have not figured prominently in any regional trade liberalization proposals. It may well be that lack of agricultural trade reforms, particularly market access, can hinder regional trade and development. But regional integration, however desirable this may be on other grounds, cannot, on its own, bring about significant agricultural trade reforms at the global level. I therefore trust that regional trading arrangements will develop in ways which are supportive of, and not negative to, the multilateral trading system.

Environment

There is also a need to consider seriously how the trading system needs to be adapted to protect better the world environment and its biological diversity, without creating unnecessary trade restrictions. I am pleased to note the substantial amount of agreement reached in the Uruguay Round on disciplines regarding sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The challenge for the 1990s will be to achieve a freer multilateral trading system which contributes to economic development and is consistent with the need to protect the global environment. The issues involved in trade and environment nexus are both diverse and complex. But it is difficult to imagine that the effort to protect the global environment can succeed in an agricultural trading system characterized by protectionism and the widespread use of export subsidies.

Challenges for the CCP

For the 1990s, the challenge for your Committee will be to bring its expertise to bear on these areas and in so doing, continue to make a significant contribution to the world debate.

In the field of trade, the Committee has long played an important role in reviewing, analysing and proposing actions related to protectionism and agricultural trade and commodity issues. You have before you several items that deal with the issues at stake in agricultural trade reform. You may also wish to consider further analysis of issues related to trade liberalization. In particular, the Committee may wish to consider recommending further analysis of the links between trade liberalization, protection of the environment, and sustainable agricultural development, in which FAO is heavily engaged. Regional developments, such as the effects of closer linkage of domestic and international markets, particularly in the low-income food-deficit countries, the USSR and Eastern European countries, would also continue to merit the attention of the Committee.

The Committee's work on commodity market conditions will assume particular importance in the coming decade. In February, at your urging and the request by the Director-General, the Common Fund for Commodities designated nine FAO groups as International Commodity Bodies, all of which except the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade report to this Committee. Providing supervision for commodity development programmes and projects for financing from the Second Account will thus, it is hoped, be an important new role for this Committee's subsidiary bodies.

In conclusion, the onset of 1990s marks a time of challenges and change: multilateral, regional and national policies are in a state of flux. The 1990s can also be a decade of new commitments and promise, and a decade of hope in which we look to you for wisdom, guidance and support.

Thank you.

APPENDIX C

AGENDA

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
 - (b) Adoption of Agenda and Timetable
2. Statement of the Director-General
3. Review of World Commodity Situation and Outlook
4. Review of Activities of the Intergovernmental Commodity Groups:
 - (a) Oilseeds, Oils and Fats
 - (b) Rice
 - (c) Grains
 - (d) Hard Fibres
 - (e) Tea
 - (f) Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres
 - (g) Bananas
 - (h) Citrus Fruit
 - (i) Wine and Vine Products
 - (j) Meat (including Sub-Group on Hides and Skins)
5. Review of the Work of the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal (CSD)
6. Follow-up Action to Conference Resolution 2/79 on Commodity Trade, Protectionism and Agricultural Adjustment:
 - (a) Developments in Protectionism in Agriculture
 - (b) Follow-up to the GATT Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations
7. Selected Commodity and Trade Issues:
 - Implications of a Single European Market
8. International Action Relating to Agricultural Commodities:
 - Developments in Other Organizations
9. Arrangements for the Fifty-ninth Session
10. Any other Business
11. Adoption of Report

APPENDIX D

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS ISSUED FOR THE
FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS**

Document number		Provisional Agenda Number
CCP 91/1	Provisional Agenda and Agenda Notes	1
CCP 91/2	Report of the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Citrus, 11-15 September 1989	4
CCP 91/3	Report of the Twenty-third Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres, 10-13 October 1989	4
CCP 91/4	Report of the Eleventh Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Bananas, 16-20 October 1989	4
CCP 91/5	Report of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres, 25-27 October 1989	4
CCP 91/6	Report of the Twenty-third Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats, 5-8 March 1990	4
CCP 91/7	Report of the Thirty-third Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Rice, 20-23 March 1990	4
CCP 91/8	Report of the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea, 16-19 October 1990	4
CCP 91/9	Report of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres, 22-25 October 1990	4
CCP 91/10	Report of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres, 2-5 October, 1990	4
CCP 91/11	Report of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Grains, 6-9 November 1990	4
CCP 91/12	Report of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Rice, 25-28 March 1991	4
CCP 91/13	Report of the Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Bananas, 3-7 June, 1991	4
CCP 91/14	Report of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats, 24-28 June, 1991	4
CCP 91/15	Report of the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Wine and Vine Products (meeting postponed, document not available)	4
CCP 91/16	Review of the World Commodity Situation and Outlook	3
CCP 91/17	Consultative Subcommittee on Surplus Disposal: Thirty-third Report to the CCP	5
CCP 91/18	Protectionism in Agricultural Trade - Follow-up to Conference Resolution 2/79	6(a)
CCP 91/19	The Single European Market	7
CCP 91/20	International Action relating to Agricultural Commodities: Developments in International Organizations	8
CCP 91/21	Follow-up to the GATT Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations	6(b)
CCP 91/22	Review of World Commodity Situation and Outlook - Updating Statement	3

APPENDIX E

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

(Biennium 1990-91)

(as at 19 July 1991)

ALGERIA
ANGOLA
ARGENTINA
AUSTRALIA
AUSTRIA
BANGLADESH
BELGIUM
BRAZIL
BULGARIA
BURUNDI
CAMEROON
CANADA
CAPE VERDE
CHILE
COLOMBIA
CONGO
COTE D'IVOIRE
CUBA
CYPRUS
CZECHOSLOVAKIA
DENMARK
DOMINICA
EGYPT
EL SALVADOR
EQUATORIAL GUINEA
ETHIOPIA

FIJI
FINLAND
FRANCE
GERMANY
GHANA
GREECE
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
HUNGARY
INDIA
INDONESIA
IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
ISRAEL
ITALY
JAPAN
KENYA
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF
LESOTHO
LIBYA
MADAGASCAR
MALAWI
MALAYSIA
MEXICO
MOROCCO
MYANMAR
NETHERLANDS

NICARAGUA
NIGERIA
PAKISTAN
PANAMA
PERU
PHILIPPINES
POLAND
PORTUGAL
SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF
SENEGAL
SPAIN
SRI LANKA
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND
TANZANIA
THAILAND
TUNISIA
TURKEY
UGANDA
UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
URUGUAY
VENEZUELA
YUGOSLAVIA
ZAIRE
ZAMBIA

Total 78

