

December 1962

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
of the
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
on the
SECOND REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA
which convened in Tunis on 1 November 1962

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

ON

THE SECOND FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

1. The Second FAO Regional Conference for Africa was opened in Tunisia on 1 November 1962 at the Bourse du Travail, Tunis.

2. Delegations attended from the following Members and Associate Members:

CAMEROUN	MAURITANIA
CHAD	MAURITIUS
CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE)	MOROCCO
CONGO (LEOPOLDVILLE)	NIGER
DAHOMEY	NIGERIA
ETHIOPIA	RHODESIA AND NYASALAND
FRANCE	SENEGAL
GABON	SIERRA LEONE
GHANA	SOUTH AFRICA
GUINEA	TOGO
IVORY COAST	TUNISIA
LIBERIA	UNITED KINGDOM
MADAGASCAR	UPPER VOLTA

3. The following countries were represented by Observers:

ALGERIA	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
UGANDA	

4. The Permanent Observer of the Holy See was present. The following organizations were also represented:

UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BOARD AND UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND	WHO CCTA
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA)	EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
UNESCO	INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS
UNICEF	

5. A list of participants is given in Appendix I to this report. The officers of the Conference are listed in Appendix II.

6. The Conference was opened by the Director-General. His Excellency Abdelmajid Chaker, the Minister of Agriculture of Tunisia, then welcomed the delegates to the Conference on behalf of the President of the Republic. Chief G. Akin Deko, FAO Regional Representative for Africa, extended the thanks of FAO to the Minister of Agriculture for his welcome and for the facilities provided by his Government for the Conference.

7. His Excellency Mr. Abdelmajid Chaker, Minister of Agriculture of Tunisia, was elected Chairman of the Conference. The other Heads of Delegations were elected Vice-Chairmen.

8. The Conference adopted the Agenda which is shown as Appendix III to this report.

9. The Director-General then addressed the Conference on the work of FAO in Africa, and the subject of the food and agricultural situation was introduced. Statements were heard from the delegations of Ivory Coast, Niger, Senegal, South Africa and Ghana. Following the intervention of the delegate of South Africa, several delegations objected to the presence of a delegation from that country at the Regional Conference.

10. On the morning of 2 November, after further statements on the food and agricultural situation had been heard from the delegations of Ethiopia and Sierra Leone, the following draft resolution was moved by the Nigerian Delegation on behalf of 18 participating Delegations:

Effect of Practices of Racial Discrimination on the
Agricultural Development of African Countries

The Second Regional Conference for Africa meeting in Tunis

Referring to Resolution 44 (IV) adopted by the UN Economic Commission for Africa at its 4th Session and to the Resolution adopted by the Special Political Committee of the UN on 1 November 1962;

Considering that practices of racial discrimination hamper the agricultural development of Africa;

Considering that these practices are contrary to the spirit which inspires the present Conference;

Considering that there are many racial discriminatory practices and that they have harmful economic and social consequences;

Deplores and condemns in all its aspects racial discrimination which prevents the mobilization of all the resources needed for a rapid expansion of African agriculture and impedes the social advancement of populations subjected to racial discrimination;

Deplores the presence of the delegation of the Government of South Africa at the Regional Conference now sitting in Tunis;

Requests the Director-General to take steps for the immediate exclusion of the delegation of this country from the work of the Conference.

11. After the Director-General had drawn attention to the fact that the operative clause of the above resolution did not conform with the provisions of Article VI of the FAO Constitution as interpreted by the Ninth Session of the Conference, and that he would be unable to give effect to the request which it contained, the resolution was approved without amendment by a roll call vote with 18 votes in favour, three against and one abstention.

12. Two of the Delegations who had cast a negative vote stated that they had done so exclusively because of the unconstitutional character of the resolution. The Tunisian Delegate explained that he had abstained because his Government was host to the Regional Conference. The South African Delegation then temporarily withdrew for consultations with their Government.

13. On 3 November, in the absence of the South African Delegation, country statements on the food and agricultural situation were continued. The Conference also took up Item 6 of its Agenda, concerning Planned Agricultural Development in the Region, and discussed firstly the Internal Marketing of Food and Agricultural Products, and secondly the Adjustment of the Indigenous Land Tenure Systems to the Needs of Agricultural Development.

14. On 5 November the South African Delegation returned to the Conference and made the following statement, during the reading of which 22 Delegations left the hall:

"Mr. Chairman, on Friday evening, the 2nd day of the Conference, you had allowed a resolution to be voted on which violated all rules of procedure of this Organization governing such matters. The S.A. delegation and some other delegations did not even have a copy of the resolution before them. You did not even recognize me to enable me to enquire what we were exactly voting on. All we knew was that the question to be voted on was to request the Director-General to take steps to exclude my delegation from this Conference.

"Under the circumstances you will recall the S.A. delegation asked your permission temporarily to be excused from the meeting in order to consider its position in consultation with its Government. This we did over the week-end.

"Mr. Chairman, allow me to point out again that FAO is a technical body with a great task not only for the improvement of agriculture, forestry, fishery and human nutrition, but also to promote all matters which will help to raise the incomes and the standard of living of all people on the land in this African continent. In this great scientific, technical and humanitarian task all Governments and all organizations which can possibly be employed should be used to further the aims of this task.

"In this task my Government and my country have played and are playing a notable part. We are resolved to continue to do so for the benefit of all our people and for those of our neighbours and as always we are prepared to share technical knowledge and know-how with all other countries in the Region.

"We are also anxious to obtain from other countries in the Africa Region knowledge and experience which can be of benefit to our technical workers and to our people on the land. This Conference has been called amongst others for this exact purpose. We have been invited to this Conference which invitation my Government accepted in good faith. Hence we are here.

"We have come here at considerable expense and prepared ourselves for participation in the proceedings.

"In view of all the considerations I have briefly referred to we can find no reason why we should not be allowed to continue to participate in this Conference to the benefit both of FAO and the people of my country."

15. On their return the delegations which had withdrawn requested that the Conference be temporarily suspended. The Conference convened again at 17.30 hours, at which time the following declaration was read by the delegate of Mauritius on behalf of the Delegations noted in the declaration:

Solemn Declaration of the Delegations of Member States
Participating in the Second FAO Regional Conference for
Africa

"Participation of the Delegation of the Republic of South Africa".

"Considering the Resolution already adopted unanimously on Friday 2 November 1962 by all the African delegations condemning the presence of the delegation representing the Government of the Republic of South Africa at the Second FAO Regional Conference for Africa, and requesting the Director-General of FAO to proceed to the immediate exclusion of that country's delegation from the work of the Conference;

"Considering that the South African delegation persists, in the face of the firm and unanimous opposition of the African countries, in taking their seat at the Conference, a course of action which constitutes an affront to the peoples of Africa, the delegations of the following Members and Associate Members:

Cameroun	Gabon
Ghana	Niger
Guinea	Nigeria
Senegal	Tunisia
Dahomey	Ivory Coast
Mauritius	Liberia
Morocco	Madagascar
Chad	Mauritania
Congo (Brazzaville)	Sierra Leone
Congo (Léopoldville)	Togo
Ethiopia	Upper Volta

have resolved to make the following declaration to the Second FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

"The above-mentioned delegations consider on the one hand, that the delegation now participating in the name of the South African Government does not express the aspirations of South African populations towards better living conditions, social progress and economic prosperity.

"On the other hand, the contempt continually manifested by the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly and the Specialized Agencies calling upon them to end their policy of apartheid and racial discrimination constitutes absolute proof that that Government does not intend to carry out the terms of the Charter of the United Nations, and therefore its right to membership of UN organizations becomes open to question.

"Moreover, the African delegations participating in the Second FAO Regional Conference consider that a Government cannot oppress, subjugate and exterminate a people and at the same time work for its economic and social improvement.

"The delegations of African countries participating in the Second FAO Regional Conference for Africa, in implementation of their Governments' policy and in conformity with the determination of all African States in all international meetings to use all means to combat the policy of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, hereby solemnly express their decision to terminate their countries participation in the present Conference and to take no part in the work of the Agricultural Planning and Fishery Commissions so long as they have not received the assurance that the Republic of South Africa will not take part.

"If by Tuesday 4 November 1962 at 11 a.m. we have not received the Director-General's assurance that the Government of the Republic of South Africa has definitely retired from the Conference, we, the signatories of this solemn declaration, will ourselves regretfully retire from the FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

"We hope that the Director-General's efforts will succeed, and that FAO, to which we are particularly attached, will be able to carry on its efforts for economic and social improvement in Africa in the best possible technical and social conditions."

16. The Director-General then made the following statement:

"The Director-General has called this Regional Conference under authority of the FAO Conference under Article VI/5 of the Constitution. The Conference provides for attendance by all members within the Region; exclusion of any country would, therefore, be contrary to the clear directive of the Conference. It is true the Constitution can be changed, but that can be done only by the FAO Biennial Conference, which is the sovereign body, under Article VII of the Constitution.

"The purpose of the Regional Conference is to provide opportunity for coming to grips with the problems of the Region. The desires expressed and the recommendations made at the Regional Conference are taken into account by the Director-General in formulating his Program of Work and Budget for the ensuing biennium. The lack of such expression of views, therefore, is a handicap to the Director-General in formulating proper plans for the Region.

"Africa is on the very threshold of progress. After centuries Africa has now become politically independent, has taken its destiny into its own hands. But political independence is only a means to an end. Economic content has to be given to political independence if the rising expectations of the underprivileged have to be met.

"We are on the very threshold of progress in Africa; all the work lies ahead. Problems are increasing with growing population. Progress must be accelerated, and for that the countries need all the help they can get from outside, both bilaterally and multi-laterally.

"FAO is the United Nations Agency dealing with the problem of 80 percent of the population of Africa, namely agriculture. FAO is trying to provide assistance in education and training which, as I said, go to the heart of the African problem. It is trying to assist development of national plans. It is enlisting the support of the developed countries through the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign and the World Food Program. FAO's work in Africa will continue with the same dedication and earnestness as before. I myself will continue to give African problems the high priority in our work that they deserve.

"It is hoped that the solution to the question raised at this Regional Conference which has brought our work to a halt will be found at the next Session of the FAO Biennial Conference, to be held in Rome in November 1963. If following the Resolution just put forward, the African members leave the Conference, and they form 22 out of 26 Nations here represented, under the same authority that empowered me to call the Regional Conference, I shall respectfully ask your cooperation to bring this Conference to a close. I wish to convey to the Tunisian Government my personal gratitude for all the physical facilities they provided for the smooth running and success of this Conference."

17. The Chairman then declared the Conference closed.

PARTICIPANTS

Delegations of Member Governments Delegations des Etats Membres

Delegaciones de los Estados Miembros

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Delegations des Membres Associés

Delegaciones de los Miembros Asociados

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OBSERVATEURS DE PAYS MEMBRES

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OBSERVATEUR PERMANENT

OBSERVADOR PERMANENTE

HOLY SEE

SAINT SIEGE

SANTA SEDE

The Right Reverend Monsignor L.G. Ligutti

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AGENCIES

NATIONS UNIES ET INSTITUTIONS
SPECIALISEES

NACIONES UNIDAS Y AGENCIAS
ESPECIALISADAS

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André Raba, Conseiller en Nutrition pour l'Afrique
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Henry Hannington Rusoke Berunga, Assistant
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OTRAS ORGANIZACIONES GUBERNAMENTALES

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ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES

ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES

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Abderrahman Toukabri, Secrétaire général adjoint,
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Mohamed Letaief, Secrétaire général adjoint, Union
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Robert Hewlett, Chargé de liaison auprès de la
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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (contd.)

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (contd.)

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Departamento de Economia

Commodities Division
Division des Produits
Dirección de Productos Basicos

L.M. Goreux, Chief, Trend Studies and Raw Materials Branch

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A.H. Boerma
Executive Director

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V. Marrama
Deputy Director (Program Development)

OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

Chairman

Abdelmajid Chaker

Tunisia

Vice-Chairmen

Heads of Delegations of the other participating Member Nations.

Conference Secretary

G.G. Watterson

Liaison Officer for Africa,
FAO, Rome

Conference Officer

Truman F. Feebles

Public Relations and
Legal Affairs

Reports Officer

K.C. Abercrombie

Chief, Regional Analysis Br.
Economic Analysis Division

Liaison Officer

M. Zaanouni

Ministry of Agriculture,
Tunis

Documents Officer

Mrs. M. Burden

Program Formulation and
Budget Division

AGENDA

- A. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS
 - 1. Opening of the Conference
 - 2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda

- B. THE WORK OF FAO IN AFRICA AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION
 - 4. Policy statement by the Director-General
 - 5. The Food and Agricultural Situation in Africa

- C. GENERAL POLICY QUESTIONS ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION
 - 6. Planned agricultural development in the region
 - (a) Africa Survey Report
 - (b) Adjustment of the Indigenous Land Tenure Systems to the need of agricultural development
 - (c) Development of food and agricultural statistics
 - (d) Long term prospects for international trade in agricultural products of interest to the region
 - (e) Effective use of external assistance
 - (i) Technical cooperation program
 - (ii) World Food Program
 - 7. Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign in relation to Economic Development and the World Food Congress
 - 8. Agricultural Information
 - 9. Organization of Agricultural Research
 - 10. Selected Aspects of Livestock Development

11. Measures to increase grain legumes and vegetable production
12. The role of Home Economics in improving rural welfare

D. SPECIFIC FAO ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE WHICH REQUIRE CONFERENCE GUIDANCE OR GOVERNMENT ACTION

13. Forest Resources and Economic Development
14. Demonstration of Integrated Improved Farm Practices
15. Progress Report on action taken on Recommendations of the First Africa Regional Conference
16. Special Program of Agricultural Education and Training in Africa
17. Increased Use of Fertilizers
 - (i) Needs and problems of supply
 - (ii) Progress Report on the Fertilizer Program
18. Policy implications of Reports of Meetings
 - (i) CCTA/IUCN Symposium on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in Modern African States
 - (ii) FAO/CCTA Agricultural Extension Development Centre, 1962
 - (iii) Nutrition
 - (iv) West African Fisheries Advisory Commission

E. CONCLUDING ITEMS

19. The future of FAO's work in the Region
20. Adoption of Report

