

Report of the
SEVENTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR EUROPE

Budapest, Hungary, 21-25 September 1970



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Reports of previous regional conferences for Europe are as follows:

1. Pre-Conference Regional Meeting, Rome, 10-15 October 1949
2. Conference for Europe, Rome, 10-15 October 1960
3. Third Regional Conference for Europe, Rome, 8-13 October 1962
4. Fourth Regional Conference for Europe, Salzburg, Austria, 26-31 October 1964
5. Fifth Regional Conference for Europe, Seville, Spain, 5-11 October 1966
6. Sixth Regional Conference for Europe, St. Julian's, Malta, 28-31 October 1968

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INTRODUCTION

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

1. The Seventh FAO Regional Conference for Europe was held in Budapest, Hungary, at the Duna Intercontinental Hotel, from 21 to 25 September 1970, at the invitation of the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic. The main theme of the Conference was the medium-term implications of Europe's current developments in agriculture and forestry in their regional and world setting. In addition, the Conference reviewed FAO's activities in the Region over the past two years and discussed the proposals for medium-term activities and programmes of the Organization for the three forthcoming biennia. The discussions which took place were supposed to provide guidance to the Director-General and the Fifty-Fifth Session of the Council in establishing detailed priorities and specific activities to be undertaken under the five Areas of Concentration and in the field of Agricultural Development Planning, in relation to the formulation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1972/73.

2. The Conference was attended by delegations from the following 26 Member Nations of the European Regions:

Austria	Greece	Portugal
Belgium	Hungary	Romania
Bulgaria	Ireland	Spain
Cyprus	Israel	Sweden
Czechoslovakia	Italy	Switzerland
Denmark	Malta	Turkey
Finland	Netherlands	United Kingdom
France	Norway	Yugoslavia.
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	Poland	

3. The Permanent Observer of the Holy See was also present at the Conference.

4. In addition, the following Member Nations of the Organization from other regions sent observers to the Conference:

Argentina
Peru
United States of America.

5. Representatives of the following Organizations and Agencies belonging to the United Nations system were present at the Conference:

Economic Commission for Europe
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Development Programme
World Food Programme.

6. Observers from the following international governmental organizations attended the Conference:

Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
Council of Europe
European Economic Community
International Commission for Agricultural and Food Industries
International Seed Testing Association
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

7. Observers from the following non-governmental organizations attended the Conference:

European Association for Animal Production
European Confederation of Agriculture
International Commission of Agricultural Engineering
International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage
International Federation for Documentation
International Federation of Agricultural Producers
International Organization for Standardization
International Society for Research on Moor
International Society for Soil Science
International Union of Nutritional Sciences
World Federation of United Nations Associations.

8. The list of participants, including delegates, representatives, observers, as well as FAO staff in attendance and of the Secretariat of the Conference, is attached to the report as Annex I.

OPENING CEREMONY

9. The Director-General of FAO, Dr. A.H. Boerma, called the Conference to order and greeted His Excellency Mr. Pál Losonczi, Head of State and President of the Presidential Council, His Excellency Mr. Imre Dimény, Minister of Agriculture and Food, the honourable members of the Diplomatic Corps, delegates and observers to the Conference, as well as the other dignitaries of the Hungarian Government present for the Opening Ceremony. The Director-General then invited the President to address the Conference.

10. The President, Mr. Losonczi, observed that the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic followed with great interest and appreciation FAO's efforts to help the developing countries towards economic development, through the promotion of better co-operation among all Member Nations of the Organization. The Hungarian Government was actively participating in the work of FAO within the limits of its own possibilities. The President considered cooperation between developed and developing countries imperative if the world were to cope successfully with the food supply problems and with all other tasks to be solved in the fight against hunger. This cooperation among countries of various social systems should be extended as much as possible in the economic, scientific as well as in the technical fields. The President then reviewed the successful endeavour of his Government in modernizing the country's agriculture after the foundation of the Republic, now about 25 years ago, and stated that Hungarian agriculture had become more up-to-date as it was now directed towards intensive farming methods. Great importance was also attached in Hungary to the development of agricultural sciences and education, both of which had a long-established tradition in the country. As the European countries had achieved a comparatively high economic, social, scientific and technical level, the President felt that this would mean a great responsibility for the countries of the European Region to help ensure a better standard of living in the other Member Nations of FAO. He concluded his statement by wishing the Conference, on behalf of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic, the best of success in its deliberations.

11. The Director-General thanked the President for his kind words and then gave the floor to His Excellency, Mr. Imre Dimény, Minister of Agriculture and Food, to present his opening address.

12. The Minister conveyed the greetings and good wishes of his Government to all participants of the Conference and to all those present at the Opening Ceremony. He pointed out that the solemnity of the occasion was increased not only by the fact that the Conference took place during the period of the celebration of FAO's 25th anniversary, but also by the peculiar coincidence that it was held in the year of the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Hungarian People's Republic.

13. On behalf of the Hungarian Government, the Minister sincerely thanked both FAO and the World Food Programme for their immediate and spontaneous readiness to help in the flood disaster which occurred in the spring of this year and which caused severe damage in a considerable part of the country. The emergency aid provided had greatly contributed to the alleviation of the suffering of the more than 120 000 flood victims.

14. The Minister stated that problems concerning the world economy had come into focus of international interest to a much greater extent in the last few years. The majority of experts dealing with these questions now agreed that the main source of economic difficulties was the lack of a fair international division of labour between countries, in accordance with the demands of their general economic growth and the new policies which had been developed over the last few decades. This was particularly true in respect of the countries in the developing parts of the world. Problems concerning socio-economic conditions and the acceleration of economic growth in the developing countries now appeared to be different not only because of the differences in the methods of solution followed by the different social systems, but also because the successful solution of these problems was no longer an affair of the developing countries themselves but a question of international economic cooperation in the first place.

15. The Minister expressed the opinion that the present situation was aggravated by the tendency of international trade, capital movements and scientific and technical development towards a further polarization, while factors that could help in closing the economic and social gap between developed and developing countries did not have as yet sufficient impact.

16. The other serious problem the Minister mentioned was the rapid increase of the world population. It was clear that this urgent question could not be solved by measures of mere social character but that it required the development of productive forces; a process which was still seriously hampered by the lack of the necessary material and intellectual resources in these countries. He considered that for these reasons general economic development could only be accelerated through close international cooperation and an increased exploitation of the world's intellectual and material resources.

17. The Minister pointed out that in most cases the first stage of economic growth was the development of agricultural production. Besides providing the population with food, agriculture ensured also an important part of the material resources for the development of other sectors of the economy. He therefore considered it well justified to declare the development of agriculture in both the developing and the developed countries as a fundamental condition for economic growth. Consequently, the required international division of labour should also be applied in the agricultural sector.

18. In recognizing the great importance of FAO's work, particularly with regard to its new strategy recently outlined in the areas of priority and further elaborated in the Indicative World Plan, the Minister drew attention to two essential aspects; firstly: long-term development of agriculture could only be successfully achieved when it ran parallel with the development of other sectors, first of all industry, and when other fields closely related to agriculture, such as trade, investment, research, training as well as environmental conditions were also taken into account, and secondly: long-term planning and projections for agricultural development and the subsequent outlining of international division of labour could only be successful if they would be carried out comprehensively.

19. As to his latter point, the Minister felt that it was not expedient to restrict these activities to questions of assistance and trade between developed and developing countries only. In his opinion this would be all the more wrong because the present method of classifying countries into developed and developing nations did not accurately reflect the economic differences between countries, even less the important differences in the status of their agricultural development.

20. A world-wide international division of labour and its effective application could not be carried out without exploring and analyzing the inter-relationships between and among developed and developing countries, and according to the Minister these problems and their possible solutions should be discussed by an international and high level forum such as present at this Conference.

21. The Minister then turned to the important role which Europe had always played in the past and was still playing in solving the economic problems of the world. In order to be able to perform this task in a constructive way, he found it essential to create a sincere atmosphere suitable for developing and improving the relations between the European countries in every aspect of life.

22. There was no doubt, the Minister said, that present agricultural development in the advanced countries was influenced by the tendency towards lower production, i.e. structural changes leading to the cultivation of high-quality crops. But this policy could only be realized step-by-step, giving due consideration to climatic, ecological and other conditions vital to production. As far as Europe was concerned, in certain countries a gradual decrease or diversification of agricultural production was highly necessary; in other countries production was still to be increased, because agriculture was not only to supply more and better food for the increasing population but it was also to provide to a considerable extent the resources needed for further expansion of the industrial sector, including the development of trade in non-agricultural products.

23. The Minister considered that this development was not against the interests of the developing countries, the less so because this new concept of agricultural growth in the developed countries would create new possibilities for the promotion of trade and credit and the improvement of the technical and scientific relations between the developed and developing countries.

24. The Minister believed that FAO's work in Europe should concentrate on the necessary structural changes in agriculture, as a prerequisite for a reasonable international division of labour. The present Conference could make a suitable start for this work. It could be helpful in outlining action programmes and in developing up-to-date working techniques and organizational patterns to this end.

25. The Minister felt that FAO as the only world-wide organization in the field of food and agriculture could play a decisive role in the improvement of the East-West relations in Europe and in the further expansion of inter-European coordination. He considered that this task undoubtedly increased the importance of the Organization but, at the same time, its responsibility. This basic concept was also the justification for the holding of FAO's Regional Conferences in Europe, which should be developed into a high-level forum of representatives from all European countries to discuss economic and technical questions relevant to the European Region, and to try and find satisfactory solutions for these problems. In this way the Conference would become a significant occasion of interest to all countries and to all responsible leaders in the field of food and agriculture.

26. In his own opening statement, the Director-General expressed, on behalf of all participants of the Conference and FAO, his sincere thanks to the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic for their kind invitation to hold the Conference in the beautiful city of Budapest, and for the excellent facilities made available by the Hungarian Government for this purpose. He expressed his gratitude to the President for finding the time to address the Conference on this solemn occasion. This was a token of the interest the President personally took in FAO, its objectives and its work.

27. The Director-General thanked the Minister of Agriculture and Food for his most interesting and thoughtful statement in which he had raised a number of very important issues. He was particularly happy at the way the Minister had expressed himself on FAO's role in the relationships between the developed and developing countries and the significance of the task of the European Regional Conference in this context. In considering their own pressing problems in the field of food and agriculture, the

Director-General felt that the European countries were obliged to look at the same time at the needs and prospects of development in the so-called third world. This was not only a moral obligation but an economic necessity as well.

28. The Director-General closed his statement by expressing, on behalf of all those present, the best wishes for the prosperity of the host country and its people for now and for the future.

ELECTION OF CONFERENCE OFFICERS

29. At the first Plenary Session, the Minister of Agriculture and Food of Hungary, Dr. Imre Dimény, was elected Chairman of the Conference. Ambassador R. van Hauwermeiren, Head of the Delegation of Belgium, and Mr. L. Garcia de Oteyza, Head of the Delegation of Spain, were elected Vice-Chairmen.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

30. The Conference unanimously adopted the following agenda:

- 1) Medium Term Implications of Europe's Current Agricultural Developments in their Regional and World Setting
- 2) FAO Activities in the European Region
- 3) European Seats on the Council of FAO
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Adoption of the Report
- 6) Closing of the Conference.

CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

31. The Chairman of the Conference, Dr. Imre Dimény, Minister of Agriculture and Food of Hungary, expressed his thanks to all delegates and observers for their contributions which had made it possible for the Conference to carry out its task in a sincere spirit of cooperation and responsibility for the common concerns of the European countries. He thanked the Director-General for his statements outlining the plans and policies of the Organization which had been most helpful for the Conference in discussing the major items on the Agenda.

32. The Chairman stated that, in his opinion, the Conference had achieved, through a joint effort, its aim to become a Conference of "great issues". With a great sense of responsibility and mutual respect for each other's views and convictions, the Conference had discussed important matters in relation to the peaceful economic development of the European nations. It had been even possible, with mutual goodwill, to consider the delicate question of economic relations between East and West in the field of agriculture. The Chairman expressed the hope that the recommendations adopted by the Conference would lead to positive results in the field of economic, scientific and technical relations between all countries of the Region, which would also be to the benefit of the countries of the developing world.

33. The Chairman observed with satisfaction that many delegations were led by Ministers, Deputy Ministers or Under-Secretaries of State which proved that the responsible leaders of agriculture in the European countries were truly interested in discussing important problems within the framework of an Organization competent to deal

with these matters. This was equally true for the international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

34. On behalf of the participants, Mr. B. Toussaint, Head of the Delegation of France, supported by Ambassador R. van Hauwermeiren, Head of the Delegation of Belgium, conveyed to the Head of State of the Hungarian People's Republic and to the Hungarian Government the deepest gratitude for their invitation to attend this European Regional Conference in the magnificent capital of this beautiful country. He expressed the sincere thanks of all delegates to the Chairman for the great skill, courtesy and patience with which he had conducted the Conference and guided the debates, and to the National FAO Committee for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference, the cultural events, the ladies' programme and the excursions. He thanked the Hungarian Government for the warm hospitality extended to all participants throughout the Conference, and the Hungarian and FAO staff, the Secretariat, interpreters and translators for their contributions to the success of the Conference. He closed his statement with the warmest wishes of the whole Conference for the prosperity of Hungary and its people.

35. Dr. E.M. Ojala, on behalf of the Director-General, expressed the gratitude of FAO to the Hungarian Government and the National FAO Committee for the excellent facilities made available to the Conference and for the services rendered by the Hungarian staff which had made the organization of the Conference so much easier and efficient. He thanked the Chairman for his able leadership, the Vice-Chairmen for their valuable assistance, and all delegates for their most useful contributions in the debates which had been of valuable guidance to FAO in carrying out its task to further promote and develop economic, scientific and technical cooperation among the European countries.

36. Finally, the Chairman thanked all speakers for their kind words of gratitude and recognition, conveyed the greetings and good wishes of the Hungarian Government to all participants and closed the Seventh FAO Regional Conference for Europe.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

37. In his introductory statement, the Director-General expressed pleasure in attending a European Regional Conference for the first time in his capacity of Director-General of FAO, as he had been unable, much to his regret, to be present at the previous Regional Conference for Europe held in Malta two years ago.

38. Before proceeding to the more substantial issues of his statement, the Director-General explained that in response to wishes expressed by the 1968 Regional Conference and by the last Session of the FAO General Conference all Regional Conferences were taking place this year well in advance of the autumn Session of the FAO Council, thus enabling the Council to take into consideration much earlier in the biennium the recommendations of the Regional Conferences with regard to the formulation of the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1972/73.

39. Regional Conferences provided a unique opportunity to focus on the special problems of the regions concerned in order to build up a coherent policy for the Organization's activities in the world as a whole. Nevertheless it was essential for each of these Conferences - and in particular for the European Regional Conference - to keep in mind the picture of economic and social development in the world as a whole, and to take into account the entire range of factors affecting these developments in all parts of the world. He stressed that this approach was of special significance in the year 1970 which not only marked the 25th anniversary of both the United Nations and FAO, but also was the beginning of the Second Development Decade.

40. Mr. Boerma pointed out that the global approach was necessary to understand the special role FAO had to play in the development of food and agriculture in the world. Achievements could be expected only if the work of the Organization was supported by all Member Governments and if this work was carried out in close cooperation with the other specialized agencies of the United Nations system besides all bilateral programmes and non-governmental bodies that were ready and able to help.

41. The Director-General then turned to some of the more specific issues facing the Conference of which he believed the proposals for medium-term activities were the most important. He recalled that the Fifteenth Session of the FAO Conference in November 1969 approved the principle of medium-term programming for a six-year period up to the end of 1975, but had requested a more detailed statement, taking into account the main recommendations of the Regional Conferences, to be discussed at the forthcoming Fifty-Fifth Session of the FAO Council in November this year.

42. In summarizing the plans now before this Conference, the Director-General said that the proposals were based mainly on the Five Areas of Concentration. These had been generally endorsed by the last Session of the General Conference as FAO's new strategy for agricultural development in the Third World. Recently a sixth point - agricultural development planning - was added.

43. He explained that the proposed medium-term programme dealt also with a number of specific problems which are of general overriding importance to the developing countries. The first and most urgent was the question of unemployment. Unless immediate steps were taken to create employment opportunities on a scale hitherto barely envisaged, a situation might develop which could lead to the break-down of whole societies.

44. The second problem which called for special attention was the conservation of environment. This involved a broad range of activities aimed at the rational utilization of national resources and the protection and improvement of the human environment. Mr. Boerma said that the International Conference on Human Environment, to be held in Stockholm in 1972 under the auspices of the United Nations, would provide an excellent opportunity for Member Governments to identify their own environmental problems and to

make specific recommendations for their solution. A special preparatory conference for Europe was being held in Prague in 1971 under the aegis of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

45. The third issue the Director-General high-lighted was that of research. He recognized the great interest which existed in many European countries for an increased exchange of technical and scientific information in the field of agriculture and for closer cooperation between scientific institutions dealing with agricultural problems. A further expansion of FAO's activities in this field would be appropriate, particularly in the European Region.

46. With regard to the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1972/73, the Director-General said that with the approval of the Conference a system of programme budgeting was now followed. This allowed attention to be concentrated on the various programmes which would be undertaken by the Organization rather than, as in the past, on items of expenditure classified division by division.

47. Turning to the Indicative World Plan - or Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development as it is now called - Mr. Boerma recalled that the Conference had requested him to include all Member Countries in the Perspective World Study "in order that the implications of agricultural problems in the developed countries for the expansion and trade of developing countries may be identified". As the Economic Commission for Europe was already involved in studies of long-term developments in the main sectors of the European economy, it had been agreed that ECE and FAO should collaborate in the preparation of such a perspective study for the developed countries. This study would not only include the whole of Europe, but also the non-European developed countries, viz. the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. It would cover the time span of the Second Development Decade with 1980 as the target date. He expressed the hope that the FAO/ECE team of experts and consultants would be able to finalize their task in time for him to be able to present the resulting report to Member Governments next year before the Sixteenth Session of the Conference.

48. Talking about the Second Development Decade, the Director-General mentioned that apart from this special study on the developed and centrally-planned countries, the IWP as a whole would also be adapted to the timespan and general goals of DD2. In addition, FAO would prepare a series of policy papers as part of the combined effort of the United Nations family, including a general document on global agricultural development policies and some specific papers dealing with the main policy issues affecting agriculture in each of the main developing regions.

49. The Director-General then referred to another study of particular interest to the European Region, namely the one dealing with the milk/meat disequilibrium in Europe. This study which was undertaken in cooperation with a number of interested agencies, was to help European governments and producers formulate policies and plans to resolve the present dilemma of surplus milk production and deficient meat supplies and to indicate possibilities for inter-regional and international trade. He said that this study was scheduled to be completed by August 1971 in the hope that the final report could be presented to the next Session of the Conference in the autumn of next year.

50. The Director-General then reported briefly on a few important events since the last Session of the FAO Conference. With regard to the Capacity Study of the United Nations Development System, carried out by Sir Robert Jackson, he explained that FAO had taken a constructive attitude towards the Study from the very beginning. For some time there had been a widespread feeling, not only among governments, but also among international secretariats, that changes in the UNDP system were needed. The Capacity Study had made valuable suggestions to this end. The main differences of opinion he had with Sir Robert, Mr. Boerma said, were on the relationship between UNDP and the Specialized Agencies. As a result of extensive discussions in the UNDP Governing Council and the UN Economic and Social Council, a "consensus" was prepared for approval by the UN General Assembly which the Director-General thought was workable.

51. Concerning the Second World Food Congress held in The Hague, Netherlands, from 16 to 30 June 1970, the Director-General reported that this important event was attended by more than 1 800 participants from all over the world, representing all age groups and all walks of life. The value of this gathering was that in a free and frank exchange of views, FAO was made more directly aware of the currents of opinion on development circulating among some of the more enlightened sectors of the public at large. The contribution of the youth groups, although often very critical in tone, had been basically constructive.
52. Turning to the central theme of the Conference - the implications of Europe's present agricultural developments in their regional and world setting - Mr. Boerma remarked that although important differences in development of the agricultural sector tended to persist between individual countries and groups of countries in the Region, the hard core of what might be called the agricultural problem of Europe was located in the most developed part of the Region. Increased production had created an ever-growing imbalance of the national and international markets with all the well-known economic and social consequences. An increasing number of European countries had recently begun to recognize that agriculture should be looked upon as an integral part of the whole economy, and that the basic problems of the sector could only be resolved if they were considered in the framework of a well-conceived global strategy of economic and social development. This was an important step forward which contained promises for the future.
53. As to the medium-term outlook, the Director-General felt that the present situation was not too bright, taking into account the state of the commodity markets. Even with the best of wills, governments would not be able to change their present policies radically and fast enough to reverse the trend of over-production and under-consumption in Western Europe. The possible effects of an enlarged Common Market were likely to make this situation even more difficult.
54. In Eastern Europe, agriculture was fast approaching a point where its role as a foreign exchange earner would become at least equally important as that of a food supplier. The same tendency was observed in the southern part of the Region where countries were also obliged to rely heavily on their agricultural exports.
55. The Director-General made a plea for agricultural problems in Europe and their international implications to be discussed frankly and courageously, even though ideas about remedial and corrective action might not be altogether clear at this stage. Measures of supply management had been advocated lately, as it was becoming more and more evident that continuation of support policies without a certain degree of supply control was leading nowhere. But irrespective of the nature of the corrective policy measures European governments may have in mind, these measures could have a lasting effect only if the countries concerned were prepared to cooperate as closely as possible. Since commodity markets made the agricultural sectors of all trading countries inter-dependent, it was evident that the European governments in their deliberations on national agricultural policies should also take into account conditions and prospects elsewhere in the world.
56. The Director-General again made an appeal to extend international governmental consultations on agriculture, to be undertaken at various levels, both on a geographical and a commodity basis, under the auspices of world-wide organizations such as FAO. He called for a selective expansion of agricultural output in the world as a whole through adoption of a policy whereby the developed countries would look at their own needs as well as those of the developing countries.
57. Mr. Boerma expressed FAO's deepest sympathy with the Eastern European countries, in particular Romania and Hungary, whose agriculture had suffered so much from the terrible floods earlier this year. He was happy to know that the emergency assistance provided by the World Food Programme had alleviated at least part of the suffering of the flood victims.

58. Before closing his statement, the Director-General mentioned two more issues of interest to the Region. The first one was FAO's cooperation with European inter-governmental organizations, such as the OECD, the EEC, and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance which was granted observer status by the last Conference. He felt that there was scope for more joint activities and wider collaboration between FAO and these bodies, especially with regard to the IWP and the Study on European Agricultural Policies.

59. Finally, the Director-General referred to the proposals for some modifications in the European regional structure, in particular the transfer of the Regional Office from Geneva to Rome and its merger with the present Area Service for Europe, North America and the South West Pacific in the Area Service Division. He had made these proposals following a careful appraisal of the best way in which the European Region could be served, and he believed that, if adopted, these measures would contribute to greater efficiency of FAO's work in the Region and to a more coherent planning of FAO's activities in Europe.

60. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, Dr. J. Stanovnik, in his address to the Conference referred to the need to deal with agricultural problems in Europe at an international level, as part of a deliberate effort of governments to promote sound long-term economic growth. The development of the agricultural sector should be considered as an integral part of the overall economic strategy and must be based on a wide international perspective.

61. The Executive Secretary recalled that FAO and ECE had cooperated closely in their work throughout the postwar period. The Joint Divisions servicing the ECE's Committees on Agricultural Problems and on Timber made an important contribution to both Organizations. He expressed the hope that this close cooperation would continue and that in this way the Organizations could jointly provide the coordinated services requested by the European Member Governments.

62. The Executive Secretary observed that more and more attention was being given in Europe to the variations in development levels of the countries, in order to complement the strategy applied at the national level with integrated development programmes for the Region as a whole. This regional development planning was of great help in finding solutions to the agricultural problems, especially in the developing countries where structural maladjustment was most difficult to tackle.

63. This integrated approach should also take into account the effects of technical progress and economic growth on environmental conditions. For too many years economic progress had almost exclusively been measured in terms of growth rate of the total production, ignoring the effect that an uncontrolled growth might have on the conditions of human existence. He reminded the Conference that a European Conference on Environmental Problems would be held in Prague in 1971, under the aegis of the Economic Commission for Europe, which had the full support of FAO.

64. The Executive Secretary then turned to the trade in agricultural products which was also a major concern of both Organizations. Agricultural trade continued to be of considerable importance to all European countries, and required constant attention in order to ensure a healthy growth. Although it would be unrealistic to assume that the present agricultural trade policies could be changed easily, he was convinced that it would be a great step forward if the issues of commercial policy and of structural adjustment in the agricultural sector could be tackled simultaneously. There was a general tendency to regard policies related to agriculture almost as taboos in international meetings, but he believed that an open discussion might easily reveal that even at this stage a somewhat greater flexibility in the prevailing policies would not expose domestic agriculture to any real risk. The Executive Secretary expressed the hope that the Conference, in discussing the medium-term prospects of European agriculture, would also explore ways and means to eliminate trade policy inhibitions which were irrational and unrealistic in nature.

MEDIUM-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF EUROPE'S CURRENT AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THEIR REGIONAL AND WORLD SETTING

65. The Conference had before it Document ERC : 70(4) containing a discussion paper and five annexes.

66. Taking up the main points in the discussion paper several delegations pointed out that agricultural problems in Europe did not present a homogeneous picture largely owing to different levels of economic development and, to some extent, also due to differences in the institutional set-up. It was observed that some countries had reached a stage where production capacity exceeded demand requirements whereas in other parts of the Region supply still tended to lag behind the consumption needs of the population. It was recognized, however, that the agricultural sector everywhere was experiencing difficulties in adapting itself to the rapidly changing conditions of modern economy. In one form or another, problems associated with a better adjustment of supply to demand, withdrawal of redundant labour, ageing of the agricultural population, creation of more rational farm units, improvement of management methods, etc., were common to all European countries.

67. Referring to the situation and prospects of the North-Western countries of the Region, several delegates elaborated on the new integrated policies aimed at a better adjustment of the size and structure of the agricultural sector. It was stressed that the new approach did not look at agriculture as an isolated sector, but as an integral part of the economy. Moreover, the various policy measures were increasingly adapted to the specific conditions of particular areas, taking into account variations in development levels within a single country. In conjunction with a development of the secondary and tertiary sectors adapted to local conditions, efforts were being made not only to create employment outside agriculture, but also to make such employment attractive enough and to enable the farmer to continue to live in his traditional environment while earning more of his living off the farm. Similarly, various measures were introduced to reduce the agricultural areas by diverting part of it to forestry, recreational uses, etc. In this connection the importance of preserving environment and of devoting ever greater attention to the qualitative aspects of production rather than to purely quantitative achievement was strongly emphasized by many delegations. It was pointed out that greater attention to environmental conditions could facilitate the problem of agricultural adjustment.

68. Some delegates felt, however, that the problem of agricultural surpluses will not be solved in the next few years and that the situation may even deteriorate further. Reference was made to certain short-term measures aimed at reducing surpluses which were introduced in some countries, but it was pointed out that the experience remained inconclusive. Supply management therefore may well prove to be the only solution, in which case national actions should be coordinated internationally. Other delegates were of the opinion that supply controls would imply a rise in agricultural prices since farmers would have to be compensated for losses in production.

69. It was pointed out that agriculture in Eastern Europe was also experiencing problems of various kinds. The reduction of redundant labour was to a large extent taken care of by the rapid expansion of industry and services, but much remained to be done to raise the educational levels of the agricultural population and to ensure the assimilation of modern production and management techniques. The average size of the farms in Eastern Europe was large, but the acreage per farm had to be expanded to make full use of technical progress. This move towards larger units was made more and more necessary by the promotion of agro-industrial complexes which combined and integrated agricultural and industrial activities, so as to provide for the most rational use of productive resources.

70. It was observed that in the Eastern European countries, agriculture would continue to be considered as a high priority sector, and governments would make efforts to strengthen the technical and economic base of it. In spite of the very good progress

achieved in more recent years, some lines of production had not yet fully caught up with the rapidly growing domestic demand. It was also stressed that the Eastern European countries regarded agricultural exports as an important source of foreign exchange and that efforts aiming at their further expansion would continue.

71. Delegates who referred to Southern Europe emphasized the particular features of the agricultural problems in this area. Productivity in agriculture was low because of insufficient extension of modern techniques, inadequate farm size structure and overpopulation. On the other hand, income elasticity for a wide range of products was higher than in any other part of the Region.

72. Efforts to modernize agriculture and raise productivity were being made in all Southern European countries, but it was considered that such efforts alone could not be expected to solve the vast and complex problems of the sector. In order to improve conditions radically, large-scale structural changes would have to be carried out in all sectors of the economy. The possibility of implementing such changes, closely associated with further industrialization, depended to a large extent on the import capacity which, in turn, was dependent on export earnings. The Conference agreed, however, that the prevailing export patterns in Southern Europe were not particularly conducive to increase export earnings significantly. It was stressed that the economies of Southern Europe would remain highly sensitive to measures affecting trade in agricultural products.

73. So far as the situation in Europe as a whole was concerned, the Conference noted that if the present production trends and policies continued unchanged the trade situation in the coming years could only be expected to be characterized by even more difficult problems of imbalances between supply and demand for a number of important products. Although a few delegates considered this opinion to be excessively pessimistic, the majority felt that it was supported by the evidence available and did not warrant a revision towards any markedly greater optimism.

74. It was observed that the dominant reason for the unsatisfactory trade outlook was the attempt of European importers - who represented the world's largest import area for agricultural products -, almost without exception, to increase their levels of self-sufficiency, while exporters in Europe and elsewhere were simultaneously attempting to expand their foreign sales.

75. So far as Europe itself was concerned, the situation differed radically between different groups of countries as well as between products. In the Southern European countries, the problem was acute. These countries were still at a relatively early stage of economic development and depended heavily on agricultural exports for the foreign exchange needed to purchase imports of capital equipment. Their traditional agricultural exports were meeting increasing competition partly from supplies benefiting from technological advances in industrialized North-Western Europe and partly from the rising competition of the Eastern European countries which were also counting on expanding their agricultural exports as a means of earning foreign exchange, and where large scale agro-industry complexes were helping to make available increasing supplies of high quality export products. It was pointed out that Eastern and Southern Europe were areas with potentially great increases in import demand for manufactured products from the industrialized countries but that these purchases would necessarily continue to be small if foreign exchange earnings from agriculture could not be increased.

76. The major market for both Southern and Eastern Europe was the industrialized countries of North-Western Europe. Producers in temperate zones outside Europe, as well as those tropical suppliers of commodities produced also in temperate zones likewise generally looked on North-Western Europe as their major foreign outlet. However, production in North-Western Europe showed an upward trend as a result of technological and policy influences while demand would generally rise only slowly. Market saturation, surpluses and continued protectionism were therefore virtually inevitable. It was noted, however, that efforts were being made in a few countries to limit production of commodities in surplus.

77. The Conference agreed that the network of trade flows made it necessary to try and appraise trade prospects and problems for agricultural products in a global as well as in a regional context. The Conference felt that serious consideration be given to the compelling problems of those developing countries which could export larger quantities of agricultural products economically, if they enjoyed greater market access.

78. As to the improvement of the environment for trade, a number of delegates favoured the completion of more commodity agreements. These might well develop out of discussions which commenced with medium-term confrontations of exports and imports. It was also pointed out that while free trade in agricultural products was unlikely, a lessening of tariff and other obstacles would allow a clearer indication to be gained of where trade could best be expanded.

79. Finally, the Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 1

THE CONFERENCE

Appreciating the working papers presented to it on the Medium-Term Implications of Europe's Current Agricultural Developments in their Regional and World Setting;

Considering that there exist tendencies towards continuing disequilibrium within European agriculture as well as between European agriculture and that of other parts of the world;

Welcoming the Director-General's decision to undertake a study of agricultural development in the developed countries in the 1970s, as part of the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development, to complement the work done on other regions under the Indicative World Plan;

Considering also that the study under way on the meat/milk disequilibrium in Europe could provide a useful basis for the formulation of future national policies;

Recognizes the interest that consultations at the regional level might have in providing for a fuller appreciation of national programmes and policies, thus giving an opportunity for considering the implications of such programmes and policies at the European level for production and trade in agricultural products;

Recommends that in order to be able to consider the form that these consultations might take or what follow-up action they might lead to, the Director-General, as a first step, should collect, in consultation with Member Governments and other interested international organizations, available information on the medium-term national production prospects and trade outlook in certain specific fields such as, for instance, fruit production. He should also assemble information on any other related international consultations, discussions or work concerned with identifying the medium-term outlook for specific European agricultural products. If such a collection of information provides sufficient useful data, it might as a second stage provide a basis for consultations at the regional level which could take place in the framework of future European Regional Conferences.

MEDIUM-TERM TRENDS IN EUROPE'S FOREST PRODUCTION AND TRADE IN FOREST PRODUCTS

80. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the series of studies on the trends in production, trade and consumption of forest products in Europe which had been undertaken jointly by FAO and ECE. It was felt that these studies had provided a valuable guidance to the Governments of the Region for the formulation of forest and forest industrial development policies.

81. It was noted that the consumption of forest products in the Region had increased steadily since the end of the second world war and that this trend was expected to continue. European production, however, though also rising, lagged increasingly behind demand. Consequently, the Region's dependence on supplies from other regions had continued to grow. It was felt that this represented increasingly important new trade possibilities for many developing countries rich in forest resources.

82. The Conference felt that the views expressed in Document ERC : 70(4) on medium-term implications in forestry were perhaps too pessimistic with regard to the influence of the many social and protective functions on forest management, although it was agreed that they could have important long-term repercussions. For the moment, however, Europe's forest policies should continue to be based on the primary principle of wood production, giving due consideration to the social and protective role of the forests at the same time. Given the rising demand for forest products and the limitations of the Region's own forest resources, it was stressed that everything possible should be done to improve the productivity of these resources.

83. The Conference agreed that increased and more intensified cooperation, both economic and technological, between forestry and forest industry was necessary for a fuller and more rational utilization of Europe's forest potential. Importance should also be attached to the elimination of such structural obstacles as the scattered pattern of forest holdings, where solutions should be found in different forms of co-operation between the forest owners and industry. It was also noted that the considerable transfer of agricultural land into forest land, that was taking place in many countries of the Region, would also, in due course, contribute further to a higher wood production in Europe.

84. With regard to the increasing importance, on a longer-term basis, of the non-wood producing functions of the forests, such as its different amenity and protective values, whose political and social importance was expected to grow rapidly, it was considered that such functions could be safeguarded through adequate and traditional forest management practices, although the importance of such non-wood producing functions should not be let to overshadow the imperatives of normal forest management practices.

85. The Conference agreed that, biologically, the wood production capacity of Europe's forests could still be considerably increased, but that, on a longer term basis, the social functions may in certain cases constitute a limiting factor. It might, therefore, be necessary to determine in the future those areas whose primary function would be wood production, and those which should be primarily reserved for protective and amenity functions, on the understanding that in both cases the other functions would nevertheless also have a marginal importance as well. The protective and amenity values, when constituting a limiting factor to wood production, and hence a handicap for the economic management of forest areas, or when causing additional expenditure not normally included in forest management, should be financially compensated, directly or indirectly, by the society.

86. The Conference felt that the future of rationally managed forestry in Europe was increasingly linked with the future of rural populations. The reorganization of rural infrastructures should be planned in time so as to prepare them for the new types of functions resulting from social and economic developments and requirements.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

87. The Executive Director, Mr. F. Aquino, in his statement stressed the importance of deliberations on the agricultural and economic situation in Europe and their link with economic and trade issues in other parts of the world. A reduction of food imports had inhibited traditional suppliers, particularly developing countries, from purchasing European exports. The pattern of agricultural output had resulted in surpluses of some commodities. The channelling of surpluses into multilateral food assistance provided an acceptable alternative to dumping, and would match WFP's need for increased support from European donors to meet the rising volume of requests for food aid.

88. European contributions accounted for over 40 percent of current WFP resources and, of this, more than half came from EEC countries, other major European contributors being the Scandinavian countries. Pledges for 1971/72 were not yet commensurate with the 50 percent increase in target, and an EEC contribution at least equal to its previous one was hoped for. It was the Executive Director's conviction that larger portions of Food Aid Convention grains could be channelled through WFP. Consideration also needed to be given to the composition of pledges in order to overcome the present imbalance of WFP's food basket. More pulses, sugar, meat, fish and cheese were needed, and shifts within existing pledges, or supplementary pledges, would be helpful.

89. Current projects in the Region mentioned by the Executive Director included a fisheries development project in Hungary, the promotion of mixed farming in dryland areas and assistance to schools and hospitals in Cyprus, and pig breeding and dairying projects in Malta. In Turkey, a further \$41 million of aid was allocated to nine projects, in addition to \$11 million of aid already completed. A scheme to establish a wheat reserve in Turkey is also being studied. Emergency assistance had recently been given for the flood victims in Hungary and Romania.

90. The Executive Director asked that governments give special attention to the Report on Food Aid and Related Issues during the Second Development Decade, which would come before the UN General Assembly. The Report recommended, *inter alia*, that more food aid be provided multilaterally, preferably through WFP, and that WFP's requirements would call for at least a doubling of resources by the middle of the Decade.

91. Several delegations referred to the important role of the World Food Programme in the task of surmounting the contradictions between hunger on the one hand, and food surpluses on the other. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the efficiency of the WFP and agreed that it had proven successful in utilizing food as an effective capital input in the economic and social development of the developing countries.

92. It was considered that by the effective use of food aid substantial savings may be generated for further investments in economic development. In connection with the Programme's economic development activities, it was stated that WFP had proven to be a most useful instrument for channelling food aid effectively into specific development programmes.

93. Mention was also made of WFP's important role in extending emergency assistance to victims of natural disasters. The Conference stressed the efficiency of the Programme in its determined and rapid action in such emergencies.

94. The Conference emphasized the increasingly important and expanding role of Europe in support of the WFP.

FUTURE EUROPEAN REGIONAL STRUCTURE OF FAO

95. Before starting his introduction of this item, the Director-General informed the Conference that Lord Boyd Orr, who was the first Director-General of FAO and in office from 1945 to 1948, was celebrating on September 23rd his 90th birthday. He suggested to send a telegram, on behalf of the Conference, extending the warmest congratulations and the best wishes to Lord Boyd Orr on this happy occasion. The Conference unanimously supported the Director-General's suggestion.

96. The Director-General then referred to Document ERC : 70/3 and stated that he had given very careful consideration to the most efficient way of organizing FAO's regional structure for Europe. He considered that the reasons which had led the Conference to re-establish the European Regional Office in 1961 continued to be valid but that the question had arisen as to whether it would not be more effective for the implementation of FAO's European activities to transfer this Regional Office from Geneva to Rome. He also pointed out that the Conference, when approving the reorganization of FAO in 1967,

had established in the Area Service Division an Area Service for Europe, North America and the South West Pacific. The experience of the last three years had shown that the work could be streamlined by merging this Service and the Regional Office.

97. Regarding the staffing of the proposed unified office, the Director-General pointed out that, contrary to what was indicated in Document ERC : 70/3, he had come to the conclusion that the title of Deputy Regional Representative was not justified. In consequence, instead of one Deputy Regional Representative and two professional officers, he proposed a staffing of three professional officers. He further indicated that he would like to consider in more detail whether an Administrative Officer was needed and whether the FFHC Officer and the Information Officer should stay in Geneva or be transferred to Rome.

98. The Director-General stated that he would arrange for a management survey to determine the staffing requirements of the unified office in relation to the workload. In consequence, the staffing indicated in the document should not be taken as final. He would report the findings of the survey to the next meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees and to the subsequent Session of the Council. He believed that the proposed reorganization would lead to savings.

99. In conclusion, the Director-General paid a tribute to the former Regional Representative, Mr. Paul Lamartine Yates, who had retired a few months ago and who, in his view, had contributed substantially to developing FAO's work in Europe and to promoting cooperation among European Member Countries in the technical and economic aspects of agriculture. The Conference fully agreed with this view and requested the Director-General to express its gratitude and appreciation to Mr. P. Lamartine Yates.

100. The Conference unanimously concurred with the Director-General's proposal to transfer the European Regional Office from Geneva to Rome and to amalgamate with it the Area Service for Europe, North America and the South West Pacific. It expressed the view that this meant a structural rationalization which was fully justified. It also agreed to the proposal that the two Joint Divisions with the Economic Commission for Europe should continue to be located in Geneva and it stressed the need for continuing to ensure adequate liaison with international organizations stationed in Geneva. Several delegations expressed the view that the relations with ECE should be further strengthened and that consideration might be given to an expansion of the work of the Joint Divisions.

101. The Conference welcomed the proposal of the Director-General to carry out a management survey, the findings of which would be submitted to the forthcoming sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees and of the Council. It expressed the wish that this survey should pay particular attention to actual staff requirements as well as to the location of each of the staff members, and particularly of the Administrative Officer, the FFHC Officer and the Information Officer. It expressed the hope that savings could be effected. The Conference also endorsed the view of the Director-General that the function of Deputy Regional Representative was not required in the new structure.

MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMME

102. The Conference welcomed Document ERC : 70/5(b), which it regarded as a great improvement on the former proposal for medium-term activities discussed at the Fifteenth Session of the FAO Conference in 1969. Most delegates expressed their appreciation for the new system now adopted by FAO whereby future programmes of work would be presented along major lines of development rather than, as in the past, on the basis of divisional activities. The Conference felt that the document to be ultimately presented to the next FAO Conference on the Organization's medium-term activities and programmes should go further in defining specific priorities and show more clearly the lines of work on which FAO's effort would be concentrated. It was generally accepted that such priorities would be different for each region.

103. The Director-General informed the Conference that the present paper, prepared at the request of the Fifteenth Session of the FAO Conference, had to be considered as a tentative document. It was now being discussed at the various Regional Conferences so that the forthcoming Session of the Council would be able to take into account in its deliberations the observations made by the Regional Conferences. After the Council Session in November 1970, a revised document would be prepared for discussion at the subsequent Session of the Council in 1971 and at the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference later in the same year.

104. The Conference gave its general support to the five Areas of Concentration, to which Agricultural Development Planning had been added as a sixth priority area, now constituting the framework for the Organization's medium-term activities. However, it expressed the wish that FAO's work should not just be distributed among the six areas but should rather be concentrated within them in accordance with well-defined priorities. Several delegates were concerned about the financial implications of the medium-term proposals and requested that these should also be shown in the final proposals. The Director-General explained that he had already given instructions that expenditures of all FAO activities, irrespective of their source of finance (Regular Programme, UNDP or Trust Funds) be coded according to the Areas of Concentration. To give greater flexibility in relation to changing priorities, several delegates proposed that FAO should increasingly use consultant services in substitution of permanent posts.

105. Some delegations insisted that the final document should include not only proposals for the concentration of FAO's work on the high-priority issues, but also an outline of the ways and means which could be followed in reducing the Organization's work in less important fields.

106. With reference to the future budgetary situation, the Director-General informed the Conference that relatively large mandatory increases were to be expected because of factors outside the Organization's control, which might not allow for much expansion of FAO's activities during the next biennium. The biennium 1972/73 could therefore well become a period of consolidation. In order to further assist the development of many Member Countries, additional extra-budgetary financial support was being sought. The present FAO/Government Cooperative Programmes with a number of donor countries illustrated the possibilities.

107. Many delegates felt that the International Dairy Development Scheme was an interesting new approach. Under this Scheme FAO made available its technical competence to assist Governments in preparing development schemes in the dairy field, and through informal arrangements helped to mobilize extra-budgetary funds from bilateral and other sources for the implementation of these schemes. Support was expressed for similar approaches in other fields such as a seed improvement programme. The Director-General pointed out that such approaches depended upon adequate Regular Programme strength.

108. Many delegates considered that emphasis should be given in the medium-term to economic and social aspects of agricultural development, as socio-economic changes were often essential for any significant increase in productivity. Others stressed the need to develop the human resources and to improve the institutional framework. Rural employment was a problem in many developing countries, and should therefore be considered as an issue of great general importance. The wish was expressed, however, that FAO should cooperate closely with other international organizations in promoting solutions to the employment problem, giving full consideration to the national plans and policies.

109. The Conference stressed the important role of agricultural research for economic development and underlined FAO's responsibility for promoting and coordinating work in this field. The Organization should assist in identifying gaps in the present research programmes, in defining priorities for research in the main disciplines and in disseminating research results. National research programmes should be coordinated within the main ecological regions. The need for research in agricultural marketing and in fisheries in the Mediterranean Basin was specifically mentioned. The Conference noted

with appreciation that IBRD and UNDP were increasingly interested in financing agricultural research, but it was stressed that FAO's technical leadership in these fields should be maintained.

110. The Conference appreciated that, until decisions were taken by UNDP on the implementation of the Capacity Study, there would be important uncertainties with regard to the medium-term programmes. There was little doubt, however, that the importance of the FAO Country Representatives and Senior Agricultural Advisers would increase in the future, particularly in respect of the proposed country programming of UNDP activities.

FAO ACTIVITIES IN THE EUROPEAN REGION

111. The Conference noted Document ERC : 70/5 which contained an account of FAO recent and present activities in the European Region, and expressed its appreciation for the valuable assistance provided to the developing countries of the Region, under the Regular Programme of the Organization and with financial support from outside funds, in particular from the United Nations Development Programme.

112. Some delegates observed that the projects undertaken were listed under the various chapters of the document in isolation from one another, without forming an integrated and coherent field programme. Furthermore, the document did not indicate the priorities which had been assigned to the various undertakings, nor did it contain any connotation on the results achieved. These shortcomings were considered the best proof of the usefulness of switching to the proposed medium-term programming.

113. With regard to the expert requirements in both the developing and developed countries, the Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 2

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing the responsibilities of developed countries to assist the developing countries in their efforts towards economic growth;

Considering that one of the most efficient contributions to this end is the technical know-how and expertise made available through outside experts and their local counterparts, in accordance with the needs of the developing countries;

Taking into account that such assistance is of a long-term nature, and has to be based on reliable information regarding the prospective requirements of the developing countries in terms of technical expertise and training facilities in the various fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries;

Appreciating that this information is also required in order to decide on the organization and staffing of newly-established institutions for graduate training in the various disciplines both in the developing and developed countries;

Considering that this type of information would also be a useful supplement to FAO's Indicative World Plan;

Recommends that the Director-General should make arrangements for the collection of information and data for the purpose of establishing the likely trends of requirements in the developing countries for international experts and local counterparts in the various fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, over a period of the next 10 to 15 years, to be reviewed biennially.

114. The Permanent Observer of the Holy See intervened and stated that in many developing countries a feeling of dissatisfaction and frustration could be noted about the assistance provided by the developed countries. He felt that the beginning of the Second Development Decade might be a starting point for these countries, especially in the European Region, to overhaul and expand their development assistance programmes in the interest of both the donor and the recipient parties.

115. With reference to the subject of the exchange of scientific and technological information, which had been discussed under the previous item of Medium-Term Programme, the Conference adopted the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION No. 3

THE CONFERENCE

Considering the desirability to promote closer scientific and technological co-operation between the European countries which contribute also to the promotion of agricultural development in the developing countries;

Requests the Director-General to give due attention in the programming of the Organization's future activities in Europe to the following considerations:

- 1) The promotion of scientific and technological cooperation among European countries, including environmental problems, should be a primary task of the European Regional Office;
- 2) The need for a review by an appropriate body within the framework of FAO of existing cooperation in the field of science and technology, including research, particularly in the European countries. This review should include concrete proposals for the improvement of such cooperation, taking also into account the requirements of countries in other regions, and should be submitted to the next session of the Regional Conference for Europe.

116. The Conference noted that the European Commission on Agriculture in its last Session held in Rome from 7 to 11 September 1970 had discussed at length whether its own present structure was satisfactory or whether the developments of FAO's activities in Europe and the changing interests of Member Countries required a new framework.

117. The Conference had before it the Report of the Session referred to, which reflected the views of Member Governments as expressed during that Session on this problem and stated the conclusion which had been arrived at, namely that the Executive Committee of the ECA, possibly enlarged for this purpose by some additional members and assisted by the Secretariat, should carry out an analysis of all the possible alternative structures for the functions which it had been performing, with the view of improving and strengthening FAO's activities in Europe. The findings of the Executive Committee and its recommendations on the most suitable new structural forms were to be reported to the next Session of the ECA which would transmit them together with its views to an appropriate Session of the Council.

118. The Conference also had before it a document submitted by the Government of France (ERC : 70/INF/6) analyzing the past work of the ECA and suggesting possible alternative structures. The ECA had recommended that this document should be circulated to Member Governments together with the comments of the Secretariat on the legal implications of an eventual abolition of the ECA. In relation to this document, the Conference noted that the French delegation preferred to modify its final conclusions in the sense that rather than to speak of an abolition of the Commission, it would be more appropriate to refer to its transformation. With this change, the Conference agreed that the document should be distributed to Member Governments.

119. The Conference considered that it would not be adequate to study the future of the ECA in isolation but that it was necessary to review the entire group of FAO's European bodies, taking into account particularly their relationship to the Regional Conference, whose terms of reference had been modified at the Fifteenth Session of the Conference. It was also noted that, since the last Session of the ECA, a new factor had occurred, namely the recommendation of the present Conference to transfer the Regional Office from Geneva to Rome, and that this recommendation should also be taken into account in this review.

120. The Conference agreed that the type of activities carried out in the past under ECA were on the whole of great value to Member Countries and should be continued. It stressed, however, that it was important to establish clear priorities and to implement the activities with a minimum of institutional superstructure. Some delegates felt that one field which had not received sufficient attention in the past was home economics and recommended that the review should pay due attention to the need for more work on the subject. It was considered that the name of home economics may not any more reflect the true substance of this field of activities and that a new terminology should be found such as, for instance, "the family in rural economic development".

121. In conclusion, the Conference agreed that it would be premature to attempt to reach a final decision at this stage and it therefore recommended to the Director-General that, in order to develop further the work of FAO in Europe, he should arrange for a review of the regional statutory bodies of FAO, taking into account the responsibility which the Fifteenth Session of the Conference had assigned to the Regional Conference and the change of site of the Regional Office. It further recommended to the Director-General that he should study particularly the role and the functions of the different European Commissions and their subsidiary bodies. In the case of ECA, this task should be assigned to the Executive Committee which should consult additional government representatives as appropriate. The other commissions should also analyze and evaluate their activities and structure. The Conference finally recommended that the consolidated evaluations and proposals should be submitted by the Director-General to the next European Regional Conference, whose views should be transmitted to an appropriate session of the Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

122. The Observer of the United States of America congratulated the Hungarian Government for their outstanding arrangements of the Conference, and commended them for the excellent progress made in Hungary in the field of agricultural production, particularly with regard to hog and poultry production.

123. He observed that over the last twenty-five years FAO had demonstrated technical competence and leadership in assisting Member Nations in their efforts to solve their agricultural problems, and wholeheartedly supported the view that FAO should play an important role in bringing about better coordination in European agricultural affairs. He also commended the Director-General for his realistic approach to programme planning for the immediate future.

124. He felt that the Regional Conferences were becoming increasingly useful, as they provided an opportunity for Member Governments to get together and exchange views on attempts to find solutions to problems effecting agriculture in their respective regions.

125. He expressed the opinion that many problems in agricultural trade would remain unsolved until all major trading nations recognized that the solutions lay in the re-establishment of a true world market and not in the adoption of price disciplines through commodity arrangements.

126. The representative of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) stressed the importance of FAO's activities in Europe and in all other regions of the world with regard to the promotion of the use of high-quality seed of improved crop varieties, and expressed the readiness of ISTA to continue its cooperation with FAO in this common field of interest.

127. With regard to the site of the next European Regional Conference, the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany reiterated the invitation already extended by his Minister at the beginning of the Conference to hold the next European Regional Conference in his country. He further stated that he was aware that also the Government of Cyprus had intended to invite the Organization to hold the Conference in Cyprus, and that he was grateful to the delegation of Cyprus for having agreed to an amicable solution. He then proposed that the Director-General should consider to hold the European Regional Conference scheduled for 1974 in Cyprus and stated that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany would support such a decision.

128. The delegate of Cyprus confirmed that he had intended to invite the Organization to hold the next European Regional Conference in his country, but agreed to the proposal of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany. He then extended an invitation to hold the 1974 European Regional Conference in Cyprus.

129. The delegate of Turkey expressed the opinion that it was premature to consider the question of the site of the 1974 Conference at this stage, and suggested that the matter be discussed again during the next European Regional Conference.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

130. The Conference adopted the text of the Report in its present form.

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

I. FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION No. 1

Medium-Term Implications of Europe's Current Agricultural Development in their Regional and World Setting (Para. 79 of the Report)

THE CONFERENCE

Appreciating the working papers presented to it on the Medium-Term implications of Europe's Current Agricultural Development in their Regional and World Setting;

Considering that there exist tendencies towards continuing disequilibrium within European Agriculture as well as between European agriculture and that of other parts of the world;

Welcoming the Director-General's decision to undertake a study of agricultural development in the developed countries in the 1970s, as part of the Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development, to complement the work done on other regions under the Indicative World Plan;

Considering also that the study under way on the meat/milk disequilibrium in Europe could provide a useful basis for the formulation of future national policies;

Recognizes the interest that consultations at the regional level might have in providing for a fuller appreciation of national programmes and policies, thus giving an opportunity for considering the implications of such programmes and policies at the European level for production and trade in agricultural products;

Recommends that in order to be able to consider the form that these consultations might take or what follow-up action they might lead to, the Director-General, as a first step, should collect, in consultation with Member Governments and other interested international organizations, available information on the medium-term national production prospects and trade outlook in certain specific fields such as, for instance, fruit production. He should also assemble information on any other related international consultations, discussions or work concerned with identifying the medium-term outlook for specific European agricultural products. If such a collection of information provides sufficient useful data, it might as a second stage provide a basis for consultations at the regional level which could take place in the framework of future European Regional Conferences.

RECOMMENDATION No. 2

Expert Requirements in both the Developed and Developing Countries (Para. 113 of the Report)

THE CONFERENCE

Recognizing the responsibilities of developed countries to assist the developing countries in their efforts towards economic growth;

Considering that one of the most efficient contributions to this end is the technical know-how and expertise made available through outside experts and their local counterparts, in accordance with the needs of the developing countries;

Taking into account that such assistance is of a long-term nature, and has to be based on reliable information regarding the prospective requirements of the developing countries in terms of technical expertise and training facilities in the various fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries;

Appreciating that this information is also required in order to decide on the organization and staffing of newly-established institutions for graduate training in the various disciplines both in the developing and developed countries;

Considering that this type of information would also be a useful supplement to FAO's Indicative World Plan;

Recommends that the Director-General should make arrangements for the collection of information and data for the purpose of establishing the likely trends of requirements in the developing countries for international experts and local counterparts in the various fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, over a period of the next 10 to 15 years, to be reviewed biennially.

RECOMMENDATION No. 3

Exchange of Scientific and Technological Information (Para. 115 of the Report)

THE CONFERENCE

Considering the desirability to promote closer scientific and technological cooperation between the European countries which contribute also to the promotion of agricultural development in the developing countries;

Requests the Director-General to give due attention in the programming of the Organization's future activities in Europe to the following considerations:

- 1) The promotion of scientific and technological cooperation among European countries, including environmental problems, should be a primary task of the European Regional Office;
- 2) The need for a review by an appropriate body within the framework of FAO of existing cooperation in the field of science and technology, including research, particularly in the European countries. This review should include concrete proposals for the improvement of such cooperation, taking also into account the requirements of countries in other regions, and should be submitted to the next session of the Regional Conference for Europe.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE NARRATIVE TEXT OF THE REPORT

Medium-Term Trends in Europe's Forest Production and Trade in Forest Products

Para. 83 The Conference agreed that increased and more intensified cooperation, both economic and technological, between forestry and forest industry was necessary for a fuller and more rational utilization of Europe's forest potential.

Para. 83: Importance should also be attached to the elimination of such structural obstacles as the scattered pattern of forest holdings, where solutions should be found in different forms of cooperation between the forest owners and industry.

Future European Regional Structure of FAO

Para. 100: The Conference unanimously concurred with the Director-General's proposal to transfer the European Regional Office from Geneva to Rome and to amalgamate with it the Area Service for Europe, North America and the South West Pacific.

Para. 101: The Conference welcomed the proposal of the Director-General to carry out a management survey, the findings of which would be submitted to the forthcoming sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees and of the Council.

Para. 101: The Conference also endorsed the view of the Director-General that the function of Deputy Regional Representative was not required in the new structure.

Medium-Term Programming

Para. 102: The Conference felt that the document to be ultimately presented to the next FAO Conference on the Organization's medium-term activities and programmes should go further in defining specific priorities and show more clearly the lines of work on which FAO's effort would be concentrated.

Para. 104: The Conference expressed the wish that FAO's work should not just be distributed among the six Areas (of Concentration) but should rather be concentrated within them in accordance with well-defined priorities.

Para. 108: The wish was expressed (however) that FAO should cooperate closely with other international organizations in promoting solutions to the employment problem, giving full consideration to the national plans and policies.

Para. 109: The Conference stressed the important role of agricultural research for economic development and underlined FAO's responsibility for promoting and coordinating work in this field. The Organization should assist in identifying gaps in the present research programmes, in defining priorities for research in the main disciplines and in disseminating research results.

Para. 109: The need for research in agricultural marketing and in fisheries in the Mediterranean Basin was specifically mentioned.

FAO Activities in the European Region

Para. 118: In relation to this document (Document ERC 70/INF/6), the Conference noted that the French delegation preferred to modify its final conclusions in the sense that rather than to speak of an abolition of the Commission (European Commission on Agriculture), it would be more appropriate to refer to its transformation. With this change, the Conference agreed that the document should be distributed to Member Governments.

Para. 121: The Conference, therefore recommended to the Director-General that, in order to develop further the work of FAO in Europe, he should arrange for a review of the regional statutory bodies of FAO, taking into account the responsibility which the Fifteenth Session of the Conference had assigned to the Regional Conference and the change of site of the Regional Office.

Para. 121: It further recommended to the Director-General that he should study particularly the role and the functions of the different Commissions and their subsidiary bodies. In the case of ECA, this task should be assigned to the Executive Committee which should consult additional government representatives, as appropriate. The other commissions should also analyze and evaluate their activities and structure.

Para. 121: The Conference finally recommended that the consolidated evaluations and proposals should be submitted by the Director-General to the next European Regional Conference, whose views should be transmitted to an appropriate session of the Council.

