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Report of the

**TENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR EUROPE**

Bucharest, Romania, 20-25 September 1976



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FAO Member Nations in the European Region (as at 25 September 1976)

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

Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Europe

First	— Rome, Italy, 10-15 October 1949
Second	— Rome, Italy, 10-15 October 1960
Third	— Rome, Italy, 8-13 October 1962
Fourth	— Salzburg, Austria, 26-31 October 1964
Fifth	— Seville, Spain, 5-11 October 1966
Sixth	— St. Julian's, Malta, 28-31 October 1968
Seventh	— Budapest, Hungary, 21-25 September 1970
Eighth	— Munich, Germany, Fed. Rep. of, 18-23 September 1972
Ninth	— Lausanne, Switzerland, 7-12 October 1974
Tenth	— Bucharest, Romania, 20-25 September 1976

ERC/76/REP

REPORT

of the

TENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

(in cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe)

Bucharest, Romania

20-25 September 1976

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Rome, 1976

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INTRODUCTION

Organization of the Conference

1. The Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe (in cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe) was held in Bucharest, Romania, at the Sala Palatului, from 20 to 25 September 1976, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

2. The Conference was attended by delegations from 26 Member Nations of the European Region, viz.

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

3. The following Member Nations from other regions were also present as observers:

Canada
United States of America.

4. The following Member Nations of the United Nations, not members of FAO but members of the ECE, participated in an observer capacity:

German Democratic Republic
U.S.S.R.

5. The Permanent Observer for the Holy See was also present at the Conference.

6. Representatives of the following organizations and agencies of the UN System in addition to the Economic Commission for Europe were present:

United Nations Information Centre
World Food Council
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
World Food Programme
World Meteorological Organization
International Atomic Energy Agency

7. Representatives of the European Economic Community were present.

8. Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations attended the Conference:

Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
International Commission for Agricultural and Food Industries
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

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

European Association for Animal Production
European Confederation of Agriculture
International Federation of Agricultural Producers
International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations
Trade Union International of Agricultural, Forestry and Plantation Workers
World Federation of Trade Unions

10. The List of Participants is attached to the Report as Appendix B.

Opening Ceremony

11. The Director-General of FAO, Mr. Edouard Saouma, in opening the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe, expressed his thanks to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania for the invitation to hold the Conference in Bucharest, greeted the delegates and observers present and then invited Mr. Angelo Miculescu, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Food Industries, to take the floor for his opening statement.

12. On behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Mr. Miculescu welcomed all the participants to his country. He expressed his conviction that this Regional Conference of FAO would identify new modalities and possibilities for cooperation between European countries in the field of food and agriculture and that these actions would be useful within the framework of the efforts for the establishment of a new international economic order. The full text of Mr. Miculescu's statement is attached as Appendix D.

13. The Director-General thanked Mr. Miculescu for his inspiring statement.

Election and Statement of the Chairman

14. On the proposal of the Delegation of Switzerland, seconded by the Delegation of Hungary, the Conference unanimously elected Mr. Angelo Miculescu, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Food Industries, as Chairman of the Conference.

15. Mr. Miculescu expressed his thanks to the Conference on his election as Chairman and indicated his satisfaction that the Tenth Regional Conference for Europe was being held in Romania. In particular, he welcomed the Director-General of FAO and mentioned his most encouraging initiative concerning the creation of a Technical Cooperation Programme with the aim to expand agricultural production in developing countries.

16. He pointed out that the participation of the Organization in the effort toward the creation of a new International Economic Order in conformity with the resolution adopted at the last FAO Conference would be another major element in the future activities of FAO and a guide for the work of the Regional Conference.

17. Referring to FAO's activities in the European Region, Mr. Miculescu considered that the Organization has a role to play in the implementation of the provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which attributed high importance to agriculture. In this context, he welcomed the close collaboration between FAO and the UN Economic Commission for Europe. Furthermore, he emphasized that FAO should give more attention to the specific problems of European developing countries. He also referred to the importance of the work carried out in Europe for the strengthening of relations between European countries as well as for the developing countries in other regions. To increase the effectiveness he suggested considering the possibility of strengthening the role of both the Regional Conference and the Regional Office for Europe and he finally expressed the hope that the present Conference would be a turning point for the participation of the Organization in the solution of European agricultural problems. The full text of Mr. Miculescu's statement is attached as Appendix E.

Election of Vice-Chairmen

18. On the proposal of the Delegation of Romania, seconded by the Delegation of Austria, Mr. J.C. Piot, Director of the Federal Division of Agriculture of Switzerland, was elected unanimously as First Vice-Chairman.

19. On the proposal of the Delegation of Norway, seconded by the Delegation of Finland, Mr. J.H.V. Davies, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the United Kingdom, was elected unanimously as Second Vice-Chairman.

20. On the proposal of the Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, seconded by the Delegation of France, Mr. G. Tzitzicostas, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture of Greece, was elected unanimously as Third Vice-Chairman.

21. On the proposal of the Delegation of Yugoslavia, seconded by the Delegation of Denmark, Mr. E. Mazurkiewicz, First Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Poland, was elected unanimously as Fourth Vice-Chairman.

22. Due to the absence of the Chairman and four Vice-Chairmen on the final day of the Conference, it was necessary to appoint a fifth Vice-Chairman. On the proposal of the Delegation of Spain, seconded and supported by the Delegations of Poland and Austria respectively, Mr. A.A.W. Landymore, Minister for FAO Affairs, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to FAO, was elected unanimously as fifth Vice-Chairman.

Adoption of the Agenda

23. The Conference adopted the Agenda set out in Appendix A.

Closing of the Conference

24. The Chairman of the Conference, Mr. Angelo Miculescu, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Food Industries, referred to the constructive character of the discussions which had taken place and said they emphasized the ever-increasing role and contribution which FAO can and must make in the development of European economic cooperation in the field of agriculture. Referring to the recommendations of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and in particular to the sectors of activity in agriculture towards which appropriate efforts in European cooperation should be oriented, he said that it was essential that these recommendations should be implemented at once by bilateral and multilateral action and in this light, he felt that FAO and the Regional Office for Europe must take upon themselves increasing responsibility for supporting the efforts of developing countries of our Continent for the increase of their agricultural and food production in order to reach the level of developed countries. As delegations had pointed out, FAO should cooperate closely in these efforts with other international organizations, and in particular with the UN Economic Commission for Europe. In closing, Mr. Miculescu referred to the valuable contributions made by the Director-General of FAO and by the Executive Secretary of ECE to the successful proceedings of the Conference. He expressed deep satisfaction also for the contributions made by the delegates and observers and concluded by thanking the Regional Representative and members of the Secretariat for their cooperation in ensuring the effective day-to-day running of the Conference. He wished all the participants every success in their future activities devoted to cooperation between member countries, to the increase of the people's well-being and to the growth of peace and understanding on the European Continent and throughout the world.

25. On behalf of those present, Mr. A.A.W. Landymore, Fifth Vice-Chairman, expressed appreciation to the Chairman for the guidance he had given to the delegates in their deliberations. Mr. Landymore said he felt the difference between this and the many other conferences he had attended over a period of years, had been the emphasis placed on what the member countries themselves should do, rather than what FAO should do. The Chairman had recalled the need for national effort in the context of all the things they are trying to do in Europe and this he wholeheartedly endorsed.

26. Mr. K. Karcsai, Secretary-General of the Hungarian National FAO Committee, added his warmest thanks to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania for the excellent organization and facilities provided which had contributed to a great extent to the success of the Conference.

27. On behalf of the Director-General of FAO, the Regional Representative for Europe said how much the guidance of the Chairman and the excellent spirit of cooperation which had existed between him and the delegations and the Secretariat had been appreciated. The fact that the Conference had been held in Romania had contributed to the harmonious way in which

the debates had taken place and he felt the Conference had been one of the most pleasant and effective ones. He concluded by adding his sincere thanks to the staff of the Romanian Government who had worked in such an efficient way to ensure the smooth running of the Conference.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Statement by the Director-General

28. The Director-General reiterated his thanks to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania for its invitation that the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe be held in Bucharest, and he emphasized that this Conference was being held in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, with which FAO enjoyed a close relationship.

29. He said that Europe offered ample possibilities for mutually advantageous cooperation between the countries of the Region itself and with those in other regions as well, by offering to developing countries the scientific and technical knowledge that derived from the Region's high level of development. He also mentioned that some natural disasters, like earthquakes and an unusual drought had shown that even Europe still faced problems in the agricultural field which made it necessary to have, for example, a policy for the conservation and rational utilization of water resources. He asserted that long-term measures were called for which also required the support of the general public. In regard to water supply problems, FAO had collaborated with several European countries on irrigation and drainage projects and the ECA Working Party on Water Resources and Irrigation appeared to be definitely useful.

30. Turning to the problems of Europe's relations with other regions, the Director-General expressed his satisfaction that the North-South Conference, in which FAO had participated fully, had resumed its work in Paris. Nevertheless, as was apparent from statements made by developing countries in several forums such as ECOSOC, the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East and the Conference of Non-Aligned countries, one could certainly not yet be satisfied with the results obtained. To preserve the peace, the security and the well-being of all countries, real and concrete gains were needed, particularly in the field of economic relations and mainly the trade in the agricultural produce of the developing countries. A big step forward had indeed been made, but further progress was needed and the Director-General wished that a solution might be found in international cooperation, in which FAO could and should play a part.

31. Referring to the Agenda of the Regional Conference, the Director-General felt that the items contained were important for Europe and for the other regions as well, which could profit from it, particularly in the aspects of research networks and collaboration between national institutions in Europe and the developing regions. What was important in Europe as elsewhere was that the activities be concrete and practical.

32. The Director-General then recalled the proposals he had put before the last Session of the FAO Council and which the latter had adopted. Firstly, he underscored the savings afforded by the elimination of several meetings and publications. This did not mean, he emphasized, that all working parties, seminars and committees were devoid of any importance or usefulness.

33. The Director-General also voiced his misgivings about the work of the ad hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System. Though the report of this body was not yet available, he thought he could see a tendency in some quarters towards centralization in New York of control over the entire United Nations System. The Director-General thought that these ideas were exaggerated and were even wrong, and that they appeared to rest on a faulty understanding of the activities of the specialized agencies.

34. He remained convinced all the same that the effectiveness of the whole system, the vitality it derived from its pluralism, and its value to all countries, and particularly to those in process of development, could only suffer badly if subjected to the headlock of paralysing centralist theories and coordination systems.

35. The Director-General stressed the highly important role of Europe in many of FAO's activities, notably the contributions it made in such fields as food aid, emergency aid, world food security, fertilizer and pesticide supply and training activities. Thanks to these contributions, trust fund activities might soon bear comparison with those financed by UNDP, which was a good sign.

36. The Director-General wanted to make clear that he would go on insisting that top priority go to action-oriented programmes and that a better balance be struck between technical and other activities, but he would never abrogate or even neglect FAO's responsibility and competence in the charting of overall policy or in normative and analytical work on the economic and social aspects of food and agricultural development.

37. In closing, the Director-General said he was certain that the proceedings would be productive and arrive at fruitful results. The full text of Mr. Saouma's statement is attached as Appendix F.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of the ECE

38. Mr. J. Stanovnik, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, expressed his pleasure to take the floor at the Tenth Regional Conference for Europe and said this was one further proof of the excellent and fruitful cooperation between FAO and the UN Economic Commission for Europe.

39. He stated that one of the salient developments in the region during the past quarter of a century, as had been the case generally in the world, was the growth of population. When the war was over the total ECE population was just about 750 million people. It reaches today one billion. What was interesting was that these 250 million additional people have not increased directly the pressure on agricultural land but that the growth of urban population was proportionately much faster than the growth of rural population. This was the consequence of one of the greatest contradictions which economic history could recall.

40. Mr. Stanovnik said that the end result of this evolution is a phenomenon that while earlier the main claimant on land was agriculture and forestry, now there is a number of them from urban settlement to industry and transport, secondary homes and tourist industry and many others still.

41. During this post-war period Europe had been confronted with a typical phenomenon of a non-coordinated approach to land use, each sector pursuing its own objective, having its own target, its own criteria, ignoring the competing needs of others. This non-coordinated approach had led to many clashes and conflicts. The differences had not been only economic or juridical but very much social also. The growth tended to concentrate on the pockets, centres or poles of growth, particularly if there was no deliberate human action in the form of well thought out government policy.

42. Mr. Stanovnik went on to say that under these circumstances, agriculture could not follow in future the same pattern as in the past. It could be assumed that the productivity trends would continue. But they would not spontaneously work for more equal distribution. Agriculture alone could not solve the problem of less-favoured countries and regions. What was needed was not just a re-distribution of income after it had been produced, but rather a better distribution of employment and opportunities to earn income in the first place. Other sectors must make their own contribution and the task of agriculture must be well coordinated with others.

43. After a long period of analysis there was the need of synthesis. What was needed was a multi-disciplinary, intersectoral approach and action. Therefore, Mr. Stanovnik said, the issues which would be debated at this Conference were, par excellence, issues which called on various international organizations to join in international efforts. He expressed the hope that the discussions at this Conference would lead to a major international initiative or major international undertaking not only to study the problems of land utilization and concomitant problems of less privileged and developing countries and regions, but that this would lead also to appropriate international action. The full text of Mr. Stanovnik's statement is attached as Appendix G.

Comments on the Director-General's Statement

44. In their interventions on item 6(a) of the Agenda, numerous delegations referred to the opening address by the Director-General and, in particular, to his proposals for the reorientation of the activities of FAO. All of them gave strong support to the measures the Director-General had proposed to the Council and which had been adopted by this body at its 69th Session in July this year. Delegations stressed that they felt that these changes were of great importance for the Organization and would give a new strength and effectiveness to its work.

45. In connexion with the references of the Director-General to the trend towards centralization of UN activities in New York, delegations agreed that FAO, as all specialized agencies, had a very specific and important role to play and that their independence should be ensured within, of course, a valid framework of coordination.

46. Delegations expressed appreciation for the interest shown by the Director-General's statement in certain European problems and particularly in connexion with the severe drought which had affected a number of countries in the region in the current year. They concurred with the Director-General in the importance of the work of the ECA Working Party on Water Resources and Irrigation which they felt was a good instrument for the promotion of more activities in water conservation and utilization.

47. Several delegations expressed the hope that FAO would not abandon certain fields, particularly that of agricultural commodities, in which the Organization had always played a substantive role and had acquired a considerable expertise. The Director-General's statement that he recognized the value of this work, would preserve it fully, and had made an appropriate agreement with UNCTAD was appreciated.

AGRICULTURAL POLICIES OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Agricultural Development of Economically Developing Countries and of Less Favoured Regions of Europe

48. All delegations welcomed the inclusion of this item on the Agenda (document ERC/76/2). Their statements attested to the interest of all European countries in the question of less-favoured regions, and some countries even gave it highest priority. Some delegations also referred expressly to the specific needs of the economically developing countries in Europe and to FAO's contribution towards the satisfaction of those needs. The information and observations presented complemented and updated the documentation already assembled by the Secretariat.

49. All the delegations felt that the problem was of varying concern to all the countries and that courses were open in which international cooperation could join. In particular, several of the developing countries wanted exchanges of information, methods and experience among European countries.

50. Several delegations emphasized that the level of development in the agricultural sector varied from one country to another and that the measures called for depended on the internal conditions in each, and particularly on the degree of development and the economic and social system. The agricultural problems and policies of the developing countries in the region displayed specific characteristics. In some countries the larger part of its territory, could be regarded as a less-favoured agricultural area. In consequence, a special approach had to be taken to the problem of the less-favoured areas. On the national agricultural scale these countries had to stress production, productivity and modernization questions, and to do this had to direct their efforts at the regions of highest potential, that is, those that were already advanced. Lands of good potential were few in these countries, however; hence the importance for them of agricultural development in their less-favoured

areas, not only to keep the population in place, preserve the natural environment, and ensure balanced regional development, but also (a) to develop agricultural production and (b) given the importance of agriculture in the national economy, to ensure national socio-economic development.

51. Many delegations agreed to the integrated approach suggested in the document for solving regional policy problems in the less-favoured areas. It was pointed out that it was necessary to increase the employment possibilities outside agriculture.

52. There was much insistence on the diversity of these areas and on the need to take local conditions into account in order to promote the right kind of development in them. But this diversity had to be understood, its factors (natural factors, population, distances, occupations, traditions, etc.) perceived. Now, the phenomenon of rural backwardness was still poorly understood. This was why some delegations regretted that the document prepared by the Secretariat did not cover all the European countries. They wanted more penetrating studies of less-favoured agricultural areas (for example, a better evaluation of their physical potential) and more information from more complete country studies.

53. The concepts and definitions were still to be worked out in this field. Hence further thought was also needed about the motivations, the objectives, and the choices behind policy actions. The delegations thought a critical evaluation should be undertaken of the policies and methods followed to date. However, this concern for method did not exclude a pragmatic approach, particularly in dealing with areas that had a specific character of their own.

54. The practical, operational purpose of these improved data, of these more enlightened methods was the overall development of each rural area, the ultimate aim being the solution in situ of the crucial problem of jobs and of thus retaining the population. The delegations recalled the need of an inter-sectoral approach to accomplish this.

55. The recurrence of certain themes in the statements of many delegations gave a kind of indication of the possible location of the bottlenecks of regional development. The theme of land use management aroused the concern of many delegations. And land problems were certainly even worse in less-favoured than in other agricultural areas. This was unquestionably one of the chief bottlenecks. It appeared, however, that property rights were in evolution. Beyond the legal problems of tenure, which varied widely with the socio-economic system of the country, there were also technical problems such as soil conservation, rangeland development, irrigation, etc.

56. The delegations' statements brought out another main theme, that of the active participation of the farmers concerned. This participation could scarcely be secured in the framework of a programme handed down from above. Local interests had to be consulted to enlist the involvement of the population. There was often a problem of language, of communication with farmers, which made it necessary that the adviser involve them in his work, on the ground, to find appropriate new activities and forms of cooperation. This requirement of active participation by the farmers themselves was illuminating for national authorities: did the development methods meet this requirement? For example, it was underscored that methods of assistance should not foster a dependence on assistance but should always require the assumption of some responsibility in order not to cripple the personal motivation of the recipient.

57. Projects, research and measures were now in preparation in many countries. To the extent that they were in progress, it was necessary in each country to conduct a continuing evaluation of their results as they emerged. On approaches and methods, however, some exchanges between countries would doubtlessly be possible. There were some who wondered about the policies to be followed and wanted to know of the courses taken by other countries and to compare rural development methods. The delegations of some developing countries wanted a transfer of experience and knowledge to their benefit. For example, problems of extensive livestock raising gave concern to some countries in the north western part of the region, but also affected the southern countries. Regional conditions were different, to be sure, but exchanges of experience would still be desirable.

58. The question of part-time farming was raised by several delegations. The Secretariat document had reflected the existing divergences of opinion on the nature of this kind of agriculture. Most of the delegations felt that part-time farming was becoming an increasingly important factor for lasting development. Agriculture, on this basis, was growing more widespread in many countries, and the forms of assistance hitherto granted to full-time farmers were now being progressively extended to part-time farmers. Improvement in the employment possibilities outside agriculture in less-favoured areas was thought to be one method of improving the conditions of part-time farmers.

59. Other points were raised that might eventually become subjects for joint work: technology adapted to less favoured agricultural areas (mechanization), appropriate farming models, transhumance, evolution of agricultural structures, social assistance.

60. A number of delegations observed that, despite an expenditure of considerable effort and resources for rural development, the results obtained could be rated as unsatisfactory, and the precise causes of this situation would have to be identified. The delegations' statements brought out that exchanges relating to a better understanding of less-favoured agricultural areas, to rural development methods, and to the effectiveness of policies, met the needs of many countries, and of the developing countries in particular. Several countries pronounced themselves willing to draw up national reports. The Conference recommended to the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Agrarian Structure and Farm Rationalization that it include the subject of part-time agriculture in its programme of work, now in preparation. The Conference also recommended to this Working Party that it organize, around the end of 1977 or the beginning of 1978, an international symposium of the development of less-favoured agricultural areas in which a broad exchange of views could take place on experience acquired and policies pursued, as well as on objectives, measures and resources that would secure lasting solutions.

Land Use Planning Problems and Future Demand for Land Resource in Europe

61. Numerous delegations expressed their appreciation for the inclusion of this subject in the Agenda of the Conference. Virtually all delegations agreed with the analysis of the present land use situation as described in document ERC/76/3. There was also a general consensus of opinion that the problems related to land use deserved greater attention by governments than was hitherto the case. It was recognized that land use policies must be closely linked with environmental policies. Several delegations noted that the importance of forestry was increasing as a factor in maintaining stable and healthy environments and that practically all countries have enacted strict legislation for the control and maintenance of forests as a land use. There were, however, a variety of opinions regarding the approach to be adopted in dealing with land use problems, the degree of concern that should be attached to various types of problems identified and the extent of regional cooperation that should be initiated with respect to various land use activities and policies.

62. There was a general consensus of opinion that a multisectoral approach was required to evolve rational land use policies and decisions and that land use policies must be accompanied by a supporting legislation. There were, however, differences of opinion as to the degree of national authority which should be exercised in directing it. Some delegations favoured a strong central authority, which exercised severe controls to prohibit to the fullest possible extent, agricultural land from being used for non-agrarian, non-reversible uses. Other delegations felt that the free market forces should continue to play a major role in the allocation of land to various competing uses. Several countries described a variety of approaches which essentially would be a compromise between these two extremes.

63. Delegations noted certain omissions in the document, especially an assessment of alternative approaches other than an integrated comprehensive one, to land use planning and an evaluation of the likely consequences of the different approaches being used by member countries. Certain delegations objected to the implication that ministries be reorganized to facilitate land use planning. There was, however, general agreement with the principle that more effective working relationships needed to be established between ministries to deal with problems of land use and some delegations were of the opinion that agriculture should be the leading ministry.

64. There was a general consensus that representatives of agriculture should be involved in all decisions relating to the use of land in rural areas for road construction, urban developments for residential or industrial areas, etc. The often disruptive effects on the environment as a consequence of the construction of important communication networks was particularly emphasized. Some delegations indicated a lack of contact between ministries in arriving at such decisions. Even when consulted other ministries often enjoyed a stronger economic and political position than the ministries of agriculture.

65. Opinions were expressed regarding the need for land for food production in the foreseeable future. Some delegations felt that the world's pressing demand for food during the foreseeable future would make it mandatory to maintain a high level of agricultural productivity. This would necessitate controls of agricultural land to ensure that the land base remained intact both in quantitative and qualitative terms. Some delegations, however, emphasized that adequate food supplies should be produced in developing countries. If this happened, Europe's land supply problem would not be critical.

66. The Conference recognized that land use problems were essentially national and should therefore be dealt with at national levels. There was, however, general agreement that regional cooperation could be necessary, for instance, in those cases where national boundaries cut across major watersheds. The scope for international cooperation would therefore be limited predominantly to an exchange of information and experience in land use technology, the search for better methodologies to deal with various problems and the development of data collection methods with standard terminology which would facilitate the monitoring of the land use situation, and meet at least the minimum information requirements for rational land use planning.

67. The very close inter-relationships of the two topics, the Agricultural Development of Less Favoured Areas (document ERC/76/2) and Land Use Planning Problems (document ERC/76/3) was recognized by all delegations. It was acknowledged that application of sound land use planning approaches were particularly relevant to deal with the problems of abandoned land in rural areas, the provision of second homes for urban dwellers and the recreational development of these areas.

68. Most delegations emphasized the growing problem and need, as a result of the growing mobility of urban populations, for effective programmes to maintain sufficient space and recreation facilities near urban areas. This would create considerable pressures on agricultural lands, but was nevertheless essential for the maintenance of a satisfactory living environment for population centres. Planners should therefore attempt to supply these needs through the use of lower classes of land where possible.

69. Certain delegations emphasized that the pollution potential inherent in the widespread use of chemicals in agricultural production, mechanization, waterlogging, improper use of irrigation, salinity, etc. were all factors causing widespread deterioration of the land resource base in Europe. A plea was made for the European member countries and international organizations to monitor these aspects to ensure that the quality as well as the quantity of the land base was maintained.

70. Special reference was made by several delegations to the poor quality and coverage of land use statistics in general, as well as to the lack of international comparability of national data. An improvement of the statistical data to satisfy the minimum requirements of basic data for proper land use planning was considered necessary in a number of countries. It was felt that the two Joint FAO/ECE Working Parties on Statistics and the Conference of European Statisticians, as well as the World Census of Agriculture, could appropriately deal with the problem in close cooperation. Duplication of effort among different international organizations active in this field should be avoided. The economic and judicious use of the Secretariat's resources in the regional programmes, in general, was also stressed by many delegations.

71. The Government of Israel offered to host a symposium on agricultural and rural planning dealing with the principles, methodology and implementation as related to both land use planning problems and the development of less-favoured areas.

72. Many delegations recognized that the various problems of land use and land use planning in Europe justified the convening of a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency consultative meeting (including, inter alia, FAO, ECE, OECD and taking account of the work done of other organizations, e.g. the Council of Europe), to identify the possibilities of international cooperation in this field. The European Land Use Conference which had been proposed by some delegations to be held in late 1978 under the aegis of ECE should be prepared in the light of the outcome of such a consultation.

CURRENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE

FAO Activities including the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

73. The Conference considered this item on the basis of document ERC/76/4 and it had also before it an additional document submitted by the Delegation of Romania, attached to this Report as Appendix H, referring to the importance of FAO's role in Europe and making a number of concrete proposals for FAO's activities in the Region.

74. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the comprehensive Secretariat document and singled out a number of issues for special consideration. In the first instance, it fully endorsed the programme for the establishment of the European cooperative networks, noting that this had proved to be a system which had quickly won the support of Member Governments and particularly of scientific and technical institutions and researchers. The fact that it already had a membership of nearly 100 national institutions was considered to be a clear sign of the promising possibilities the research networks offered.

75. The Conference was particularly pleased by the fact that a certain number of developing countries from the African, Near Eastern and Latin American Regions had already become members of some of the networks and it expressed the wish that every effort should be made to increase the membership of developing countries so as to ensure an intensive exchange of research information as well as the carrying out of joint research projects between European institutions and those of developing countries.

76. The Conference agreed with the philosophy expressed by the European Commission on Agriculture (para. 77 of the Report of the 20th Session of the ECA) "... that after the group of nine networks has been established, the further development of the programme should proceed cautiously, after having taken stock of the results of the experience gained and allowing for a period of consolidation." The establishment of further networks should be done with full regard to the human and financial resources available in the institutions concerned and in the Secretariat of FAO.

77. A number of countries made proposals for additional topics which might become the subject of networks, such as irrigation, pulse crops, potatoes, virus diseases in animals and others. The Conference received a formal proposal for the holding of a Workshop, possibly in 1978, on improvement of grass and hay lands in alpine and northern areas, linked possibly with the proposed cooperative network on Mediterranean pastures. These new activities should take into account the work done by the two FAO Study Groups on Mountain Grasslands and on Mediterranean Grasslands Problems. The Conference considered the proposal of interest and referred it for consideration to the Executive Committee of ECA.

78. The Conference noted that it was intended to carry out an evaluation of the results achieved by the networks in a meeting of directors of the Coordination Centres of the networks which would be undertaken in cooperation with the Executive Committee of ECA, possibly in late 1977, so that the results could be reported to the 21st Session of ECA.

79. Another subject which the Conference underlined with satisfaction was the progress which was being achieved in the cooperation with other international organizations active in Europe and in particular with the ECE. It considered that the merger of the Working Parties had been a good step and that further possibilities of cooperation should be explored.

80. Several delegations pointed out that in certain fields close cooperation should also be maintained with organizations such as, in the case of foot-and-mouth disease, the International Office of Epizootics, and in the case of plant diseases, the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization. In the case of swine fever, the need for good cooperation with EEC was pointed out and it was noted that a joint meeting had been held in September in Hannover.

81. The Conference underlined the importance of the work in genetic resources. Many delegations felt that the system as planned at present was a very good beginning but that it needed to be expanded by increasing the number of centres for the collection of germ plasm, as well as by inviting all countries to become members. The possibility should also be considered to extend the programme to other sectors, particularly in animal genetics, and to include additional species such as for instance, sheep, pigs and poultry. Satisfaction was expressed at the involvement of national laboratories which was considered to be a good example to be followed elsewhere.

82. As regards the question of irrigation and, more generally, water conservation and utilization, the Conference recalled that the Director-General had already referred to this problem in his opening address and was satisfied to note that support would be given to the continuation of the ECA Working Party on Water Resources and Irrigation.

83. Several delegations recalled the discussions at the last Session of the ECA on the problem of energy in agriculture and emphasized that this important subject should not be left aside. In particular, it was hoped that FAO would comply with the request of ECA to issue a questionnaire on governmental measures related to energy in agriculture and that Governments would take every care to reply to them.

84. The Conference noted that due to the Council approval of the Director-General's programme and budgetary proposals, the Fifth Session of the ECA Working Party on Home Economics had had to be cancelled. This was regretted and the hope was expressed that it would be possible to make the necessary funds available in the next biennium and to ensure thereafter that the meetings of this Working Party could be held regularly at two-yearly intervals, as further work on the question of the role of women in agriculture was considered of high priority.

85. Many delegations expressed their support for the suggestions of the European Commission on Agriculture in para. 13 of the Report of the 20th Session: "... to examine ways and means of evaluating the impact of the Commission's activities on the different government activities in member countries and also on the transfer of the results achieved by the Commission to developing countries of other Regions, including an examination of the modalities of such transfers". The Conference expressed the hope that the Executive Committee would be able to deal with this matter soon, as it believed that such an assessment would be of value to judge the effect of the utilization of resources.

86. Several delegations underlined the importance of the damage caused by erosion to their countries' soil resources and requested that FAO should consider ways and means to deal with this problem on a European basis.

87. The Delegation of Israel referred to the importance of extension work and offered to host a symposium for the training of extension workers in new trends and methods in this field.

88. The Conference stressed the important role of the European Regional Conference in the setting of priorities and choice of policies and programmes for the Region and of the European Regional Office in the coordination of these and as an instrument of action of the Organization in the European Region.

89. With regard to the section on cooperation in the field of Economics, Science and Technology and the Environment of the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Conference agreed with the views expressed in para.8 of document ERC/76/4 to the effect that "... it can be said that all the activities which FAO carries out in the European Region fit very clearly the spirit and the letter of the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference. The scope and aim of these activities is, and has always been, the strengthening of the cooperation between the member countries in the Region in the policy, technical, social and economic aspects of Agriculture. All the member countries of the Region, without distinction as to the economic or political grouping to which they belong, participate in the work of the European statutory bodies of FAO and their subsidiary organs and collaborate in the implementation of their recommendations. FAO thus provides a very ample forum for the exchange of know-how and experience and for their transfer between countries." Several delegations felt that the action of Member Governments in the implementation of the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe had been so far not very numerous and that much more could be done, considering at the same time that FAO could and should play an important role in this context in the relevant fields mentioned above.

90. In discussing the proposals submitted by the Delegation of Romania in the document mentioned above the Conference felt that many of the activities suggested were included already in the on-going activities of FAO in Europe, but that this document should be considered in greater detail. The Conference recommended, therefore, that the Secretariat, the Executive Committee of ECA and other FAO bodies competent in the fields proposed should study the proposals and make relevant recommendations at an early opportunity.

91. Some delegations considered that para. 210 of document ERC/76/4 did not reflect adequately the situation in the Socialist countries and therefore proposed the following modification to this paragraph:

"210. Problems and goals of agricultural policy are different in most Socialist countries as compared to West European countries. The efforts of the agricultural policy in Socialist European countries are concentrated on an increase of production and narrowing the working and living conditions between the cities and the countryside. They are directed to achieve higher labour productivity and reduce production costs (without increasing the prices for agricultural commodities). In addition the process of further enlargement of production units and intensification is being supported by government policies. By this way, a new type of agricultural work comes into being, by which the peasants organize and manage the specialized agricultural large-scale production."

This modification was noted.

92. Many countries referred to the importance of FAO's activities in the field of fisheries and, in particular, to the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission. The Conference expressed the wish that resources should be made available so that this Commission should continue on at least its present level of work.

93. With regard to work on commodities and trade, the Conference noted with satisfaction the comments made in the Director-General's opening address, as recorded in para. 43 above. Some delegations felt that more work on questions of trade in food and agricultural products in Europe would be very useful.

94. On the question of the general level of FAO activities in the European Region, the Conference recognized that the highest priority in the distribution of resources should be given to developing countries. Nevertheless, the Conference also felt that certain activities continued to be of high importance for the European Region and that much of the European work would certainly also be of value to the developing countries. Therefore the Conference recommended that a certain level of activities and an appropriate share in the Budget of the Organization should continue to be maintained on condition, of course, that the choice would be based on a careful consideration of priorities so as to ensure that the resources were used on issues of the highest interest. The excessive limitation of resources for Europe might lead to a lack of capacity in certain important fields which the Conference felt continued to be valuable for the Region.

95. The Delegation of Yugoslavia proposed that one of the main themes of the 11th Regional Conference for Europe might deal with research problems such as research policy of European countries, international scientific policy and the transfer of scientific and technological research results between countries and regions. The Conference agreed that this was a very important issue but considered that no decision could be taken at this stage. It suggested, therefore, that the matter be taken into account by the Director-General when formulating the Agenda for the next FAO Regional Conference for Europe, possibly in consultation with the Executive Committee of the ECA and other European bodies of FAO and ECE.

96. The Conference noted that at its Sixty-Ninth Session (12-16 July 1976) the Council of FAO had reviewed the AGRIS programme and noted that virtually all the budget of 1976-77 was for AGRIS Level 1, and agreed with the Director-General that it was the specialized service Level 2, still in the development stages, which was the important element for developing countries. The Council requested the Director-General to continue Regular Programme financing of the central coordination and processing costs for Level 1 and recommended that the publication of AGRINDEX be continued pending the conclusion of efforts to find a suitable publisher.

97. The Conference noted with interest the statement of the Regional Representative for Europe concerning the progress achieved by the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its 11th Session (April 1976). A further twenty-one international food standards had been adopted for infant foods, fruit juices, canned and quick frozen fish products, processed meat products, processed and quick-frozen fruits and vegetables, cocoa products and chocolate. In addition, limits for pesticide residues in many foods were adopted and Codes of Hygienic Practice for the ante- and post-mortem inspection of slaughter animals, fresh meat, processed meat products, egg products, poultry processing and for fresh and canned fish. Increasing emphasis was being placed on the needs of developing countries by the Commission, and Regional Coordinating Committees were established to facilitate the development of food laws, regulations and food control infrastructures. The Conference emphasized the importance of the Commission's activities for developed and developing countries in facilitating international trade in foodstuffs and stressed the interest of European governments in continuing to host many of the meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies.

WFP Activities

98. The Conference expressed satisfaction with the work done by the Programme and urged donor countries that had not yet pledged contributions to do so as soon as possible.

99. The Delegation of Romania stated, that its Government is in the process of analysing the possibility of contributing to WFP while at the same time receiving assistance within the framework of this Programme for the realization of certain projects for agricultural development.

100. The Conference felt that it would be useful to keep this item on the Agenda of the FAO Regional Conferences to make it possible for non-CFA members to participate in discussions on the work of the WFP. A delegation referred to earlier documents in which the share of assistance provided to the European Region was given as 7 percent as against 13 percent in the current period. It questioned the accuracy of this figure in view of the fact that the WFP gave priority to the Least Developed and Most Seriously Affected countries.

101. The Representative of the WFP expressed his appreciation to the delegations that had spoken so well of the work of the Programme and he mentioned that the Programme was grateful for the desire of the Government of Romania to contribute to it. WFP assistance was available to all Member Nations of the UN and FAO, and, to receive it, Governments needed only to prepare an appropriate request and submit it to the WFP. Moreover, the WFP would be glad to assist Governments in preparing their requests. The WFP Representative regretted that he could not presently verify the calculations of assistance, but promised that he would look into the matter and inform the delegation concerned.

102. Before closing, the WFP Representative stated that the efficiency of the Programme resulted from the harmonious relations that obtained between the Secretariat and its Governing Body and that the Programme, for its part, would go on doing its best to maintain this harmony and to benefit from the guidance of its Governing Body.

EUROPEAN REPRESENTATION IN THE FAO COUNCIL

103. Many delegations to the Conference were not satisfied with how the European countries were represented in the FAO Council. Several planned-economy countries wanted two of theirs in the Council on a permanent basis, and many small countries also wanted access to membership through a rotation of seats that would ensure a balanced and equitable representation of the various sub-regions of Europe.

104. These delegations felt that it should be possible to enable the European countries, when nominating their candidates to seats falling vacant, to designate a number of candidates equal to the number of seats to which the Region is entitled.

105. The Delegation of Yugoslavia, expressing the view that the regionalisation of Europe can hardly be a solution of the problem, insisted more particularly on the criteria that should be found to ensure a balanced and equitable representation, and specified that, in its view:

- every country should get an adequate possibility to be elected to the Council
- the principle of the rotation of Council seats should be accepted, and ensured in practice, for no European country could permanently sit in the Council
- in addition, other facts and criteria should be taken into consideration, i.e. geographical position, belonging to or not belonging to economic groupings, prevailing economic system (market or centrally planned), the degree of economic and specifically agricultural development, ensuring the participation in the work of the Council of such Member Nations as contribute in a large measure toward the success of the Organization (General Rule XXII.3(b)).

106. The Delegation of the Netherlands, supported by those of Austria and Norway, emphasized that consensus would be the most acceptable compromise formula. It proposed that in the light of the deliberations of the Working Party on the Composition and Terms of Reference of the Council, the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, the Permanent Representatives of the European countries in Rome study the form such a consensus could take. It was clear that assigning an additional Council seat to the European Region would help solve the problem. The Delegation of the United Kingdom was of the view that the Basic Texts of the Organization did not need to be changed to solve the problem of the representation of the European countries in the Council as had been suggested by a number of delegations. It underscored the responsibility of the major contributors to FAO, and the interest they took in its activities, and hence, in a presence in the Council.

107. In order not to protract a discussion in which a number of consultations were still needed before a conclusion could be reached, the Chairman proposed the following procedure:

- a) The Delegation of Yugoslavia, acting on its own, would present in writing a number of criteria that could be considered to afford an objective and equitable apportionment of the seats of the European Region in the FAO Council;

- b) The proposal of the Yugoslav Delegation, together with the proposals to be presented by the Working Party on the Composition and Terms of Reference of the Council, the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, would serve as a point of departure for discussion in an ad hoc consultation consisting of the permanent representatives and/or other representatives of European Member Nations in Rome. The purpose of this discussion would be to lay down certain guidelines for representation, and not to institutionalize any system.
- c) The delegations of the European countries to the 19th FAO Conference in 1977 could meet in the early days of that Conference, before the elections to the Council, to discuss the proposals made by the above ad hoc consultation.

108. No objection was raised to this proposal. It would therefore be acted upon, and the dean of the permanent European representatives in Rome was invited to convene such an ad hoc consultation.

109. The Delegation of France objected to the principle of entrusting special studies to the permanent representatives in Rome inasmuch as all the countries were not necessarily represented there. It reserved its position on this point. It also reserved its position with regard to the procedure which consisted in using as a basis for discussion a text prepared by a national delegation while a Working Party of the Council was at present entrusted with the preparation of a report to the 70th Session of the Council on precisely the same subject.

EUROPEAN REPRESENTATION IN THE:

Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment

110. The Conference confirmed unanimously Turkey and Yugoslavia to serve in this Group until the end of 1977. Greece and Portugal were elected unanimously to serve for the biennium 1978/79.

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

111. The Conference re-elected unanimously Israel and Romania to serve in this Group for the biennium 1977/78.

VENUE OF FUTURE REGIONAL CONFERENCES

112. The Delegation of Portugal conveyed the invitation of its Government for the 11th FAO Regional Conference for Europe to be held in Portugal in October 1978.

113. The Delegation of Greece indicated its Government's wish to invite the Regional Conference to hold its 12th Session in Greece in 1980.

114. The Conference also received an invitation from the Delegation of Bulgaria for the 12th FAO Regional Conference for Europe to be held in Bulgaria in 1980.

115. The Regional Representative for Europe thanked these Delegations for their kind invitations which he said would be submitted to the Director-General of FAO who would take the necessary decisions in due course.

AGENDA

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
3. Adoption of the Agenda and the Timetable
4. Statement by the Director-General
5. Statement by the Executive Secretary of ECE
6. Agricultural Policies of European Countries
 - a) Agricultural Development of Economically Developing Countries and of Less Favoured Regions of Europe
 - b) Land Use Planning and Future Demand for Land Resource in Europe
7. Current and Future Activities in Europe
 - a) FAO Activities Including the Implementation of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
 - b) WFP Activities
8. European Representation in the FAO Council
9. European Representation in the:
 - a) Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment
 - b) Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
10. Other Business
11. Date and Place of the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference for Europe
12. Adoption of the Report
13. Closure of the Conference

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LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

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ERC/76/CONF/4

Opening Statement by the Chairman of the Conference, Mr. A. Miculescu, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Food Industries of the Socialist Republic of Romania

ERC/76/CONF/5

Considerations of the Delegation of Romania on the Place and Role of FAO in the Expansion of General European Cooperation in the Field of Food and Agriculture.

WELCOMING STATEMENT BY MR. A. MICULESCU
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD INDUSTRIES OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA

Allow me to bid you, on behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania, most cordially and warmly welcome to Romania.

We are all gathered here together for the purpose of examining the problems arising in the development of agriculture in the countries of Europe and to choose solutions/courses to take that will effectively help quicken the pace of development of the developing countries and of the less favoured regions on our continent.

We are quite familiar with the programmes, structures and policies of the Organization, reexamined in the spirit of the deliberations of the 18th FAO Conference, and with the new orientation of its programmes proposed by our distinguished Director-General, Mr. Edouard Saouma, and which we applaud as an encouraging first step towards the Organization's participation in the effort to solve one of the complex and acute problems of mankind today - that of agriculture and food.

As a developing country striving to define the idea of a new international economic and political order, Romania is endeavouring to promote this idea, and is militating for the abolition of the old imperialist and colonialist policy, which generates gaping inequalities in the economic development of the world, by establishing new relationships among states that will assure to each country the right to sovereignty over its own wealth, to promote the more rapid advancement of all peoples and particularly of those in process of development.

In this context we regard it as essential to increase FAO's contribution to the development of inter-European cooperation in the field of agriculture for the solution of the problems confronting the countries in the area, by giving the bodies of FAO on the European level, and particularly to the Regional Conferences and the FAO Regional Office for Europe, a more important part to play.

We also welcome the proposal for the establishment by FAO of a complex agricultural development programme, and we suggest that this action be designed as a multiplicity of programmes, on the regional and sub-regional levels, in specific fields.

We are certain that the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe will succeed in identifying new ways and avenues for promoting cooperation among the European countries in the field of food and agriculture, and that the actions undertaken will fit into the framework of the efforts to establish a new international economic order.

I wish the Conference complete success in its labours.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TENTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE,
MR. A. MICULESCU, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD INDUSTRIES OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA

First of all, I want to thank you for doing me the honour of choosing me to conduct the proceedings of the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe. I see my designation as expressing the recognition of the delegations present for the sustained efforts made by Romania in the FAO setting and in the international sphere in the quest - in collaboration with other countries - for solutions to the urgent problems facing us today, particularly in the field of food and agriculture.

We are glad that this meeting is being held in Romania, a country that has striven and is striving still to collaborate with the Organization as effectively as it can. This choice demonstrates at the same time FAO's unwavering faithfulness to the democratic principles of rotating the sites of its meetings and the attention that FAO and the Member Nations of the Conference are giving to the agricultural problems of the European developing countries and to their relations with the developed area.

In a more general way, the particular significance and importance of this meeting also stem from the fact that this is the first large-scale meeting of a specialized agency of the United Nations System to be held on the European level since the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and since the 69th Special Session of the FAO Council, which passed measures relating to the reorganization of FAO and to a new orientation for its operations.

At the same time, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has arrived at the stage at which concrete action is being taken to implement the recommendations of the World Food Conference, particularly the one about increasing and developing agricultural production in the developing countries, the attainment of food security and the development of the international trade in agricultural food products.

In this connection, the proposal made by Mr. Edouard Saouma, Director-General of FAO is most encouraging, as it calls for the establishment of a Technical Cooperation Programme designed to support efforts to expand agricultural production in the developing countries.

Finally, the study of the possibilities for FAO participation in efforts to institute a new international economic order pursuant to the Resolution adopted by the FAO Conference last year is another major constituent of FAO's present and future work and, at the same time, a milestone in the record of our Regional Conference.

As for activities on the European level, FAO has today an important task before it: that of contributing effectively to the implementation of the specific recommendations of the Final Report of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The immediate significance of this document for FAO lies in its explicit recognition of the primacy of agriculture among the fields for cooperation and particularly in the identification and implementation of projects and undertakings of mutual interest. In the framework of these efforts, close collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe will result in greater effectiveness.

In the activities to be undertaken on the European level through the Regional Conference, account must be taken of existing situations on the Continent, of the fact that Europe has both developed and developing countries, the latter needing added support from FAO as well as special measures and action to develop their agriculture. FAO action to foster cooperation among European countries will have the further effect of supporting the efforts of developing countries in other regions of the world. Hence the need to think about the best ways to have the bodies of FAO, and primarily the Regional Conference and Regional Office, intensify their efforts to develop relationships for agricultural cooperation on the European level. As the host country of the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe, Romania hopes that this

Conference will be a turning point in the Organization's contribution to the solution of the agricultural problems confronting the countries in the Region.

It must not be forgotten that, despite the massive concentration of factors of production in Europe - particularly in the area of scientific know-how - agricultural development still lags considerably in some European countries.

I am certain that the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe can and must mark an important stage in the development of European cooperation. We should therefore join our efforts in these proceedings toward the establishment of such cooperation and toward the implementation of concrete, effective measures for the development of agriculture, the goal of us all.

OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. EDOUARD SAOUMA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

It is for me a privilege and a pleasure to address the Regional Conference for Europe in Bucharest, this crossroads of history. In the past this country and its capital gave much to the building of that common heritage that we call European civilization; in our day they are become as a bridge between different cultures and systems.

We are all indebted to the Romanian Government: the arrangements made for this Conference and for the hospitality we are enjoying attest to the distinguished contribution this country continues to make to the work of the Organization.

As you know, the Regional Conference is organized in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe; in fact, our two organizations, which maintain two Joint Divisions in Geneva, enjoy particularly constructive relations. As proof of this I need only cite the presence among us of Mr. Stanovnik, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe.

The European Region is manifestly different from other FAO Regions in many ways that I need hardly enumerate here.

This is not to say that it is a homogeneous region, however. It is marked by a wide diversity of ecological conditions, levels of development, and economic and social systems. Apart from what it can offer other regions, its relative financial, economic, scientific and technological opulence in no way precludes ample opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation within the Region itself.

Yet, it is not unthinkable that there are still ways in which other regions might have something to offer Europe. To the great surprise of many Europeans, there is at least one way in which Europe is similar to other regions. I refer, to be sure, to the devastation that violent climatic changes can wreak on agricultural production, on the circumstances of farmers, and even on national economies.

No-one who attended the last Regional Conference can have foreseen that we would be meeting here today not only after appalling earthquakes in Friuli, China and the Philippines, but also in the wake of the worst drought to smite some west European countries in hundreds of years.

I am not one to indulge in the fantasies of science-fiction. There are actually few signs, if any, that a massive climatic upheaval is in progress, and there is bound to be another explanation for these recent phenomena.

On the other hand, we must face up to the possibility that the droughts in the Sahel, in other regions, and now in the heart of Europe, are not isolated incidents that will never trouble our generation again.

In Europe this drought will not cause famine as it has done in other regions, but it will still have repercussions, and not only on food production and prices but on industrial production as well. And this will only compound the difficulties brought on in some countries of the Region by inflation and rising production costs. Besides, it may take two years of normal rainfall to restore water resources to their former level.

If at least the citizens of the rich countries, who have always had as much water as they could possibly wish for, could be brought by the drought to see just how precious a gift water is, and if they could thereby awaken to a keener sense of community with their brothers in the deprived countries, then could we indeed say that it's an ill wind that blows nobody good.

It is to be hoped, once this extraordinary drought is over, that the problem of balancing the water needs of urban conglomerates and industry on the one hand, and of agriculture on the other hand, will be kept in mind, without losing sight of the need to preserve the environment.

It is perhaps not sufficiently realized that water consumption for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes is rising so fast that safety margins are rapidly disappearing. Even droughts less severe and less prolonged than this one could easily disrupt the supply, removal and regulation of water and thereby drastically degrade its quality, even if this effect is not always immediately apparent.

We must not forget that agriculture - which remains the chief user of water in the Region - and forestry still exert a determinant influence on water resources. We must therefore apply ourselves more assiduously to the design and development of water utilization measures for the improvement and stabilization of water resources and the regulation and management of the hydrologic cycle. Water quality and recycling have also been neglected.

The stricken countries have moved energetically to counter the effects of the drought. The ministers of agriculture of the European Community have met to discuss further measures.

But an effort of observation and control, and public support, will be constantly required for the long-term - and possibly expensive and encumbering - measures that are called for.

In a strange reversal of the accustomed order, it may now be the turn of the rich, developed countries of this Region to draw on the experience of many developing countries and of our own Land and Water Development Division, to whose work they have themselves contributed so much over the last twenty years. FAO has in fact participated in projects for irrigation, drainage and land reclamation in a number of European countries. We are working with national institutions to improve techniques and practices in these fields. The Working Party on Water Resources and Irrigation of the European Commission on Agriculture is contributing to the enrichment and dissemination of our knowledge in this area, as was apparent in its recent meeting in Seville, which I had the pleasure of attending.

To be sure, the health of European agriculture depends on many other factors as well, and very powerful internal and external forces are at work on farm prices and incomes in the Region. This is a complicated and controversial subject and I do not intend on this occasion to venture onto the perilous ground where titans war over the soya bean, nor to get involved in the internal controversies generated by, for example, the Green Pound.

But there is a subject on which I am duty-bound to speak out in terms of some gravity, and that is the relationship that should obtain, particularly in matters of trade, between Europe and the other regions - either as between developed and developing countries or between North and South.

The special competence of FAO was recognized in the North-South Conference in Paris. We have participated fully in several commissions and on request have provided documentation on the problem of food and agriculture. We are glad that the Conference has resumed its work in Paris.

There is no lack of controversy and I do not intend to add fuel to the fire. It has to be said, however: how can any person endowed with reason and concerned for the future be happy with the results of the Sixth and Seventh Special Sessions of the General Assembly or with how the North-South talks have been progressing in Paris?

I venture to suggest that not one of you is satisfied with the present situation. Certainly no-one is on the other side, in the other regions, as is obvious from statements made by leaders of developing nations in various forums: the Abidjan Declaration of ECOSOC, the Manila Declaration adopted at the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East, and the Conference of the Non-Aligned Nations.

Can this situation go on indefinitely? I think not. It is essential for peace, security and the well-being of all countries and all regions that real, concrete gains be made. It is imperative that economic relations, and particularly the trade in the agricultural produce of developing countries, be put on a more objective and humane basis. It is imperative that the system allow for the real situation in those countries. It is imperative to redress the intolerable imbalance between the rich nations and the other two-thirds of the world.

The Lomé Convention was a big step forward. But the imbalance is now so great - worse in fact than before the start of the Development Decades - that neither good-will, nor tinkering, nor even generosity could possibly do any good. Nor is it by dint of resolutions and declarations that we will overcome the forces that are already shaping the harsh economic facts of life of tomorrow and next year.

Yet a solution must be found, and I, for one, ardently hope it will be found in international cooperation, in which FAO can and must play its part.

Meanwhile, there is no getting around the fact that your Region has problems and even deprived areas. Your Agenda calls for consideration of the difficult and complex problems raised by economic expansion and deprived areas in Europe, and by land use.

Your work in these fields is of interest not only in Europe; it can be useful in other regions as well. In the field of land use, for example, this is true of interactions between the various sectors of the economy and of the need to find harmonious solutions that take account of environmental exigencies in the framework of an integrated development policy. Other regions may profit from the examples you set, particularly for research networks and for collaboration between national institutions in Europe and in developing regions.

The important thing in your Region as in others is that FAO's contribution to national and regional activities be practical and geared to action; we cannot rest content with an interminable series of studies and meetings of working parties and committees.

I certainly do not mean that all working parties, seminars and committees are unimportant or useless. Quite to the contrary, some of them do work that can have far-reaching implications unsuspected by those not directly involved, as an example will show that I will speak of in a moment.

As far as FAO is concerned, the Council has strongly supported my intention to cut down drastically on documents and meetings. It has done so in a full awareness of the difficulties that would ensue, and particularly of the pressures that would inevitably be put on it to keep meetings and studies of special scientific or regional interest.

The burden has grown unbearable and everyone wants it lightened. But this cannot be done without upsetting some groups and some countries. And yet the knife must be wielded. That is my job. In doing it I will endeavour, as in the past, to cut like a surgeon and not like a butcher.

I referred just now to an important committee whose work, though perhaps not familiar to you, should be of considerable interest. It is not an FAO committee; indeed, FAO is not even represented on it. It is a body of the United Nations in New York and is called the ad hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System.

The Committee's official report is not yet available, but I understand that much of its work concerns the internal working of the General Assembly, its committees, and ECOSOC, and relations between the various components of the United Nations itself. That is not my concern, though I can sympathize with the misgivings that are aroused by the proliferation of United Nations bodies and by suggestions to set up new agencies and new funds - with the exception, to be sure, of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

What does worry me, however, is a visible tendency in some quarters to endeavour not merely to maintain coherence - a loosely used word if there ever was one! - within the United Nations family but actually to centralize control of the whole United Nations system in New York. Though speaking solely for themselves, to be sure, some have even come right out and labeled the existence of separate legislative bodies in the specialized agencies as an obstacle to the establishment of a unified budget for the entire United Nations system.

This extreme view may be held by but a few, and I do not think the ad hoc Committee presages the near demise of FAO's Conference and Council.

The fact remains, however, that views are nursed here and there that to my mind are exaggerated or even wrong. And it is particularly disturbing that these ideas are apparently based on an utterly incorrect understanding and even an abysmal ignorance of just what the specialized agencies do and how they function.

What does this spring from? Certainly not original sin, or even the ambitions of secretariats past or present. It is due in some part to conflicts of jurisdiction and responsibility between ministries in Member nations. Unfortunately for us, the line written by the pen sometimes matters more than the furrow cut by the ploughshare.

There can be no question about the need that the strategies for international development be charted under the aegis of the General Assembly, and that the economic and social sectors be coordinated under that of ECOSOC.

I remain convinced all the same that the effectiveness of the whole system, the vitality it derives from its pluralism, and its value to all countries, and particularly to those in process of development, can only suffer badly if subjected to the headlock of paralyzing centralist theories and coordination systems. Far from being reduced, the cost to the governments (and not merely the financial cost) would only rise further.

In my view, much more than a problem of structures it is a question of deciding whether, after thirty years, the system has not lost its soul and whether it still serves its purpose. We must stop taking the easy way out of hiring more and more staff, holding more and more meetings and turning out more publications in the vain hope that in so doing we will be automatically furthering the cause of development.

We must understand better and be more responsive to what the Member Nations really expect from the system.

Above all, we must devise arrangements for international cooperation that are truly harmonious and productive so as to promote world development and alleviate the misery in which millions and millions of people in other regions are submerged.

Such is the course I have set for myself, and for the whole Organization as well, I hope, in accordance with the proposals adopted by the Council last July. In the same spirit I have just spoken to you quite candidly about matters beyond the scope of your Agenda. I rely on you to give the Organization your understanding and support, which are vital to its health and to the success of its mission in the world.

This is no mere platitude. I recognize the importance of your contributions - both obligatory and voluntary - to the Organization, your dynamic participation in its activities on the policy-making and technical levels, and the influence of your Region throughout the United Nations system as well as bilaterally on many developing countries.

I have already spoken of the trade in primary products. You also have a major role in emergency aid - to the Sahel for example, in food aid, in world food security (which I intend to follow closely), in fertilizer and pesticide supply, and in many development projects and training activities relating particularly to meat and milk, credit and cooperatives.

Your involvement with FAO in such matters has continues to grow. As funds come in from new sources - and I take a great interest in this - our trust fund activities may soon begin to bear comparison with those financed by the UNDP. This will be a good sign, both for the Organization and for its Member Nations.

Moreover, in its scope and the form it has taken, this cooperation with FAO has thrown up some interesting innovations that could prove most valuable, particularly to the young countries of Africa.

Nor am I unaware of the interest that many countries of the Region take in economic and social reform and in the development of human resources on the basis of agrarian reform and integrated rural development.

On this subject there is a point I would like to make clear: yes, I will definitely go on insisting that top priority go to action-oriented programmes and that a better balance be struck between technical and other activities. But I will never abrogate or even neglect FAO's responsibility and competence in the charting of overall policy or in normative and analytical work on the economic and social aspects of food and agricultural development.

I will therefore be continuing and stepping up my efforts to sift the programmes and reshape the attitudes and working methods of the Organization in order to eliminate the vestigial traces of a past that was geared to routine rather than actuated by a concern for utility; without disproportionately increasing our staff in Rome, I want to make room for what is manifestly necessary, useful and productive.

And this is the spirit in which I appeal to your understanding and support, which I know I may count on.

Almost two centuries ago Saint-Just exclaimed that "happiness is a new idea in Europe". If happiness is a new idea in the world today, Europe must take much of the credit. To make this idea come true the world has need of Europe, which combines the wisdom of its old nations with the dynamism and generosity of its young people.

Thus, as you are about to begin your proceedings, I can say that I am certain they will be productive and arrive at fruitful results for the food and agricultural development not only of your own countries but of many countries in other regions as well.

In closing, I once again want to thank the Government of Romania for its marvellous hospitality, and all of you for your kind attention.

STATEMENT BY MR. J. STANOVNIK, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF
OF THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

It gives me a very particular pleasure to take the floor at this Conference which I think is one further proof of the excellent and fruitful cooperation between FAO and the UN Economic Commission for Europe; not only that the secretariats of the two Organizations have joined forces in preparing the background material for this Conference, but I believe that also the selection of the main themes to be discussed at this Conference augurs very well for future cooperation.

Also, Mr. Chairman, I am particularly pleased to be once again in your country which offered to our Commission in this very hall two years ago the same splendid hospitality which we are enjoying today. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that your country has a lot to offer to all of us. The experience of this country in achieving progress through equality - both nationally and internationally - is much admired around the world. We are all looking forward to learning from your experiences.

Mr. Director-General, I am also pleased to follow you on this rostrum. It is the first time after your election to this very responsible post that we are appearing together at an international forum. I admired greatly this morning your non-conventional but frank and very courageous stand and I am sure that the views you so frankly expressed will help governments when they will have to make responsible decisions on such matters as a reorganization of the economic side of the United Nations. I also greatly admired your dynamism and the will with which you are giving new impetus to the Organization which you head. I wish you every success.

With your permission, I would like to offer while at the beginning of this Conference, a few rather personal comments on the main subject matters which are before you. You decided to put in the centre of the attention of your deliberations two questions, the question of the agricultural development in economically developing countries and less favoured regions of Europe and another question on planning for land utilization and the question of the future demand for land resources. In our region the two questions are very closely interlinked. I consider further that it is a very happy coincidence that you will discuss these two important questions against the background of extremely important global development which has found its expression in various international conferences in recent years: the first of which was again here in Bucharest - the World Population Conference, followed by the World Food Conference in Rome and further by the Industrialization Conference in Lima, the Habitat Conference in Vancouver, the Employment Conference in Geneva and by the Conference on World Trade and Development in Nairobi. All these important conferences over a number of years have led to a kind of new conceptual approach to the problem of development with which our civilization is challenged today more than ever before.

I believe also, Mr. Chairman, that you have at this Conference a rather favourable environment here in Europe as you are meeting after a successful conclusion of the Conference on Security and Cooperation which, as you know, in its Helsinki Final Act has transmitted to the Economic Commission for Europe a number of important tasks for the multilateral implementation of the economic tasks which they have agreed at this conference. We are very much looking forward to joining forces with all international organizations, and first of all with yours, in putting into effect as much as possible on a multilateral scale the decisions of this historic conference.

Very briefly, Mr. Chairman, let me put before you the way I see the gist of these two problems before you today. I see them in the light of developments in the ECE Region which, as you all know, is somewhat broader than FAO's European Region because the ECE embraces also the U.S.S.R. and covers all European countries. It stretches over the ocean too as it includes also the United States of America and Canada. This part of the world encompasses largely the most developed countries of the world; but, as you rightly said this morning, it is not homogeneous as there are great differences in the level of development, sizes of the national economies and in the institutional set-up prevailing in the countries representing the membership of the ECE.

One of the salient developments in our region during the past quarter of a century, as it was the case generally in the world, was the growth of population. When the war was over the total ECE population was just about 750 million people. It reaches today one billion. What is interesting is that these 250 million additional people have not increased directly the pressure on agricultural land but that the growth of urban population was proportionately much faster than the growth of rural population. This was the consequence of one of the greatest contradictions which economic history could recall. In Western Europe we had the phenomenon that agricultural employment over this period was decreasing by 3.5 percent while the productivity per man in agriculture had been increasing by the fantastic rate of 5.6 percent. Thus the total agricultural production in Western Europe had increased by more than 2 percent per year while the agricultural manpower was decreasing. The same was true in Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R. There was a 1 percent decline in agricultural population and 4.1 percent increase in productivity, with the resulting net increase of the total production. There was a similar phenomenon in the United States where the agricultural manpower had decreased from 23 million in 1950 to 10 million only last year. Now this fact that there was less and less people needed in agriculture due to the technological improvements has had fantastic consequences for the pressure on cities. There was the growth of urbanization all over and the agricultural land was gradually taken bit by bit by cities. The urban population grew so much that when the war was over all that could be statistically recorded as urban has amounted to less than 500 million. Today the urban dwellers number already 800 million and before 1985 their number is likely to be one billion. More than half of the increase of urban population was due to the agricultural exodus and only the other half to the demographic growth.

The impact of urbanization and concomitant industrialization is not limited to the urban use of land only because the increased urbanization and industrialization is accompanied by the increasing mobility of our societies. Looking at the figures, by 1960 in the total ECE region, Europe and North America, there were about 100 million cars running on the roads and today there are more than 200 million. The cars are not using the land only for parking, but they need a transport infrastructure, a network of roads, and therefore the development of transportation has very profoundly affected the accessibility of land. This new accessibility of land has given to the land resources a new quality, a new dimension, which has led among others to the massive phenomenon of tourism, another source which claims on land.

The end result of this evolution is a phenomenon that while earlier the main claimant on land was agriculture and forestry, now we have a number of them from urban settlement to the industry and transport, secondary homes and tourist industry and many others still.

We have been confronted during this post-war period with a typical phenomenon of a non-coordinated approach to land use, each sector pursuing its own objective, having its own target, its own criteria, ignoring the competing needs of others. This non-coordinated approach has led to many clashes and conflicts. The differences have not been only economic or juridical but very much social also. This is what brings me to establish the link with the other item you are going to discuss, the problems of developing countries and the problems of less favoured regions within our region for what has actually happened is best described by the old biblical saying:

‘Those who have will be given.....’

The growth tends to concentrate on the pockets, centres or poles of growth, particularly if there is no deliberate human action, human action in the form of well thought out government policy. It tends to concentrate rather than distribute. We are today after twenty-five years of the most dynamic economic growth in our region, coming to the point when many environmental, social, technical, cultural and other problems are cropping up putting doubt on past performance or what some call ‘limits on economic growth’. If we are to remove these limits or to dispel the doubts and open the way for further economic development, we are in need of a new approach to economic development which must not be only economic. What matters is not only the statistical aggregate of produced goods and services, what matters is how they are distributed, what effect they have on human welfare. Therefore we are giving today much greater thought and attention to the secondary effects of economic development.

Under these circumstances, the agriculture cannot follow in future the same pattern as in the past. We could assume that the productivity trends will continue. But they will not spontaneously work for more equal distribution. Agriculture alone could not solve the problems of less favoured countries and regions. What is needed is not just a re-distribution of income after it has been produced but rather a better distribution of employment and opportunities to earn income in the first place. Other sectors must make their own contribution and the task of agriculture must be well coordinated with others.

I believe, therefore, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General, we are here today confronted with one of the biggest challenges for international organizations. What we need is to join forces. We have done well in pursuing our individual often separate approaches. After a long period of analysis we are in need of synthesis. We need a multidisciplinary, intersectoral approach and action. I submit, therefore, that the issues which we will be debating at this Conference are, par excellence, issues which call on various international organizations to join in international efforts. You pleaded for better coordination nationally and internationally and I could not agree more, but also I think that "charity begins at home" and I therefore consider that it is for international organizations to show an example of good coordination in international action. I am hopeful that the discussions at this Conference will lead to a major international initiative or major international undertaking not only to study the problems of land utilization and concomitant problems of less privileged and developing countries and regions, but that this will lead also to appropriate international action. We need a comprehensive approach to the more rational planning of land utilization: this should be a combination of economic, environmental, social and spatial policies. Today we do not have yet the very basis for it; comparable statistical information is missing; methods are untried; international effects are unknown.

By giving a strong initiative for such an international action, you will be fulfilling not only what people expect of you in the follow-up of the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly but I also believe you will be fulfilling what the heads of governments and states have been agreeing in the Final Act in Helsinki when asking for greater security through economic cooperation.

It is in this spirit, Mr. Chairman, that I very much welcome this opportunity which you gave me to address you and may I wish to all of you and your Director-General the greatest possible success in your undertaking.

CONSIDERATIONS OF THE DELEGATION OF ROMANIA
ON THE PLACE AND ROLE OF FAO IN THE EXPANSION OF GENERAL EUROPEAN
COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Basis for an eventual recommendation of the Regional Conference.

I. Romania attaches particular importance to the problems of food and agriculture and considers that solutions cannot be viable or durable unless conceived as an integral part of action designed to give rise to a new international economic order.

Like other countries, Romania advocates a firm, effective and direct commitment by FAO to implement, through concrete measures and actions, the recommendations of the World Food Conference and the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Specific responsibilities devolve on Europe. Because of her past and present importance in the history of mankind and the place she occupies in production and trade, Europe has a special part to play in furthering progress and civilization in the world and in sustaining a climate of détente, confidence and collaboration in which the great problems facing humanity, including those of food and agriculture, can be solved.

The European nations and the other countries and peoples of the whole world benefit from the achievements of Europe.

II. In this setting, a very special importance attaches to the expansion and diversification of cooperative relations in the field of food and agriculture among the European countries, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis - especially through the intermediary of FAO, which can and should make a major contribution to the solution of the problems involved, while the solution of these problems must rest primarily on the efforts of the individual European countries themselves, it is absolutely necessary that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations give more attention in future to the European region. Hence it becomes necessary that FAO take account, in the measures and actions it will be undertaking on the level of the continent, of the realities of this region and of the fact that there are in Europe both highly developed and developing countries, and that the latter require special attention in the development of their agriculture.

On the basis of the statement in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to the effect that economic cooperation among European countries would stimulate their economic and social progress, and of the recommendation that such cooperation be furthered by taking full advantage of the possibilities offered by the international agencies, Romania underlines the need for the effective participation of FAO in the implementation of the specific provisions of this document. Hence it is necessary that FAO work closely with the other agencies of the UN system, and with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in particular.

If FAO is to make an enhanced contribution to the development of inter-European cooperation in the field of agriculture, to the solution of the problems confronting the countries in the region in this important sector of their economy, its organization on the ground will have to be improved and it will be necessary to augment the functions of FAO's European level bodies, particularly those of the Regional Conferences and the Regional Office for Europe. In the opinion of Romania the Regional Conferences will have to be able to take real decisions that meet the general requirements of the countries in the Region. At the same time, the Regional Office will have to be built up into an operationally effective body that can propose concrete measures to deal with the problems facing these countries.

III. Concrete fields of activity on the European level

While regarding as highly constructive the measures proposed by the Director-General of FAO and adopted by the Council of the Organization last July, for the reorganization of FAO and a new orientation of its future activities towards concrete and operational measures that should directly contribute to the solution of food problems, Romania is of the view that, as far as Europe is concerned, the priority fields of action - particularly those in which FAO is to act - should be as follows:

1. Expansion and modernization of plant production

- the provision of certain plant varieties and high-yielding hybrids;
- crop fertilization with organic and inorganic fertilizers;
- the widespread mechanisation of agricultural operations, and most particularly in cereal, vegetable and industrial crops, and also in arboriculture and vinegrowing;
- the organization and development of fruit and vegetable production on specialised farms capable of supplying fresh products over longer seasons of the year.

2. Animal production

- the development of animal production in specialised animal production installations;
- mechanization of animal production operations;
- organization of fodder production of the animal production sector;
- the integration of animal production and the animal products processing industry;
- development of high-yielding breeds and maximum utilization of all areas having agricultural potential (including mountain lands).

3. Machinery and implements needed in agriculture

- development of the production of the technical means needed for the complete mechanization of all agricultural operations;
- production of new high-capacity machinery such as to alter radically the nature of agricultural labour and increase productivity and production.

4. Land improvements - irrigation, planning and rational utilization of agricultural land and water resources

- organization of operations involved in the drawing up of projects, and in the execution, operation and maintenance of land preparation and irrigation works;
- rational utilization of water resources;
- the choice of solutions most likely to improve cost effectiveness in irrigation;
- organization of production for the growing of irrigated crops;
- the prospecting of new land resources, evaluation of the real potential of the lands and of the potential to be developed in the European region;
- the planning of land improvement works designed to heighten the production capacity of poor lands and to make productive lands that have become utterly barren;
- land use management and the protection of sloped lands against erosion;
- the management and melioration of sands and of sandy, saline and alkaline soils;
- measures to control floods and excess water;
- control of the effects of drought by coordinating irrigation works and systems with land use management and soil melioration works.

5. Scientific research and application of its results in agricultural production

- development of research towards the development of high-yielding varieties and hybrids adapted to the specific soils and climate of each country;
- the collaborative conduct of comparative tests of varieties and hybrids with a view to their improvement;

- selective utilization of plant and animal biological material with a view to increasing plant and animal production;
- development of principal crops and animal species through international cooperation among scientific research networks;
- development and refining of a modern system of scientific information.

6. Agricultural cadre training

- exchanges of middle-level cadres to attend courses in specialised high-level institutes;
- advanced training in production units for high-level cadres to familiarise them with specific techniques;
- exchanges of professors and specialists, and of documents, publications and textbooks.

7. The trade in agricultural food products

The need to take new measures for the extensive liberalisation of the trade in agricultural food products, to eliminate or reduce considerably tariff and non-tariff restrictions, which hinder the normal course of trade among all countries of the world and affect the exports of developing countries worst of all.

FAO can and should itself help eliminate the risks of surpluses and scarcities of agricultural products, and particularly of essential staples (cereals, meat, milk) on international markets, and so support efforts at market stabilization.

IV. Romania welcomes the proposal for a complex programme of world agricultural development launched by FAO and suggests that this action consist of a multiplicity of programmes, on the regional and even the sub-regional level, in specific fields. Greater use of national institutions and of the possibilities available in the European countries will always be required for the implementation of these programmes.

Romania could make a greater contribution to the production of cereal varieties and hybrids, in scientific research, and in the management and operation of irrigation works.

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