

Report of the

**FOURTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR LATIN AMERICA**

and the

LATIN AMERICAN ECLA/FAO FOOD CONFERENCE

Lima, Peru, 21-29 April 1976



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FAO Member Nations in the Latin American region (at 29 April 1976)

Argentina	Ecuador	Netherlands
Bahamas	El Salvador	Nicaragua
Barbados	France	Panama
Bolivia	Granada	Paraguay
Brazil	Guatemala	Peru
Chile	Guyana	Surinam
Colombia	Haiti	Trinidad and Tobago
Costa Rica	Honduras	United States of America
Cuba	Jamaica	Uruguay
Dominican Republic	Mexico	Venezuela

Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Latin America

First	— Quito, Ecuador, 18-25 September 1949
Second	— Montevideo, Uruguay, 1-12 December 1950
Third	— Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1-10 September 1954
Fourth	— Santiago, Chile, 19-30 November 1956
Fifth	— San José, Costa Rica, 12-21 November 1958
Sixth	— Mexico City, Mexico, 9-20 August 1960
Seventh	— Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 17-27 November 1962
Eighth	— Viña del Mar, Chile, 13-29 March 1965
Ninth	— Punta del Este, Uruguay, 5-16 December 1966
Tenth	— Kingston, Jamaica, 2-13 December 1968
Eleventh	— Caracas, Venezuela, 12-20 October 1970
Twelfth	— Cali, Colombia, 21 August — 2 September 1972
Thirteenth	— Panama City, Panama, 12-23 August 1974
Fourteenth	— Lima, Peru, 21-29 April 1976

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INTRODUCTION

1. At the generous invitation of the Government of the Republic of Peru, the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America was held in Lima, Peru, from 21 to 29 April 1976. The ECLA/FAO Latin American Food Conference was also held in the framework of this Conference.

Inaugural ceremony

2. The Conferences were inaugurated by Brigadier General of the Peruvian Army Rafael Hoyos Rubio, Minister of Food of the Revolutionary Government of the Armed Forces and the People of Peru, and by Mr. Edouard Saouma, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

3. The ceremony was attended by the following special guests: Rear Admiral of the Peruvian Fleet Francisco Mariátegui Angulo, Minister of Fisheries; Rear Admiral of the Peruvian Navy Isaias Paredes Arana, Minister of Housing and Construction; Brigadier General of the Peruvian Army Luis Cisneros Vizquerra, Minister of the Interior; Rear Admiral of the Peruvian Navy Jorge Dubois Gervasi, Head of the National Bureau of Integration; and Mr. Benjamín Samanez Concha, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, who represented General of the Peruvian Army Enrique Gallegos Venero, Minister of Agriculture.

4. The Director-General of FAO took the floor first. He thanked the Revolutionary Government of the Armed Forces and the People of Peru for its hospitality to the attending delegations in Lima.

5. The Minister of Food of Peru then greeted the delegations and bade them welcome to Lima. He referred to the priority that attached to the issues of food and agriculture in the world of today. It had taken, he said, a serious threat of hunger and undernutrition to enormous populations to awaken the world to the precarious balance between means and needs in regard to food. He hoped the Conference would analyse the status and causes of Latin America's food problems and that proposals would emerge that would enable the governments in the Region to act together and serve as guidelines for them in their own countries. FAO, he recognized, now had the will to redirect its efforts in order to perform to the full its proper role in building the New International Economic Order. He said that, while agricultural production in Latin America as a whole had increased substantially of late, this increase had been uneven, having taken place in a few countries better endowed with natural resources, and was everywhere favouring large and intermediate-scale commercial farms. Differences between and within countries had been accentuated. He cited the significance for the Region of the fact that about 42 million people in it were threatened by malnutrition. He also referred to the close connection between food production and the environment, which in Latin America was ecologically variegated. Increasing production and productivity was not a purely technical problem, being intimately bound up with the social and economic organization of production, and agrarian reforms were needed, that would amend the defective land tenure structure.

6. The Minister of Food of Peru proposed the drafting of a Latin American convention on integration and food security in the framework of SELA, the establishment of mechanisms for coordinating Latin American thinking and action in the various forums of FAO, and that the greatest possible efforts be made to generate effective cooperation among the countries of Latin America.

7. In closing, the Minister of Food appreciated the presence of Mr. Edouard Saouma, the new Director-General of FAO, who with his Third World background and wide experience in the Organization should chart for it a course attuned to the exigencies of the times. He was convinced that this Conference would generate constructive conclusions, and pronounced inaugurated the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the ECLA/FAO Latin American Food Conference.

FOURTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

8. Mr. Edouard Saouma, Director-General of FAO, opened the proceedings of the Conference.

Election of officers

9. The Conference elected as its Chairman the Vice-Minister of Food of Peru, Mr. Marciano Morales Bermudez Cerrutti, and as Vice-Chairman the Vice-Minister of Agriculture of El Salvador, Mr. José Salvador Arias. Mr. Joaquín de Pombo, Vice-Minister of Agriculture of Colombia, was elected Rapporteur. A Drafting Committee was constituted consisting of Representatives of Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago. The delegations agreed that these officers would also preside over the sessions of the ECLA/FAO Latin American Food Conference.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

10. The Conference approved the Provisional Agenda and Provisional Timetable; the former is presented as Appendix A to this Report.

Introductory statements

11. In his address to the Regional Conference the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Edouard Saouma, emphasized that the Organization was in the middle of a transformation. He said he proposed to renovate FAO and adapt it to the needs of a new international economic order. He recalled that in its Eighteenth Session the FAO Conference had directed him to examine critically everything that had been done up to then and make specific proposals to the Council session to be convened in July 1976. He wanted, he said, to present to the Member Nations a new and more pragmatic policy that would make the Organization more operational than it had been in the past.

He specified that his plans included the creation of a Technical Cooperation Programme in FAO to respond more promptly to the needs of agriculture in the countries and accelerate investment procedures.

It was fair to say, he thought, that the countries of the Region held in common an attitude that could be summarized in the following terms: increased agricultural production was necessary for the transition to development but not sufficient to bring it about. This production had to be increased, he said, and all efforts had to centre on this purpose. Action would have to be taken to generate more investments, favour transfers of technology, and improve training.

But the basic problem, he continued, was not just to increase our food production capacity, but also to see to it that the problems of nutrition, income distribution and the economic and social structure were solved in ways that would help improve the nutritional level and food distribution.

He felt it was essential that FAO rely as much as possible on existing regional structures and on national institutions that agreed to cooperate in this way.

He was of the view that the structures of the Organization should be decentralized not only on the regional but on the country level as well so as to get closer to the problems and comply more responsively with requests from governments. He added that, seeing how difficult it was for a single office to attend to all of Latin America, he had requested further study of the possibility of opening a subregional office to service northern South America, the Caribbean and Central America, and Mexico, to ease the burden of the Santiago office.

He gave the Conference assurances of FAO's resolve to ensure in every possible way that the action it took would be responsive to the imperatives of our time.

12. Mr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council, had praise for the cooperation between FAO and ECLA in Latin America, whose concrete results were demonstrated in the present Regional Conference. He also thought IICA was making a highly constructive contribution to this Conference.

He said FAO should support existing integration efforts in the Region, and he referred particularly to the need for collaboration between FAO and the recently established Latin American Economic System.

He said it was important that the decentralization the Director-General wanted to carry out take account of the proper linkage that should exist between FAO's Regular and Field Programmes. He felt that the Regional Conferences should be given more importance and that their recommendations should carry more weight in the Organization.

He lauded the proposal of the Minister of Food of Peru for the establishment of a system of integration and food security.

He asked the Conference to support the Director-General's announced proposals for decentralization and for setting up a technical cooperation fund.

Lastly, he specially thanked the Government of Peru for its generous hospitality to the delegations.

13. The Acting Regional Representative of FAO for Latin America, Mr. Pedro Moral López, reviewed the salient developments in agriculture since the Thirteenth Regional Conference. A strengthening of the machinery for consultation and cooperation among countries. The situation of developments in agriculture, which showed appreciable progress in production and in the incorporation of technologies. Progress in rural social matters was unfortunately less heartening, and profound income disparities subsisted which barred vast sectors of the population from access to technology, markets, and satisfactory nutrition and living standards. Hence it was necessary that the benefits of growth reach the vast population sectors on which that very growth depended.

In regard to the work of the Regional Office for Latin America, he referred to those of its activities that consisted in the regional programmes that had been formulated in keeping with recommendations of past regional conferences. These programmes were being conducted on an interdisciplinary basis in support of the countries of the Region in order to cooperate with them in considering the whole range of development problems and their interactions.

He also referred to FAO's overall effort in the Region, which included a sizable number of large and small-scale technical cooperation projects in the countries, regional projects carried out with external financing, and other operations in collaboration with different international agencies.

He spoke of the ways in which the Regional Office was cooperating with Latin American centres and institutions to bring the regional programmes into ever closer touch with the realities of the Latin American situation.

He closed by raising questions about programmes and means to action in the short and medium term that could help solve urgent problems like rural poverty.

General debate

14. In addition to the delegations themselves the Director-General of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and the Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank also took the floor during the general debate.

15. Special reference was made to the proposals of the Director-General of FAO and the Minister of Food of Peru, and to the document on the Situation and Evolution of Food and Agriculture in Latin America. Several delegations also referred to the situation of food and agriculture in their respective countries and told the Conference about the development policies of their governments.

16. There was consensus that the Region had recently made encouraging progress in increasing its crop, livestock, forestry and fishery production. It was viewed as illustrative that, while some production increases had been triggered by favourable situations of domestic demand, in most cases the incentive had been provided by foreign demand. It was emphasized that Latin America needed to coordinate its efforts to improve its access to international markets and bring about the establishment of a new international economic order that would change the prevailing order, which was described as unjust and a chief cause of underdevelopment in the region. (1)

17. Similarly, this close connection between production increases and the demand for agricultural commodities, chiefly foods, highlighted the possibilities that existed for significantly expanding domestic markets if the income distribution were such as to enable the enormous mass of malnourished Latin Americans to start consuming essential foods. The further point was made that the governments of the Region should adopt policies to overcome the structural and institutional factors that were debarring masses of Latin Americans from their rightful benefits and responsibilities as consumers and producers.

18. On the subject of external dependence the Conference noted the importance of the Latin American countries improving their machinery for negotiation with third countries, both singly and in groups, in the international trade in agricultural commodities, such as SELA, the Union of Banana Exporting Countries (UPEB), the embryonic Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries, and the Association for the Development of a Fertilizer Industry for Latin America. The Conference felt that FAO should give all possible support to these regional and subregional efforts, and particular to SELA.

19. There was emphasis on the grave consequences for the Region's development of the persistence of tariff, nontariff and parasanitary barriers raised by important external markets importing from Latin America. The Director-General was asked to provide in his programme of work for the implementation of Resolution 5/74 of the Thirteenth Regional Conference for Latin America on the study of external constraints on the trade in agricultural commodities.

20. In connection with the foregoing and with FAO's activities in general, the delegations underscored the importance of effective coordination between FAO and other international agencies on the regional level. Special mention was made of the collaboration that FAO should give the recently created Latin American Economic System.

21. In connection with the documents presented to support the discussions on food and agricultural developments in the Region, some delegations noted the advisability that FAO also supply the Regional Conference with qualitative information on, and analyses of, developments in the institutional and social aspects of agricultural development to piece together a more complete picture of what had been happening in the Region. It was also mentioned that this kind of information should continue to be supplied both in general terms and in such terms as to convey a detailed picture of what was going on in each country.

22. There was consensus that development in the field of food and agriculture should be approached with an eye to the close relationship between the agrarian sector and the other sectors of the economy, and to the relationship between national economies and the world economy. Accordingly, in its international cooperation FAO would have to take cognizance of this situation and reorient its programmes so that its assistance would cover this multidisciplinary aspect of development.

23. Financial factors, it was noted, were of great importance for rising above underdevelopment in the countryside and for increasing food production. The Region needed more international credit, particularly from international financing agencies like the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. Reference was made to the importance of closer

(1) The delegation of the United States voiced a reservation about paragraph 16, pointing out that no consensus had been reached in the Conference on the second part of this paragraph.

coordination between FAO and these financial agencies, and the Director-General's intention to take action in this direction were noted with satisfaction.

24. In the view of the Conference, it was urgently necessary to put into operation the International Fund for Agricultural Development, whose creation had been recommended by the World Food Conference.

25. On the subject of development financing it was observed that the governments should make internal efforts to mobilize resources for the agricultural sector both for investment purposes and for lending to producers in adequate amounts and on suitable terms. Stress was laid on the importance of this credit particularly for small farmers.

26. The Conference welcomed and supported the Director-General's intention of proposing to the FAO Council the creation of a Technical Cooperation Fund for the chief purposes of coming promptly to the assistance of Member Nations in critical situations, allocating resources for brief missions to advise on investment projects, training and providing aid on a small scale to meet immediate needs.

27. It was agreed that the Director-General had made positive efforts to reduce the number of meetings and costly long-term studies in FAO and to ensure that these activities were always selected for the benefits that could be expected of them in the short run.

28. Several delegations felt it was advisable that FAO join with national institutions as much in the execution as in the planning of their programmes.

29. Several delegations opined that it would be highly useful and important to make studies for the evaluation of agricultural development programmes in the Region in order to identify the elements and constituents that in some cases had prevented the attainment of hoped-for results. It was felt that this identification would be of immediate practical value to governments and also to FAO in its technical cooperation work.

30. There was consensus that FAO should make greater efforts to do more of its work through national institutions. It was pointed out that Latin America had institutions for the development and dissemination of technology on that level, and FAO could help turn to account the fund of experience they possessed for the benefit of the Region as a whole. It was also felt that it would be advisable to employ experts from the Region itself, as this could make it easier for FAO to cooperate.

31. Several delegations noted that it would be advisable to establish systems for the regular evaluation of FAO's activities in the Region. They felt this was essential to enable the governments to judge the effectiveness of FAO's work and to guide it as they should.

32. The Conference took cognizance of the interdisciplinary regional programmes going forward out of the Regional Office as part of the Organization's activities in the Region. Several delegations felt these Programmes should be updated by making a more thorough study of the priorities and evaluating the results of programmes already in being for some time. It was also felt that there should be no neglecting of work in such important sectors as forestry and fisheries, whose potential in the Region was very great. The Secretariat explained that interdisciplinary activities were only part of the operations of the Regional Office and did not exclude those carried out by the various specialists of this Office, including those in forestry and fishery matters. However, the Secretariat stated that the priorities indicated by the various delegations in the meeting would be taken into account.

33. The Conference insisted that integrated rural development programmes needed to be improved and implemented more intensively. These programmes had to combine the various technical, social and economic aspects involved in the full development of the rural population.

34. It was important, it was said, that the countries in the Region remedy their structural shortcomings in the political, economic and social spheres through land-tenure, financial and institutional reforms. FAO should lend its support to initiatives in this direction.

35. It was pointed out that it was necessary to bring to small farmers the benefits of technological advances and the other services needed to facilitate and improve their production.

36. Special emphasis was placed on the importance for integrated rural development and agrarian reform programmes that the governments of Latin America provide incentives to the organization of peasants and agricultural workers, the promotion of participatory schemes and the strengthening of training programmes.

37. In relation to production and productivity, it was specially emphasized that agricultural research had to be stepped up in the Region. This was particularly important in humid tropical areas.

38. There was special reference to the importance of properly regulating the use of natural resources, and the interesting case was cited of the Code on Natural Resources and the Environment recently promulgated in Colombia and drawn up in consultation with FAO.

39. There was consensus on the great interest of the proposal of the Minister of Food of Peru for establishing a Latin American Convention on Integration and Food Security. The Conference noted that the objectives of the Peruvian proposal coincided with the broader objectives of the International Undertaking on World Food Security, whose implementation was being promoted by FAO.

40. The Regional Conference recalled that in November 1975 the Eighteenth Session of the FAO Conference had recommended to the Director-General the inclusion on the agenda of this Regional Conference of a study of the functioning of the Regional Office in its present seat and of possible solutions, including a transfer of the seat.

41. As background for the discussion of the question mentioned in the foregoing paragraph the Conference was provided with document LARC/76/10, which supplied information on the functioning of the Regional Office, including data on the cost of an eventual transfer from its present seat.

42. In discussing the matter referred to in paragraph 40 the Regional Conference bore in mind the Director-General's announcement that, in addition to his proposals to the FAO Council for country-level decentralization, he was considering the possibility of proposing the establishment of a subregional office that would cover northern South America, the Caribbean and Central America, and Mexico. The Conference unanimously approved Resolution No. 1 on the subject.

43. The Conference unanimously approved a resolution on the FAO decentralization programme with particular reference to Latin America. Many delegations expressed the view that the Regional Office should remain in its present seat.

44. The Latin American delegations were of the view that matters of interest to the Latin American countries alone, like the location of the Regional Office, should be discussed solely among themselves. (1) There was consensus on the urgency of drafting rules for FAO's regional conferences that would embody this principle, and the Director-General was asked to include it as an item on the agenda of the next FAO Council in the light of Articles II and VI of the Constitution of FAO, and of statements made on the matter in different regional conferences.

(1) One delegation noted that its status as a Member Nation entitled it to participate in all decisions. However, it had been instructed by its Government to go along with the majority on certain technical and practical matters.

45. The Conference unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 1

The Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That it is incumbent upon the governments of the Member Nations in the Region to support initiatives conducive to the better functioning and application of the programmes of FAO so that they will meet the real development needs of those nations,
2. That FAO is an Organization of major and growing importance to the developing countries and could make new and more concrete contributions to the benefit of the Member Nations,

Recommends:

1. That the Director-General of FAO be congratulated for the presentation of the basic proposals of his programme as set forth to this Conference;
 2. That support be given to the Director-General's announcement that, in addition to his proposals to the FAO Council for country-level decentralization in order to be closer to the problems and respond better to requests from governments, and in view of the difficulties of servicing all of Latin America from a single office, further study be given to the possibility of opening a subregional office;
 3. To request the Director-General to continue providing the Latin American governments with progress reports on the programme for decentralization in the Region;
 4. To urge the governments in the Region, and the Latin American members of the FAO Council in particular, to give firm support, in the forthcoming session of that body next July, to the establishment of the Technical Cooperation Programme.
46. The Conference was provided with document LARC/76/3 (a) for its discussion of the item on Latin American Representation in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. Peru and Costa Rica were unanimously elected to represent Latin America in this Consultative Group, and would serve in this capacity from 1 January 1977 to 31 December 1978.
47. The Conference had before it document LARC/76/3(b) for its discussion of the item on Latin American Representation in the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment. The Secretariat indicated that Latin America was currently represented in this Consultative Group by Mexico and Brazil, which countries had been provisionally so designated by the FAO Council in June 1975. These designations were unanimously confirmed by the Council, which established that the terms of the two countries would run until 31 December 1978.
48. The Chairman submitted to the Conference for consideration the draft report presented by the Rapporteur. The Conference examined this draft and approved the above text as the Report of the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America.
49. The Chairman introduced the offers of the governments of Uruguay and El Salvador for the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America in 1978 to be held in their countries.
50. The majority view favoured Uruguay as the seat of the Conference in 1978, votes for this country having been cast by the delegates of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Surinam and Venezuela. Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru voted for holding the next Conference in El Salvador.

LATIN AMERICAN ECLA/FAO FOOD CONFERENCE

51. The Latin American ECLA/FAO Food Conference was convened jointly by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in compliance with Resolution 356 of the Sixteenth Session of the ECLA and in consultation with the member governments. That resolution recommended that this Conference consider all aspects of the production and distribution of and foreign trade in food and agricultural commodities in general, particularly as they related to the nutritional needs and plans of the Latin American countries.

52. The Executive Secretary of ECLA, Mr. Enrique Iglesias, spoke of the new approaches taken to the problem of hunger in the world, the characteristics of this problem in Latin America, and possible action to promote Latin American agricultural development.

He said that, to see the problem in the right perspective, one should start with two particularly significant facts: the crisis that had been undermining the prevailing international economic system, and the perception by the international community of problems that in some cases were of such nature as to jeopardize the very lives of people and in others threatened peaceful coexistence among peoples.

He then referred to the attempts and prolonged efforts that had been directed toward the development of a system that would be more effectively responsive to the new political and economic realities, such as the Seventh Special Session of the UN General Assembly, the World Conference on Industrialization and the sessions of UNCTAD. He also mentioned the world forums of Stockholm, Bucharest and Rome on the Environment, Population and Food, respectively, whose common denominator was a perception of global problems the solution of which was in the interest of all countries and could only be undertaken as a collective responsibility shared among all nations.

In this setting the Rome Conference was a landmark in the field of international relations. It had made hunger a universal concern, and its conquest the collective responsibility of all mankind and particularly of the more developed countries. The latter not only had the financial and technological resources, but were also the great producers of farm surpluses in the world. He situated the problem of hunger and undernutrition in its true social and economic context and said that the basic question was not the availability of foods or the capacity to produce them, but the existence of millions of human beings earning incomes too low for even a normal subsistence.

Finally, the dialogue started in Rome had led to a definition of the world food problem as a deep-seated structural phenomenon rooted in the entire complex of socio-economic development problems, in which the imbalance between production and the requirements of the world population was no transient phenomenon that could disappear with a round of good harvests or with international assistance on a grand scale.

In regard to Latin America, he indicated that the region was rife with contrasts. During the five years ending in 1965 its growth rate had exceeded an annual average of 6%; the gross product had been more than 220 000 million dollars, almost four times as much as in 1950. The agricultural sector, with the international price rises of recent years, had exceeded all previous highs. Other positive features of the Region's agriculture were its net exports of farm products and its favourable balance of agricultural trade; the average calorie intake available per inhabitant was higher than the minimum requirement and well above the average figure for the other developing countries. However, despite the growth of production and overall availability of foodstuffs, it was estimated that 43 million Latin Americans were suffering from protein-energy malnutrition in a situation of critical poverty, with all the consequences this implied. Moreover there were still countries in the Region that depended heavily on food imports, and the Region as a whole was a net importer of such essential commodities as wheat, rice, beans, oil, fats and milk.

The foregoing notwithstanding, the Executive Secretary pointed out that the future of the Latin American food situation could be viewed with some optimism if it was remembered that the Region had a powerful potential for expanded production and that the Latin American countryside had responded well to coherent incentive policies and to an active internal and external demand. It would hence be possible to double Latin American agricultural production in 15 years if production incentives were properly accompanied by policies for distribution in town and country.

Thus, on the premise that agricultural development had the dual objective of raising production and the level of living of the rural population and its demand capacity, the problem in Latin America would have to be approached on three levels:

- the national level, with the promotion of integral agricultural policies to attain that dual objective;
- the world level, through changes in the rules of the game of the prevailing international economic order so that external demand - in terms of both volumes and prices - would play an enlivening role to which Latin American production could respond spectacularly; and
- the regional level, through the stimulation of new cooperative arrangements in which Latin American solidarity would be mobilized against the problem of food and agriculture, and would make regional demand a spur to agricultural production.

During the five-year period from 1970 to 1974 the Region supplied the world with 78% of its bananas, 60% of its coffee, 51% of its sugar, 28% of its meat, 18% of its cocoa, 17% of its tobacco and 15% of its maize.

If the Latin American Region was to develop its valuable resources to the utmost for its own benefit and the world's, the present-day foundations of the world trade in agricultural raw materials would have to be altered and international cooperation strengthened in this field.

In its quest for a new international economic order in these fields, he said, the Region would have to continue coordinating its positions and defining its strategies. This was the way to redress the imbalances of power that prevailed in world relations.

The Executive Secretary of ECLA cited the urgency of the need to strengthen regional cooperation in agricultural matters. A first objective of this cooperation should be the mobilization of domestic resources for increasing food production in the Region. Other actions were possible such as the formulation of production programmes, the industrial processing in one country of agricultural products produced in another, interchanges of technological innovations, joint manpower training, and the production of agricultural inputs.

A second objective could be to increase trade and the intraregional supply of foods by taking advantage of drops in tariff barriers, strengthening bilateral agricultural trade agreements with financing mechanisms, and setting up Latin American multinational enterprises to promote regional trade.

Similarly, encouragement should be given to the complementation of production between frontier areas and the establishment of bulking and storage centres.

The third objective should be joint regional action vis-à-vis the rest of the world, particularly in defence of the Region's primary products and to augment the availability and mobilization of external resources for the improvement of consumption and production.

The Executive Secretary of ECLA reiterated that in future efforts and initiatives such as the valuable experiment of CARICOM and the creation of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) would have to be imitated and, he went on, the invitation of the Minister of Food of Peru to establish food security mechanisms had given the Latin American Conference its central theme and a great practical challenge.

He further said that a Latin America that had been capable of quadrupling its gross product in the last 25 years should be able to manage an equally dynamic transformation of its agriculture.

The foregoing implied very important changes in the basic ideas that had sometimes prevailed in the agricultural development of the Region, including the application of two dynamic combinations: "agricultural development-stimulation of industry" and "food production-income distribution".

The first of these combinations would benefit industrial development by expanding the domestic market to the extent needed for growth and consolidation so as to complement present inward and outward industrial development with the powerful stimulus of the consumer demand of the great deprived majorities of the Region.

The second combination would restore equity to relations between social sectors precisely wherever poverty pockets were most common, as in the Latin American countryside.

53. Mr. Pedro Moral López, FAO's Acting Regional Representative, pointed out that the existence and persistence of the food and nutrition problem in almost all the Latin American countries posed a paradox, for the continent was well able to feed a population much higher than the present one, and contribute significantly to feeding the world as well. He said that, in addition to increasing agricultural production, essential as this was, it was also necessary to correct present trends because in part of the Region agriculture was both extensive and depredatory.

The present ECLA/FAO Latin American Food Conference should constitute a suitable follow-up to the World Food Conference held at Rome in November 1974.

He said that at the root of the food problem confronting mankind lay patterns of production and consumption not only of foods but of other goods as well. Population growth, industrial development, trends in the consumption of non-renewable resources, such as some of those that generated energy, the exhaustion of renewable natural resources and progressive deterioration of the environment could, if not contained in time, lead mankind into situations of breakdown. He called for the establishment of new production and consumption patterns.

He pointed out that while the availability of foods in Latin America was greater, on the average, than in other developing regions, the picture became gloomy when the problem was analysed country by country or for the individual social groups in each of them. In regard to calories, the Region was a great producer, but a great exporter as well. He said that, while in percentage terms the proportion of the underfed population had declined over the last 20 years, in absolute terms the situation was growing worse in as much as the numbers of poorly fed people were rising.

The solution of the food problem in Latin America involved the simultaneous launching of actions in the fields of production and supply and to increase the purchasing power of the population.

The Acting Regional Representative emphasized that the basic - though not the sole - cause of malnutrition was poverty, the elimination of which required a better distribution of income. Income redistribution was a fundamental requisite for improving the dietary levels of the less favoured sectors of the population, and the resultant increased demand would in turn stimulate production. He said that, at the same time, a policy of redistribution would find itself very quickly checked if not accompanied by an increase in production sufficient to meet the new demand.

He noted that actions to meet the food problem should be set in the framework of the national development plans which, in turn, should view the feeding of the populations as an absolutely top-priority prerequisite of development and not as a merely residual element of it.

The Acting Regional Representative then referred to the production potential of the Region and its development. He said that the Region possessed vast natural resources that were poorly exploited and manpower resources that were frequently idle. The full utilization of these two resources should be the basic consideration in the formulation of realistic and effective food and agriculture development programmes. He recalled the importance of training to enable the farmer and peasant to increase their productivity and also for expanding the agricultural area, in countries where this was possible, in a rational process.

The land-tenure regime was a major culprit in the misuse of the Region's agricultural resources. He said that more than half of the lands in use in the Region were in large-area multifamily farms worked chiefly on an extensive basis; undercultivation - or even no cultivation at all - resulted in underemployment of manpower, with grave economic and social consequences.

The Acting Regional Representative said that most Latin American countries were beset by serious food supply problems that tended to grow progressively worse. The most severely affected social groups were the low-income earners living in the countryside or on the fringes of the major cities, who not only had insufficient incomes, but inadequate distribution systems as well.

He mentioned that in some areas, and in connexion with some products, it could be more important to avoid wasting what had been produced than to increase production.

Food security had to be regarded as part of the solution to the food supply problem. He indicated that a minimum level of food supply to cope with grave shortages had to be ensured on the world level. FAO had already undertaken some actions in this direction, he said, following recommendations of the World Food Conference. He spoke of the interest that FAO attached to the proposal on regional food security of the Minister of Food of Peru.

Turning to regional cooperation in the field of food, the Acting Regional Representative highlighted the possible relevance of such cooperation in solving food problems in the Region. He noted the importance of setting up the Latin American Economic System and ECLA's Committee on the Caribbean, which strengthened existing structures such as ECLA and FAO, the agencies that had convened the present Conference. He also cited the importance that food and agriculture should have in regional cooperation either on a bilateral basis, within groups of countries or in the Region as a whole.

As possible fields for cooperation he cited the joint development of complementary areas in different countries, the production of seed, fertilizers and agricultural implements and machinery. He stressed the importance of cooperation in the field of technology and the benefits that would accrue from agreements for the training of technical personnel.

He referred especially to the contribution that regional cooperation could make to the foreign trade in foods. Conditions existed for increasing regional trade and for strengthening regional solidarity by improving the bargaining position of the Region vis-à-vis the rest of the world in respect of specific commodities. He suggested the possibility of concluding agreements for setting up buffer stocks.

He reiterated that Latin America might be in a position to make a substantive contribution to solving the food problems of the world. He did emphasize, however, that the Region needed the right kind of support and cooperation from other more developed countries, starting with proper treatment in the framework of international transactions both in commodities and in agricultural inputs.

The Acting Regional Representative for Latin America closed by raising some questions. Was the structure of agricultural production geared to the real interests of the Latin American majorities? What should the technical cooperation agencies do to be more helpful to countries and peoples in food and nutrition questions? What could the Region do to improve its bonds of solidarity and acquire the power that was beyond the reach of the separate countries? He voiced the hope that this Conference would be able to supply specific and pragmatic answers.

54. Mr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the FAO Council, said that the Latin American Food Conference was yet another demonstration of the important work that ECLA and FAO had been doing together for the benefit of the countries of the Region.

The FAO Regional Conference had already given proof of the support there was for the new policy put forward by the Director-General of FAO to concentrate the Organization on activities for increasing food production, as the Council had recommended. He hoped the World Food Council would also be helpful in this direction.

Similarly, it was incumbent on FAO to improve its operations so that it could contribute to the attainment of the objectives stated in the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and the resolutions of the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Director-General of FAO had included these guidelines in his own proposals for the reorganization of FAO's activities. In supporting these new guidelines in Lima the Latin American delegates had in effect reaffirmed the need to arrive at a new international economic order.

The Independent Chairman of the Council felt that the continuity of these efforts and appropriate compliance with the recommendations to be adopted in Lima would necessitate coordinated action by the Latin American governments through their representatives both to the regional conferences and to the FAO Council and other international bodies.

55. Mr. John A. Hannah, Executive Director of the World Food Council, said that, since it was a job of the Council to keep watch over the progress of the resolutions approved by the World Food Conference, it was satisfactory to observe that the Latin American governments were actively concerning themselves with these matters in regional gatherings like the Lima meeting.

He then described the functions, responsibilities and composition of the Council and said that it had a rather broad mandate the discharging of which would depend primarily on the Council's capacity to mobilize additional resources for attainment of the objectives and goals of the World Food Conference and to persuade the governments to adopt policies designed for the solution of their food problems on the national and international levels. It also had to help coordinate multilateral and bilateral action that directly or indirectly influenced the ultimate solution of basic food problems. This did not mean that the Council was going to control or supervise the work of other international and regional agencies, but rather that it would endeavour to be useful to them in the mobilization of additional resources and in enlisting greater support for their specific programmes and policies. In so doing the Council would also have to help clarify the interrelationships between trade and food reserves, between nutrition policies and programmes, and among the financial resources available.

He announced that, in keeping with a request of the United Nations General Assembly, proposals would be put before the World Food Council for setting up the proposed international emergency food reserve. The reserve would amount to half a million tons of cereals and would be managed by the World Food Programme in cooperation with FAO.

Moreover, he said that early this year 75 countries had attended the Third Meeting of the countries interested in the establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which ratified the intention of the General Assembly that the IFAD be set up with initial resources equivalent to one thousand million Special Drawing Rights, or about one thousand one hundred and sixty million dollars, in the understanding, however, that the Establishing Agreement would be signed when offers had come in for a total of one thousand million dollars, to be contributed in approximately equal shares by the western industrial countries and the OPEC member countries. Since the World Food Council had already received enough offers or pledges from governments to make up the initial target figure, the Secretary General of the United Nations had decided to convene a conference of plenipotentiaries in Rome next June to adopt formally the Agreement Establishing the Fund.

In that meeting the offers of the donor countries would be made good so that the Fund could go into operation as early as possible during the year. The Fund was expected to provide resources not only to foster food production but also would considerably influence policies and criteria relating to agricultural development in general.

In closing the Executive Director of the Council underscored the important role that fell to Latin America in all these efforts. In addition to achieving significant economic progress, the Region had a considerable reserve of not yet fully utilized resources and an agricultural labour force that, on the average, produced twice as much as that of any other developing region. Because of a relatively low population density and the great food production potential of many of the countries in the Region, Latin America was in a position not only to increase the production of foods for its own population but also to contribute increasingly to the conquest of hunger in other parts of the world.

The food production potential of Latin America and its utilization

56. The delegations thought it was best to examine the item on "Food Production Potential in the Region" together with that on the utilization of this potential, since these were basically related subjects.

57. With regard to the food production potential in the Region, the Conference had before it a document prepared by the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences. Several delegations expressed gratification with this practical collaboration between international bodies whose objective was to serve the Member Nations in fields of common interest.

58. It was felt that both countries and international organizations should intensify their efforts to evaluate as accurately as possible the potential of the food production resources available to the countries of the Region. In regard to natural resources it was felt that such studies should cover not only land and water but forestry, too, and particularly the potential of the ocean and inland fisheries. The respective inventories should include information on the infrastructures that contributed directly or indirectly to agricultural production.

59. It was pointed out that the problem of Latin America was not so much a scarcity of land for food production as the high cost of expanding the present agricultural area. It was judged essential that technologies be developed that could appropriately exploit the natural aptitudes of new lands and ensure an integrated utilization of existing plant and wildlife that would take account of the ecosystems in the Region and be economically viable. The importance of environmental protection in the establishment of human settlements was stressed.

60. Several delegations noted that food production was not merely a technical, but a structural problem as well. They stressed the importance of factors stemming from external domination and the failings of the political, institutional, social and economic structures prevailing in the Region.

61. It was pointed out that a sustained rise in food production could not be achieved unless domestic and foreign markets were expanded. Although it was essential to have a demand and agricultural price structure that stimulated food production, it was felt that policies designed to make changes in this direction should be combined with income redistribution policies that would substantially increase the purchasing power of the majority.

62. It was noted that policies of low prices to agriculture, though apparently beneficial to the population as a whole, proved harmful because they had a negative impact on a broad sector of low-income agricultural producers and impeded rural development. Within the national economies, the terms of trade persisted negative for agriculture.

63. It was considered that supply systems designed to give the agricultural producer a larger share of the added value of food products and make foods cheaper and thus more accessible to the mass of consumers were also tools for improving the distribution of income, and hence for raising the level of food intake of the population.

64. It was observed that the poorer sections in Latin America spent the greater part of their income on food, which meant that an effective income redistribution policy was bound to have a direct and beneficial effect on the demand for agricultural products.

65. Several delegations said that development of the production potential of the Region would require the subordination of private interests to the national interest. This implied not only full and rational use of natural resources but also, and most particularly, the attainment of full employment for the population involved in farm activities and in economic sectors directly related to the production and marketing of agricultural products.

66. Reference was made to the importance of development planning, and it was recalled that food policies had to be included in it.

67. Several delegations suggested that the real solution to income inequalities, so far as the rural sector was concerned, lay in carrying out far-reaching agrarian reforms that would correct defective land tenure structures, and also that the basic services needed for agricultural production, such as credit, technical assistance, and input supply and produce marketing systems also had to be reformed. It was observed that precisely this was the conceptual framework of agrarian reform, as a structural dimension of development, approved by the Eleventh FAO Regional Conference.

68. It was mentioned that the purpose in changing land tenure and agricultural production structures should be the establishment of peasant enterprises. Reference was made to the growing importance in Latin America of new associative forms of land tenure and production springing primarily from land reforms and programmes for assistance to small producers. Several delegations were of the view that individual sub-family and family farms should be encouraged to combine for the production and marketing of their produce in common. Emphasis was placed on the importance of training farmers and peasants in the entrepreneurial functions of modern agriculture.

69. Several delegations emphasized that no effort should be spared to develop the fishery potential of Latin America. It was mentioned that the countries of the Region should make full use of their fishery resources, especially within the two-hundred mile limit of their territorial waters or within their exclusive fishery zones, as defined in their respective national legislations, since these waters were frequently fished and even overfished by transnational companies. The importance of developing inland fisheries as a potentially important element of integrated rural development, was also stressed. It was noted that FAO was already doing work on the development of aquiculture.

70. The Conference noted in particular that the appropriate utilization of forestry resources could become a major source of rural employment and, in association with crop and livestock production, could help to increase the food production potential of these two sectors.

71. It was mentioned that in many countries multiple cropping might be an important way to increase the quantity of food especially in minifundio areas.

72. It was pointed out that research was needed to permit the application of chemical fertilizers in doses suited to the quality of the soil. It was also noted that the indiscriminate use of chemical products was bad for agriculture and was often motivated by commercial considerations, since enterprises that promoted the consumption of their products did not consider the national interest.

Food supply in Latin America

73. It was noted that the structural problems of food production conditioned the structures for food supply.
74. It was mentioned that the food problem was not only one of agricultural production, but that there were problems of food supply systems and consumption to be solved, too. In this connection several delegations voiced the opinion that the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) should consider the desirability of making investments not only to increase agricultural production but also to ensure that it reached the consumer in a properly hygienic condition and at acceptable prices.
75. It regarded as important that governments establish or strengthen national institutions responsible for setting policies and implementing programmes for the improvement of supply systems. This was of great importance for the adequate supply of urban centres that already had several million inhabitants, and whose populations would probably double in a few years.
76. Several delegations spoke of the urgent need to change consumption patterns, which were frequently shaped by commercial advertising campaigns and derived from patterns prevailing in developed countries. It was suggested that consumption patterns should be so altered that the population would demand foods that could be produced at less cost and making fuller use of local natural resources.
77. Some delegations noted that the changing of consumption patterns was of paramount importance for improving the diet of underfed and poorly fed populations and to avoid the wasting of food in the high-income sectors of the Region. It was believed that the establishment of appropriate consumption patterns and habits should be an object of food production and supply policies. The importance of establishing or strengthening consumer education, protection and guidance programmes at all educational levels was also emphasized.
78. Concerning consumption patterns and habits in the countryside, it was suggested that consumer education, protection and guidance programmes should be linked to training programmes, preferably to those for producers.
79. Several delegations mentioned the excessive numbers of middlemen between food producers and consumers, which resulted in low prices to the producer, higher prices to the consumer, and wasted food.
80. It was mentioned that the food trade was frequently oligopolistic. It was considered essential to stimulate both producer and consumer organizations.
81. Several delegations thought it would be desirable that organizations of producers, and particularly those of small-scale producers, be able to influence food collection, transport and processing.
82. Emphasis was placed on the importance of developing agro-industries, especially in rural sectors. It was considered desirable that agro-industrial enterprises be owned by the agricultural producers so that the added value generated would go to them and thereby contribute to rural development. Several delegations expressed the view that agro-industrial enterprises should be state-owned.
83. Special importance was attached to the improvement of food supply systems in order to avoid the loss and waste of foods. It was pointed out that investments to avoid such loss and waste could do more good in the short run than those for raising overall food quantities at the producer level.
84. Reference was made to the close connection between the production and supply of foods and the export and import trade in them. It was suggested that governments should take a hand in rationalizing the foreign trade in foods, so that the profits from it would not go chiefly to import and export firms outside the Latin American Region. The Conference attached special importance to the rationalization of intraregional food trade in Latin America.

85. Several delegations stressed that, while promoting the production of foods for export, domestic markets also had to be developed for them. These markets would mitigate the negative effects deriving from possible fluctuations on external markets.

86. Several delegations advocated the laying down of rules for the protection of Latin American countries from transnational enterprises in the international trade in foods, agro-industries and the fisheries industry.

87. It was mentioned that it was important for the Latin American countries to set up flexible information systems to provide them with timely information on harvest forecasts, potential markets and prices, so that they could participate advantageously in the international food trade.

88. Some delegations thought that international assistance through funds and other mechanisms should be used not only to raise production, but also to facilitate the exportation of that part of production that could not be consumed within beneficiary producing countries. This was particularly important in programmes of assistance to less-developed countries.

Food needs: Policies and programmes for food and nutrition

89. In dealing with this item the Conference bore in mind that World Food Conference Resolution V/2 had assigned to FAO a directing role within the United Nations system in the formulation and execution of intersectoral food and nutrition plans.

90. As further background on this item the Conference considered a document, prepared by the Secretariat, which called attention, among other things, to the need to regard national food and nutrition plans in more operational terms in the war on poverty. In this connection the Conference expressed distinct interest in the formulation of food and nutrition policies as a means to the development of the human individual, including both his own and his family's dignity and well-being.

91. It was felt that the formulation of a food and nutrition policy should not be seen as the mere formulation of a basic policy, but rather as an activity capable of stimulating action by the various sectors of government to improve the food situation of the population.

92. Several delegations observed that poverty was one aspect of a global phenomenon of such breadth that it was usually difficult to design measures specific enough to fight hunger and undernutrition. Nevertheless, some delegations emphasized the need for special programmes directed at lowest income earners, who were the most poorly fed groups.

93. Many delegations mentioned that their countries were pursuing national food and nutrition policies either on a multisectoral front or, sometimes, confined to a single sector.

94. These policies were formulated and implemented by institutions of different types, such as national food and nutrition planning councils, national planning bureaus, ministries coordinating plans drawn up in the separate sectors, and even food ministries.

95. Mention was made of the difficulty of coordinating sectoral efforts to improve diets, and it was noted that better coordination was needed among all levels of administration from the central down to the municipal government level.

96. Some delegations mentioned that the dominance of privileged groups over the lowest-income groups within Latin American countries and their dependence on industrial countries elsewhere in the world, lay at the root of the poor food and nutrition situation in the Region.

97. With a view to reducing this external dependence, it was suggested that the Latin American countries join forces to deal in a unified way with the problems of food supply and of agricultural inputs.

98. With regard to the elimination of internal dependence, it was noted that national food and nutrition policies should aim to ensure a fair distribution of food resources among the different socio-economic groups. This improvement of consumption levels implied not only wider access to staple foods but also the right to a diet of better quality.

99. The delegations voiced support for the development of harmonized global strategies to achieve this result. There was special emphasis on the desire of the governments to become self-sufficient in regard to food through food production and, to the extent possible, import substitution policies. It was pointed out that to give the population real access to a better diet it was not enough just to produce more, and action was needed in the marketing and consumption fields as well.

100. Several delegations mentioned their countries' research efforts to improve the quality and nutritional value of foods, and particularly their protein content. There was mention of the need to develop formulas for protein-rich foods for mothers and pre-school age children, and to produce them locally.

101. Several delegations referred to the importance of nutrition education for small producers and their families in specific programmes, and especially through demonstration kitchen gardens and farms. It was also noted that peasants needed counselling on the nutritional value of local products and on the right crops and cultivation practices to get the most out of the ecological potential of their land.

102. In regard to training for technicians and professional personnel in food and nutrition planning, the delegation of the Argentine Republic declared that, mindful of the establishment of a Spanish language training centre, it would convey to its government its concern about the possibility of contributing towards the establishment of this centre in Argentina if the conditions and manner of its operation proved compatible with the facilities the country could provide.

103. Of programmes for vulnerable groups one delegation observed that they did not solve the problem and, on the contrary, spent money that was better used to implement long-term programmes producing more lasting results.

104. It was recommended that the agencies and Governments of the United Nations work closer together to generate more accurate data on food and nutrition in the Region.

105. In relation to regional cooperation in the food and nutrition field, the Conference received with great interest information on the work being done under the Inter-Agency Regional Project for the Promotion of National Food and Nutrition Policies. Cooperating in this inter-agency project were UNICEF, FAO, ECLA, Unesco and WHO/PAHO.

106. Similarly, it was suggested to recommend to ECLA, SELA, the PASB, the OAS and the IDB that they increase the coordination of their support to countries and, in the same way on the world level, that FAO, WHO, UNICEF and the WFP coordinate better their operations in this field, perhaps under the auspices of the World Food Council.

107. The Regional Director of UNICEF for the Americas, the Deputy Director of Agricultural Affairs for Latin America in the World Bank, and the Chief of Zone IV of the Pan American Health Organization spoke on the subjects of the Conference.

International Cooperation in the Food Field

108. Discussion of the item on international cooperation in the food field opened with the presentation of a Secretariat document on integration and cooperation among developing countries in the agricultural field by its author, the Special FAO Consultant. This document emphasized the growing political importance of the international food trade as a new lever of power that was exerting an influence of its own on the configuration of the modern world.

109. The document described how Latin American economic integration efforts extended to embrace agricultural activities, and focused initially on its political feasibility. It maintained that integration had not yet overcome the political limitations that still restricted its scope. Nor had it displayed any capacity to meet the specific problems and

needs of agriculture. The political aspect had to be kept in mind, it said, in selecting valid courses for any practical attempt at agricultural cooperation among Latin American countries.

110. It said that there was today a discernible shift away from old attitudes and a new concern for agriculture and the countryside, and that dissatisfaction with the paucity of our gains demandingly rebuked the hitherto feeble contribution of agriculture to integration and cooperation efforts among Latin American countries.

111. The document analysed the how and why of the failure of the instruments and mechanisms hitherto employed to integrate the agricultural sector, and concluded that the integration of agriculture was apparently best begun with more "limited" efforts, of cooperation centred on certain products, of development in certain regions, and of engaging in tasks more effectively performed in common. Some of these efforts could be more productive within formal integration arrangements than outside them. In the prevailing situation, the document continued, the important thing was to start at once on the basis of agreements and understandings affording ample latitude and allowing cooperation to be articulated around definite purposes. It suggested several forms of understanding between countries, mentioned operational arrangements, and proposed approaches that were supported and taken up by several delegations.

112. Finally, it referred to the implications of agricultural integration and cooperation, in which the basic concern was to develop a new bargaining power that in recent times had been oriented toward two main objects: greater influence on the international commodities market through agreements among producers, and the pooling of demand through joint extraregional procurement of foods and agricultural inputs.

113. Some delegations agreed with the speaker's opinions and referred to bilateral and multilateral cooperation efforts in progress.

114. In the opinion of other delegations, the Latin American Economic System (SELA) was the proper setting for initiatives toward regional cooperation in food and agriculture, and would have a very important part to play in their design and implementation.

115. Moreover, some delegations said that, while they concurred in the objectives of the proposal on regional food security put forward by Peru, it was too complex and too sweeping for them to comment on it at this time.

116. In his contribution to the discussion the Permanent Secretary of SELA emphasized that in the agreement establishing the Latin American Economic System the signatory countries attached special importance to the stimulation of satisfactory levels of production and supply of agricultural products, and particularly to food supply. Consequently, the programme of work to be considered in the next meeting of the SELA Council gave high priority to the tasks to be performed in this field. Hence the results of this Conference should influence and guide the consideration of that programme of work. Finally, he said the proposal of Peru on integration and food security for Latin America deserved the careful consideration of the governments of the Region, since on their decision depended whether it would be given effect in the short run and in the framework of SELA.

117. The Representative of the World Food Programme reported on the recent activities of this organization both in food aid and in support of economic and social development projects in Latin America.

118. The Representative of the World Bank advised that his organization was giving increasing support and resources to programmes and projects that helped increase the production of foods and other agricultural commodities.

119. One delegation referred to the system of preferences for imports of, among others, an appreciable number of agricultural products, that his country was applying, without requiring reciprocity, in favour of developing countries. He also said his country supported Latin American integration.

120. Several delegations referred to the principal spheres of action in which the Latin American countries could cooperate and coordinate more closely in the field of food and agriculture. They referred in particular to mobilization of the Region's internal resources, expansion of the intraregional food trade, strengthening the Region's bargaining position, and the need to step up the inflow of external resources.

121. In connection with mobilization of the Region's internal resources to increase food production, the following spheres of action were stressed:

- a) inventorying the natural resources and determining their production potential;
- b) exchanges of technological innovations and genetic material;
- c) mutual technical assistance;
- d) technological research;
- e) the training of technicians, producers and peasants;
- f) the control and eradication of pests and diseases;
- g) studies for the joint development and utilization of watersheds;
- h) programmes for the joint exploitation of resources, particularly natural resources, technology and inputs for the shared production of certain articles by two or more countries, without common borders, that were endowed with complementary resources for production;
- i) programmes for the industrial processing of agricultural commodities produced in two or more countries, the obtaining of highly nutritious and enriched protein foods and, in general, the shared use of technologies for the preservation of perishable foods.

Another type of arrangement could be arrived at through agreements negotiated for cooperation in specific fields between specialized state institutions in a position to grant reciprocal facilities. To the end of increasing food production, partner countries could arrange such actions as:

- a) more exchanges of specialists and the staking out of concrete fields for cooperation and mutual assistance;
- b) strengthening the regular and specialized training of professionals, and, to this end, making better use of national graduate schools;
- c) the establishment of joint programmes for applied research, the transfer of technologies, and the processing of primary products;
- d) pooling efforts toward the effective control of crop and livestock diseases;
- e) the establishment of a regional crop forecasting system joined to the development of exchanges of basic information;
- f) the establishment of medium- and long-term commercial undertakings or contracts between normally over- and under-producing countries and groups of countries. These arrangements could be on a bilateral or multilateral basis;
- g) the creation of Latin American multinational enterprises that, among other things, would promote intraregional trade and the joint procurement of inputs used in production, and make joint imports from third countries to meet the needs of the Region;
- h) the conclusion of agreements between government agricultural produce marketing agencies;
- i) the creation of machinery to finance the building up of reserves that would buttress Latin American food security, and could absorb regional surpluses, stabilize prices and provide food supplies during emergencies;

- j) The introduction of a minimum of order into production, the harmonization of the policies and objectives of producing countries, in order to dampen fluctuations and make for an assured supply;
- k) support and promote producers' associations which in addition to encouraging the increasing of production would strive for greater development of the intraregional food trade;
- l) the complementation of production in frontier areas; and
- m) the establishment of suitable infrastructures for trade, particularly bulking and storage centres and transport.

122. In connection with expansion of the intraregional trade in and supply of foods, the Conference underscored the importance of bilateral and multilateral cooperation to improve the availability and consumption of foods in Latin America on the basis of production within the Region itself. It was noted that the Region already had some experience in arrangements of this kind, which had proved their practical worth and political feasibility. Among the many possible avenues of regional cooperation open in Latin America for the expansion of trade and of intraregional supply, the Conference mentioned the conclusion of bilateral agreements for the purchase and exchange of agricultural products, designed to award preferences to regional sources of supply.

123. On the subject of augmenting the region's bargaining power in its agricultural foreign trade, it was mentioned that regional cooperation could consist in such actions as:

- a) the concerting of common Latin American positions and strategies for given products vis-a-vis third countries and groups of countries, and in international forums. The basic aim would be to substantially strengthen the bargaining position of the Region in pre-negotiations and in negotiations prior to the signing of future international agreements containing economic clauses. These efforts could focus at first on a few selected products such as sugar, bananas, wheat and meats. They could also be extended to other products.
- b) concerted action toward greater liberalization of the trade in agricultural commodities and the opening of markets in the developed consumer countries.
- c) the creation of new and the strengthening of existing producers' associations, and the design of measures that would enable them to find appropriate solutions to their trade problems in the international sphere.

The delegations were concerned over the price problems of sugar-exporting countries. In particular, they expressed their sympathy and passed a vote of solidarity with the Dominican Republic in the efforts it was making and the stand it had taken to obtain a fairer price for sugar on international markets.

124. It was also noted that concerted efforts were needed to increase the availability, mobilization and coordination of external resources for improving consumption and production through food aid, financial support and technical collaboration, so these forms of assistance could contribute to the development of production in the Region without affecting the usual trade channels.

Among other measures, concerted proposals could be drafted for improving the volume and conditions of international food aid.

125. As the Conference drew to a close, the Executive Secretary of ECLA declared that the discussions had given meaning to the basic object of FAO and ECLA in convening it. It had accomplished the purpose of generating information that would help guide the activities of both organizations and enrich the study of and research in problems of the Latin American countryside. The dialogue had brought forth several very important ideas for moving ahead in a more systematic and coordinated way toward the solution of these problems.

126. For his own part, in relation to the item on international cooperation in food matters, the Executive Secretary of ECLA regarded as excellent the conceptual contribution made by the document on the subject. It said that not enough thought had been given in Latin America to the difficulties and possibilities of agricultural integration. There already was a fund of experience in this field in the Region, which would be drawn on for practical guides to action such as those suggested in the document.

127. The Executive Secretary referred to the very important initiative of the Government of Peru giving expression to a grand aspiration of Latin America that was well worth realizing.

128. There had also emerged, in the view of the Executive Secretary of ECLA, a set of very useful ideas identified by the delegates as possible avenues of concrete understandings and practical action among the countries of the Region.

129. The Conference approved the following resolutions with the qualifications noted at the foot of each:

RESOLUTION No. 2

The Latin American ECLA/FAO Food Conference,

Considering:

1. That large areas of Latin America, which cover the greater part of the Region, are characterized by a predominance of soils whose cultivation is subject to severe constraints imposed by insufficient or excessive moisture and steep slopes,
2. That rational utilization of these soils is particularly difficult and costly, calling for new techniques suited to social and ecological conditions in the Region,
3. That almost all of these lands are being utilized in ways that result in the destruction of their production capacity through severe erosion, the disruption of water flows, and severe climatic changes,

Resolves:

1. To recommend to the governments of the countries of Latin America that they apply an integrated rural development policy, and to request that FAO provide in its next programme for the integration of crop-growing, livestock, forestry and fishery activities in such a way as to optimize the utilization of renewable natural resources, particularly soils, water, forests and wildlife, in order to preserve the natural equilibria and future productivity of ecosystems, with a view to the well-being of the population and to optimizing the quality of life, with very special regard for the needs of national majorities. FAO will have to harmonize the plans and actions of its specialized department to this end;
2. To recommend to the Director-General of FAO the urgent need of research in the use and management of soils and water in tropical areas of Latin America in coordination with existing tropical research centres in the Region, with, to the extent possible, the replication of experimental work throughout the Latin American tropics.

Note: Adopted by consensus.

RESOLUTION No. 3

The Latin American ECLA/FAO Food Conference,

Considering:

1. The proposal of the Minister of Food of Peru, General Rafael Hoyos Rubio, that a Latin American agreement on integration and food security be arrived at in the framework of SELA,
2. That the objectives of Latin American integration include, notably, the expansion of reciprocal trade in the Region's agricultural products to cover shortages of national supply, economic complementation to favour specialization based on the natural resources and capabilities of the several countries, and technical cooperation for the dissemination and application of regional technologies that will improve food production and distribution,
3. That there have been positive experiences of agreements for supply and cooperation in the food field between countries in the Region that attest to the feasibility of developing common policies within Latin America,
4. The principles laid down in the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order approved by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 3201-3202 (S-IV),
5. The provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States approved by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 3281 (XXIX),
6. The resolutions adopted in the World Food Conference held in Rome in 1974, which confirmed for the world the priority of solving the food problem,
7. The conclusions of the Third Ministerial Meeting in Manila of the Group of 77, to which many countries belong, about increasing and diversifying agricultural production in order to achieve national self-sufficiency in foods and the production of essential agricultural inputs,
8. Bearing in mind that one of the specific objectives of SELA is to stimulate the attainment of satisfactory levels of production and supply of agricultural, energy and other basic products, with special attention to food supply, and to favour actions in the area of coordination and supply with a view to arriving at a Latin American policy in this field,
9. Considering the imperative need to establish on the Latin American level effective cooperation machinery that will give effect to the solidarity of the Region, in order substantially to improve the food situation and eliminate dependence in this area,

Resolves:

1. To recommend to the Latin American governments that they formulate their national food policies, plans and programmes bearing in mind the need to contribute to the improvement of the regional food situation;
2. To recommend to the Latin American countries the study, on the level of the Latin American Economic System, of supply, economic complementation and technical cooperation agreements between countries and groups of countries such as to permit the development to the highest possible level of specific relations between countries in the Region and so contribute to the attainment of the objectives enunciated by the Minister of Food of Peru;

3. To recommend to the Latin American governments that they give maximum support to regional cooperation in the food field through the conclusion of agreements designed to give effect to the actions proposed;
4. To request that the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of ECLA give their utmost support to the stated purposes and measures.

Note: Adopted by consensus with a general reservation of Brazil, a reservation of Chile and Uruguay about operative paragraph 2, and a reservation of the United States about preambular paragraphs 4, 5 and 7.

RESOLUTION No. 4

The Latin American ECLA/FAO Food Conference,

Considering

That the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States establishes in article 2, paragraph b) the treatment to be given to transnational enterprises,

Considering

That the Commission on Transnational Enterprises, in its second session held from 1 to 12 March 1976 at Lima, Peru, and in compliance with paragraph 7 of Resolution 1913 (LVII) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, prepared a draft programme of work on all problems relating to transnational enterprises,

Considering

That in paragraph 28 of that programme the Commission on Transnational Enterprises requests the Centre for Information and Research on Transnational Enterprises to perform in-depth studies on inter alia, the food and beverage industries,

Bearing in mind

That that Commission reached a consensus to give highest priority to the drafting of a code of practice to regulate the activities of transnational enterprises and eliminate their negative effects,

Recalling

That General Assembly Resolution 3514 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 on the corrupt practices of transnational and other enterprises, their intermediaries and others involved in such practices, directed the Commission on Transnational Enterprises to make recommendations on ways to effectively prevent those practices, and

Bearing in mind

The grave problems generated in Latin American countries by transnational enterprises, which in many cases do not hesitate to resort to legally and ethically reprehensible practices,

Resolves:

1. To recommend to the Director-General of FAO that he give support to the Commission on Transnational Enterprises of the United Nations Economic and Social Council to facilitate the execution of its programme of work, and particularly the formulation of a code of practice for transnational enterprises to control the activities of

those enterprises and eliminate their negative repercussions, and thereby enable them to make a real contribution to the autonomous development of the agricultural sector in the Latin American countries and so promote the improvement of nutritional levels in the Region;

2. To recommend to the Director-General of FAO that, to this end, he collaborate with the Centre for Information and Research on Transnational Enterprises in:
 - a) the performance of studies to develop information for the formulation of the code of practice, and particularly on the negative implications of transnational food production enterprises in the Latin American countries and on their behaviour from the legal and ethical standpoints,
 - b) the provision of information for inclusion in the vast System of Information on transnational enterprises,
 - c) research into the political, legal, economic and social repercussions of the operations and practices, including corrupt practices, of transnational enterprises engaging in the production and processing of, and trading in, foods and agricultural products in general, and,
 - d) training programmes and advisory services designed to enhance the negotiating power of the developing countries in their relations with transnational enterprises operating in the agricultural sector, and particularly in the food field;
3. To exhort the governments of the Latin American countries to continue their consultations toward broadening, specifying and elaborating the common Latin American position on the code of practice for transnational enterprises through the Latin American Economic System (SELA);
4. To exhort the governments of the Latin American countries members of the Commission on Transnational Enterprises to participate actively in the intergovernmental working group that is to draft the code of practice in order to ensure that it properly safeguards the interests of the Region.

Note: Adopted by consensus with the abstention of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, France, the Netherlands, Paraguay and Uruguay, and a reservation of the United States.

RESOLUTION No. 5

The Latin American ECLA/FAO Food Conference,

Stressing the important financial prospects opened up by the International Fund for Agricultural Development for food production in Latin America,

Bearing in mind the terms of reference given to the World Food Council by the World Food Conference and by the United Nations General Assembly,

Urges that maximum cooperation and the greatest possible collaboration be established between ECLA, FAO, SELA, IFAD, the IICA and the World Food Council on all matters relating to food production and agriculture in Latin America,

Requests that the Director-General draw the attention of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, and of the World Food Council in its Second Session, to the results achieved by this Conference, and that he emphasize to the members of that Council the interest of the Latin American countries that IFAD, in its programme, be most particularly heedful of the expectations and needs of our Region.

Note: Adopted by consensus. Cuba and Mexico objected to the inclusion of the IICA in the third paragraph.

CLOSING OF THE FOURTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR
LATIN AMERICA AND THE ECLA/FAO FOOD CONFERENCE

130. The Conference was addressed by Mr. Pedro Moral López, FAO's Acting Regional Representative for Latin America, who spoke both for the Organization he represented and for Mr. Enrique Iglesias, Secretary of ECLA.

He conveyed his satisfaction that this Conference had generated concrete initiatives and recommendations that would help guide the work of both ECLA and FAO. This Conference had been of singular importance to the latter organization because it was the only Regional Conference to be held before the meeting of the FAO Council next July, to which the Director-General would present his proposals for redirecting the activities of the Organization. The conclusions of this Conference would be of importance to that meeting of the Council, of which eight Latin American countries were members, in reaching its decisions. In this regard he cited the importance of the presence in this Conference of the Director-General of FAO and the Independent Chairman of the Council.

He announced that the work of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America itself would be oriented as of now in the light of the conclusions of the present Conference, in the framework of the programmes determined by the Director-General and the deliberative bodies of the Organization. He announced that it was proposed in future to intensify consultations and contacts with governments and national institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean for giving compliance to the recommendations of this Conference and for the evaluation of ongoing programmes as it had requested.

Speaking on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, the Executive Secretary of ECLA, and for himself, the Regional Representative thanked the delegates for their active participation in the meeting and had words of special recognition for the Chairman of the Conference, the Rapporteur and the members of the Drafting Committee, who had succeeded in putting together a body of important principles and guidelines for action by ECLA and FAO in Latin America in the crucial field of food. He specially cited the efforts made by the Peruvian Organizing Committee.

He expressed the appreciation of the Organization and its Director-General for the kind invitations extended by the Governments of El Salvador and Uruguay to host the Fifteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America.

He reiterated his particular appreciation to the Government of Peru, represented by the Chairman of the Conference Mr. Marciano Morales Bermúdez Cerrutti, and the Minister of Food of Peru General Rafael Hoyos Rubio, for the hospitality of the Peruvian government and People.

131. Finally, the Chairman of the Conference, Mr. Marciano Morales Bermúdez Cerrutti, took the floor. As important achievements of the two Conferences he cited the spirit of Latin American solidarity that had prevailed in the discussions, the level of collaboration between the delegations, the Secretariat and the national organizers of these events; the thoroughness with which the agenda items were discussed, which was complemented by the quality of the Secretariat documentation and the opening statements.

He gave expression to the integrationist and Latin American spirit of the Peruvian authorities and people. He reiterated his own and the Government's satisfaction that both Conferences had been held in Lima.

He made special mention of the pro-Third World position of Peru, as displayed in this and other international forums, and voiced his particular pleasure that the new Director-General of FAO, Mr. Edouard Saouma, was a genuine representative of the Third World.

He concluded by declaring closed the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Latin American ECLA/FAO Food Conference.

AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

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

II. FOURTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

4. Introductory statement by the Director-General of FAO
5. Other introductory statements
6. General discussion
7. Regional programmes
8. Guidelines for FAO's future action in the Region
9. Other matters
 - Seat of the Regional Office
 - Representation of Latin America in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
 - Representation of Latin America in the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment

III. LATIN AMERICAN ECLA/FAO FOOD CONFERENCE

10. Introductory statements
11. The food production potential of Latin America
12. Food production and supply in Latin America
13. Food needs: Policies and programmes for food and nutrition
14. International cooperation in the food field

IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS

15. Consideration and adoption of the draft resolutions and Report of the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America
16. Consideration and adoption of the draft resolutions and Report of the Latin American ECLA/FAO Food Conference
17. Place of the Fifteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America
18. Closing of the Conference

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
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- * Ver nota en página B-30.
* See footnote on page B-30.
* Voir note au bas de la page B-30.

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Documentos de la Conferencia
Conference Documents
Documents de la Conférence

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- * La delegación de Guatemala objetó que Belice hubiese figurado en la Lista Provisional de Participantes, declarando que es parte integral del territorio de Guatemala. La Secretaría aclaró que Belice figuraba en dicha Lista Provisional, por haber sido invitado a la Conferencia Latinoamericana CEPAL/FAO de la Alimentación, como miembro asociado de la CEPAL.

La delegación de Cuba manifestó que el pueblo cubano respalda la justa lucha del pueblo de Belice para alcanzar su total independencia.

- * The delegation of Guatemala objected the insertion of Belize in the Provisional List of Participants, specifying that Belize is part of the territory of Guatemala. The Secretariat pointed out that Belize appeared in the Provisional List as it had been invited to the ECLA/FAO Latin American Food Conference as associate member of ECLA.

The Cuban delegation expressed the support of their people to the fair struggle of the people of Belize to achieve their complete independence.

- * La délégation du Guatemala fit objection a ce que Belize figurat dans la Liste Provisoire des Participants, déclarant qu'il fait partie du territoire du Guatemala. Le Secrétariat explique que Belize figurait dans la dite Liste Provisoire, car il avait été invité a la Conférence Latinoaméricaine CEPAL/FAO de l'Alimentation comme membre associé de la CEPAL.

La délégation de Cuba manifesta le soutien du peuple cubain au peuple de Belize dans sa juste lutte pour sa totale indépendance.

List of Documents

A. Basic Documents

LARC/76/1	Provisional Agenda
LARC/76/1(a)	Annotated Provisional Agenda
LARC/76/2	Situation and Evolution of Food and Agriculture in Latin America
LARC/76/3(a)	Representation of Developing Regions on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
LARC/76/3(b)	Election of CGFPI Members Representing the Regions
LARC/76/4	Food Production Potential in Latin America
LARC/76/5(a)	Utilization of the Food Production Potential in Latin America
LARC/76/5(b)	Food Supply in Latin America
LARC/76/6	Food Needs; Food and Nutritional Policies and Programmes
LARC/76/7(a)	Integration and Cooperation among Developing Countries in the Agricultural Field
LARC/76/7(b)	Foreign Trade Outlook
LARC/76/7(c)	Report of the United Nations/FAO World Food Programme to the Fourteenth Regional Conference for Latin America
LARC/76/7(d)	Consumption and Production Outlook of Fertilizers in Latin America
LARC/76/8	The Work of FAO in the Region (1974-75)
LARC/76/9	FAO Regional Programme in Latin America
LARC/76/10	Site of the Regional Office for Latin America

B. Conference Documents

LARC/76/CONF/1	Address by Mr. Edouard Saouma Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America
LARC/76/CONF/2	Statement by Mr. Pedro Moral López FAO Regional Representative for Latin America to the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America

- LARC/76/CONF/3 Statement by Mr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos
Independent Chairman of the FAO Council to the
Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America
- LARC/76/CONF/4 Statement by Mr. Enrique V. Iglesias
Executive Secretary of ECLA upon the Inauguration
of the ECLA/FAO Latin American Food Conference
- LARC/76/CONF/5 Statement by Mr. Pedro Moral López
FAO Regional Representative for Latin America
upon the Inauguration of the ECLA/FAO Latin
American Food Conference

C. General Information

- LARC/76/INF/1 Information Note
- LARC/76/INF/2 Provisional Timetable
- LARC/76/INF/3 List of Documents
- LARC/76/INF/4 The Agricultural Sector in the Latin American
Economic Integration Movement during 1975

