

Report of the

**SIXTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR LATIN AMERICA**

Havana, 1-6 September 1980



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FAO Member Nations serviced by the Latin American Regional Office (at 6 September 1980)

Argentina	Dominican Republic	Mexico
Bahamas	Ecuador	Nicaragua
Barbados	El Salvador	Panama
Bolivia	Grenada	Paraguay
Brazil	Guatemala	Peru
Chile	Guyana	St. Lucia
Colombia	Haiti	Suriname
Costa Rica	Honduras	Trinidad and Tobago
Cuba	Jamaica	Uruguay
Dominica		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
Fifteenth	-	Montevideo, Uruguay, 15-19 August 1978
Sixteenth	-	Havana, Cuba, 1-6 September 1980

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America was held in the Palacio de las Convenciones, Havana, Cuba, from 1 to 6 September 1980, at the kind invitation of the Government and people of the Republic of Cuba.

Inaugural Ceremony

2. The inaugural ceremony was attended by: the President of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz; the Vice-President of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Carlos Rafael Rodríguez; the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Arnaldo Milián; and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Isidoro Malmierca.

3. The Director-General of FAO took the floor to thank the President for attending the ceremony and express appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Cuba for their warm hospitality. In his statement he underlined Cuba's achievements in agriculture and in the improvement of agricultural working conditions. He then invited the President to address the Conference and declare it inaugurated.

4. The President welcomed the participants and emphasized that, beyond the divisions that occasionally arose among them, and notwithstanding each country's chosen social system, history had given the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean common roots, geographical entity and the same enemies, so that it was their joint task to work together for freedom, progress and justice.

5. The President publicly acknowledged how much the developing countries owed to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and emphasized how important it was that, at this decisive moment in the struggle for development, FAO should be headed by a man from the Third World, Edouard Saouma.

6. In his address, he stressed his great concern with world food and agriculture problems, drawing particular attention to the situation of rural poverty from which the countries of the region were suffering, and stated that without social justice the fight against hunger would never be won. He recalled that hunger was a phenomenon of poverty and added that poverty and hunger went hand in hand with underdevelopment.

7. The President stated that agrarian reform was essential and indispensable, since with oligarchic methods and extensive agriculture it would not be possible to achieve solutions.

8. He pointed out that for the vast majority of the human race the outlook was gloomy, since the gap between developed and developing countries was growing every year. It was therefore urgent for the world to embark on the tasks necessary to establish a New International Economic Order. He emphasized that the problems of unequal terms of trade would be resolved if the agricultural commodities and other raw materials supplied by the developing to the developed countries were given their fair value, since this would make a decisive contribution to the self-financing of countries' development.

9. He referred to the massive expenditure on arms in the world, pointing out that with these resources hundreds of thousands of schools, millions of houses, thousands of hospitals and factories could be built, and millions of hectares of land could be developed, with the use of appropriate techniques, to feed a thousand million people.

10. In the same context, he recalled the proposal that the New International Strategy for the United Nations Development Decade guarantee an additional contribution of no less than 300 000 million dollars for those ten years.

11. He ended by stating that it was indispensable for an unprecedented era of cooperation and agreement to begin, pointing out that each nation had the duty to do its utmost for itself and to collaborate with others, so that humanity might win the difficult, decisive and vital fight against poverty and hunger.

12. The Director-General thanked the President for his address.

13. The complete text of this address is given in Appendix B to this Report.

Opening of the Conference

14. The Director-General, Mr. Edouard Saouma, opened the proceedings of the Conference.

Election of Officers

15. The Conference elected by acclamation: as Chairman, the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Agriculture of Cuba, Mr. Arnaldo Milián; as Vice-Chairmen, the Ministers of Agriculture of Colombia, Guyana and Nicaragua, Messrs. Gustavo Dager, Ralph Van Sluytman, and Jaime Wheelock respectively; and the Permanent Representative of Argentina to FAO, Ambassador Carlos O. Keller Sarmiento. The Ambassador of Mexico to Cuba, Mr. Gonzalo Martínez Corbalá, was elected Rapporteur.

16. A Drafting Committee was set up, composed of the Rapporteur and representatives of Barbados, Brazil, Cuba and Uruguay.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

17. The Conference adopted the Agenda and Timetable, the former being attached as Appendix A to this report.

Statement by the Director-General of FAO

18. In his statement, the Director-General analyzed the situation of food and agriculture from a global and regional point of view.

19. At the dawn of the Third Development Decade, the developing countries were facing innumerable difficulties, among them heavy foreign debts, which deprived them of freedom of action, the energy crisis, which withdrew resources from development, and inflation and recession, which constricted their export markets.

20. Referring to food security, he appealed for a new food order as a prerequisite for any new economic order. He pointed out that in overall terms self-sufficiency was declining, thus increasing dependency on supplies from abroad. In this connection he mentioned the proposal he had submitted to the International Monetary Fund for additional support for the balance of payments of the developing countries that are forced to import food in large quantities.

21. Referring to the state of food and agriculture in Latin America, he pointed out that, although this region was in a better position than other parts of the world as regards natural resources it could not be denied that there were countries or groups of people suffering from serious food shortages. The growth in food production per caput was too small to enable the nutritional levels of the poorest sectors of the population to increase rapidly.

22. The Director-General broadly outlined the obstacles facing agricultural development in the region. These ranged from structural problems, problems of conservation and management of natural resources and the damage caused by natural disasters, to difficulties in international trade, which could not be resolved by the countries of the region alone.

23. Finally, he stressed that agriculture should be awarded greater priority in order to cope with food supply problems. The developing countries would have to make massive investments in this sector, drawing on their own resources and external assistance. Research conducted by FAO, he pointed out, showed that in the next 20 years investments would have to be trebled and the amount of foreign aid quadrupled. He indicated that during the 1978-1979 biennium FAO programmes with the international financing agencies had resulted in investments by the latter in Latin America amounting to about 1 138 million dollars.

24. The text of this statement appears in Appendix C to this Report.

PLENARY SESSION ITEMS

General debate on the situation and prospects of food and agriculture in Latin America

25. Most of the delegations spoke on this item of the Agenda in order to refer to the situation of food and agriculture in their respective countries, on which they provided valuable and up-to-date information. They also made references to specific items on the Agenda for the Conference, which are reflected in the summary of the discussions on these items in the report.
26. The delegations underlined the importance that their governments attached to agriculture as a basic factor in the production of food and raw materials for the development of their economies. Although the region as a whole was a net exporter of food, these overall data concealed difference among and within countries. It was necessary to overcome the obstacles which prevented the region from achieving self-sufficiency in food, since it had great natural resources which were not yet exploited adequately.
27. Most of the delegations agreed that agrarian reform was an indispensable prerequisite for rural development.
28. Some delegations described the agricultural development plans that were underway and reference was made to the structural and institutional reforms that were necessary, and to the tax measures and incentives which had enabled some countries to achieve significant growth in agricultural output.
29. Support for the establishment of the New International Economic Order was reiterated; it was emphasized that it should be fair and equitable and that food and nutrition matters should have a predominant place in it.
30. Several delegations referred to the excessive burden represented by the costs of petroleum imports which, for some of them, represented between 30 and 50 percent of the value of their income from exports. They considered it indispensable to tackle the problem multilaterally through joint action by Latin American and other Third World countries in order to provide a solution to the problem of supply at accessible prices.
31. One delegation proposed that a special multinational body be set up to seek alternatives with the oil-producing countries.
32. One delegation provided figures on the production of alcohol from agricultural crops aimed at replacing petroleum imports. He stated that the goals set had been exceeded, the production of alcohol-driven vehicles having already attained significant proportion.
33. Most of the delegations agreed in pointing out the need to strengthen intra-regional technical cooperation for the exchange of experience and techniques; several of them expressly stated that they were ready and willing to collaborate with other developing countries, particularly in the region, and said that FAO's help was very important for identifying countries' requirements and channeling donors' contributions.
34. In commenting on their development plans, several delegations reported an expansion of national agricultural frontiers through the incorporation of unproductive or idle land, or forest areas, in order to increase production or raise the productivity of areas already under cultivation. It was pointed out that to achieve these objectives, it was necessary to continue taking measures to strengthen and extend the coverage of the agricultural research, extension and promotion system.
35. Mention was made of the need to conserve the natural resources, for which purpose the countries had issued utilization and control measures. Several delegations referred in particular to the conservation of agricultural soils as a means of increasing food production in the region. The collaboration of FAO was requested in inducing the international financing agencies to establish more favorable conditions for soil conservation projects.

36. Several delegations referred to the fisheries development programmes their countries were implementing and in particular to the situation of those countries which had limited resources; it was suggested that FAO study this problem and help them to find solutions, such as the encouragement of aquaculture and other forms of inland fishery.

37. The Conference recommended that the funds of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme be increased for the 1982-83 biennium.

Other Interventions

38. The Vice-Chairman of the World Food Council indicated the support given to FAO's initiatives on world food security and the Five-Point Plan, for which it had exhorted the international community to consider the necessary arrangements and to work out possible new ways of overcoming the food crisis.

39. The observer from the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences referred to the programmes being carried out by this body in the region.

40. The delegate of Venezuela, in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77 of Rome, referred to the common position adopted by the countries composing this Group, in its struggle to revalorize raw materials in the international market, diversify energy sources and rationalize their use on a world-wide scale. In particular, he emphasized the need for the international community to increase its official aid for development in the field of food and agriculture. He pointed out that in the field of international trade, the Group called for implementation of UNCTAD's Integrated Global Programme, which devoted special attention to food commodities.

Regional implications of international action to strengthen world food security

41. The Conference was informed of some progress achieved in the international efforts made in recent years to ensure world food security. There had been increased investment in food production and an increasing number of governments had formulated national food stock policies. FAO Special Action Programmes had been established to assist developing countries in planning or establishing national food reserves, mobilize related external assistance and assist governments in the prevention of food losses.

42. Despite all these efforts, progress towards world food security had been limited and uneven. Although the minimum annual contributions under the new Food Aid Convention of 1980 had been increased to 7.6 million tons - compared with 4.2 million tons under the previous Convention - the international community had not yet managed to reach the World Food Conference's annual target of at least 10 million tons of food aid. Moreover, it had not been possible to reach an agreement on a new international grain agreement including provisions on the size of reserves, prices and special assistance to developing countries. In view of this, the Director-General had drawn up the voluntary, five-point Plan of Action on World Food Security which had been adopted by the FAO Council and endorsed by the FAO Conference and the World Food Council.

43. The Conference was informed of the renewed efforts being made within the framework of the International Wheat Council to arrive at a new Wheat Trade Convention designed to meet the twin objectives of market stability and food security, with particular regard for the interests of the developing countries. Reference was also made to the concern expressed by the non-aligned countries at the fact that the international negotiations on a new international grains arrangement had not been successful. These countries continued to be interested in the conclusion of a new arrangement, provided that this contained all the elements essential to guarantee food security for the whole world, and particularly for the developing countries.

44. The Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme then referred to the projects under way to help the poorest populations improve their nutrition, particularly in rural areas. He pointed out that since its creation in 1962 the Programme had assigned \$440 million to 139 projects in Latin America, in addition to emergency aid. At present WFP was providing

assistance to 36 projects in operation, for a value of \$206 million. In 1979 the Director-General of FAO had approved the concession of WFP emergency aid to Latin America for a total of \$9.5 million. He pointed out the necessity of the resources dedicated to the Programme being increased and of the minimum target of \$1,000 million fixed for the contributions for the 1982-83 biennium being fully reached. He also drew attention to the need for better planning and management of projects, and stressed that the food aid offered in the Programme should be increasingly linked to countries' economic and social development.

45. The Conference, taking into account the gravity of the food security situation in many developing countries and the worsening of the food supply position of a number of countries in the region, agreed that renewed and more intensive efforts must be made to increase food production and related investments and to build up food reserves as a pre-condition for greater food security.

46. The Conference expressed its concern at the fact that per caput food production in the region had risen at less than 0,5 percent per year, lagging behind population growth, while food imports, mainly from outside the region, had trebled since 1970. Modernization of the region's agriculture was concentrated more in export products than in basic foodstuffs for domestic consumption. In most of the countries high concentration of land ownership in the hands of a small percentage of the population, existing side by side with huge numbers of small-holders and landless labourers, was retarding progress in the agricultural sector. Moreover, in some countries of the region there was a very unequal income distribution, and about 30 percent of the Latin American population consumed less calories than required. Structural constraints - economic, social and even ecological - were thwarting efforts to solve the problems connected with poverty and malnutrition.

47. The Conference agreed that proposals for future action to improve food security must differ according to the time period for which they were made. Furthermore, food and nutrition policies, and the role of food security within these policies, would also differ according to the primary aim of a country's development strategies and policies. However, many delegates stressed that overall efforts to improve food security would necessitate giving increased priority to food and nutrition in national development plans and policies; an extension of intra-regional cooperation, especially to improve trade infrastructures, including transportation networks, storage facilities and market information; and a more generous international response to the food security requirements of developing countries.

48. The Conference reiterated its appreciation of the action taken by the Director-General for the immediate implementation of the measures already approved by FAO, the World Food Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations to strengthen world food security, particularly as regards facilities for the importation of food for the benefit of low-income, food-deficit countries; other special measures to help these countries cover their existing import and emergency requirements; and special provisions to increase world food security.

49. The Conference expressed deep concern at the fact that the International Emergency Food Reserve, based on voluntary contributions, had never yet reached its target of 500 000 tons of cereals, and gave its full support to the efforts being made by the Director-General to enrol new donors and ensure more continuity in contributions to the reserve. It expressed its appreciation of the efforts he was making to convert the Reserve into a legally binding international convention, and showed satisfaction at the decision by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to examine this question in detail at its tenth session.

50. Having noted the recommendations of the Fifth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, the Conference urged governments not yet members of the 1980 Food Aid Convention but in a position to contribute, to consider their accession to the Convention, with a view to attaining the annual food aid target of 10 million tons of cereals.

51. The Conference also considered that in view of the unpredictability of variations in the production of basic foods, and the increasing import dependence of some countries in the region, medium and short-term measures should be implemented or reinforced to promote national and regional self-reliance. In applying such measures, due consideration should be given to: the mobilization of internal and external resources, including financial mechanisms for

farm income stabilization; and the establishment of national food security reserves, the region's total cereal stocks being sufficient to cover only one month of consumption. Most of the countries also showed themselves in favour of the development of intra-regional coordination of reserves and financial mechanisms to establish Latin American reserve funds; regional cooperation in developing food security infrastructures; and the promotion, adaptation or strengthening of research, education and extension services.

52. In connection with the above, one delegate outlined a proposal for a Latin American "regional food self-sufficiency programme" to be coordinated by the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and covering a wide spectrum of food and agricultural development issues of concern to the region, such as production, consumption and nutrition, marketing and processing, provision for mutual technical cooperation and food reserves.

53. Some delegations considered that, since the formulation of programmes and strategies to increase food production was important, the imposition of conditions in the granting of external assistance and the implementation of these strategies, as promoted by certain sectors through the World Food Council, hindered and retarded the aid required by the developing countries. This also referred to the plans of the transnational corporations, which deformed production structures and consumption habits.

54. One delegation stated that some developed countries had turned their food surpluses into a strategic weapon and did not show willingness to respond to the important problems arising out of historical change and to participate in finding solutions aimed at serving all nations equally; this should encourage the Latin American countries to seek and adopt regional cooperation measures and actions which would make it possible to eradicate hunger and attain common objectives and shared well-being. It would also reinforce the proposed Integrated Programme for Self-Sufficiency in Food in Latin America and the Caribbean.

55. The Conference recognized the work and the benefits of the World Food Programme, highlighted the importance and necessity of the Programme's aid for the Latin American countries and urged it to increase the level of its resources and the total number of projects in the region. These projects could be geared particularly towards the objectives of increased food production and rural development. In this connection it urged all the donors which had not yet done so to pledge funds to WFP to enable it to attain the target of \$1,000 million for the 1981-82 biennium. In this connection the Conference welcomed the decision by the Government of Brazil to become a contributor to the WFP again.

56. The Conference also expressed its conviction that for food aid purposes WFP should make its criterion for categorizing countries more flexible.

Follow-up of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD): Latin American Region

57. Before this item was introduced, the Chairman emphasized the overriding importance of the subject of agrarian reform and rural development, and referred to the three documents submitted to the delegates for discussion.

58. The Secretariat detailed the actions taken as a follow-up to the Declaration of Principles, Plan of Action and Resolution of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) organized by FAO. Among the main actions taken at regional level, reference was made to the Inter-Country Consultation held in Quito, Ecuador, from 22 to 24 April 1980, and to the Inter-Agency Meeting held in Santiago, Chile, from 29 to 31 October 1979.

59. The UNDP representative stated that the proposed Regional Centre would help to accelerate the process of transforming the peasants into efficient and productive farmers and reiterated UNDP's interest in and support for its establishment. He expressed satisfaction at the joint effort made by FAO and his Organization in preparing the frame of reference for technical cooperation in the rural sector for the 1982-86 planning period, which reflected the priorities set by the member countries both at this Regional Conference and at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, as well as in other international forums, with the object of giving increasing support to the most backward sectors in the Latin American rural areas.

60. Four activities, closely connected with implementation of the agreements reached at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, were soon to be implemented in the region:

the preparation of projects for strengthening rural extension systems in Latin America, with emphasis on small farmers and landless peasants and the strengthening of peasant organizations;

the promotion of self-help organizations for low-income sectors in rural areas;

a consultation of experts on the mobilization of agricultural and educational institutions to accelerate the participation of women in development; and

an analysis of problems in the organization and administration of rural development which prevent the incorporation of small farmers and peasants in development programmes.

61. The Conference was also informed that the first Inter-Country Consultation, held in Quito, had recommended that the Director-General of FAO present the report of the Consultation to the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and request the Conference to adopt the appropriate measures, in particular those referring to the creation of centres on agrarian reform and rural development. The purpose of the centres would be to encourage the exchange of experience on agrarian reform and rural development, conduct new research which would help countries to adopt strategies appropriate to their particular circumstances, promote horizontal cooperation and find additional resources to be able to meet the demands of the countries in this field.

62. The Inter-Country Consultation had also requested the Director-General to invite countries to set up a Working Party to advise on the preparation of a draft agreement for the establishment of the Centre, to be circulated to governments, and to convene in due course a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to consider the agreement with a view to its adoption.

63. Most of the delegations at the Conference supported the establishment of the regional centre on agrarian reform and rural development for Latin America, and some of them considered it necessary to establish sub-regional centres forming a coordinated network which would make it possible to go more deeply into the actions and measures to be adopted. One delegation thought that the proposal to establish sub-regional centres was premature.

64. Several countries expressed satisfaction at the approach adopted, which would make possible more direct and rapid action on agrarian reform and rural development. They therefore expressed their support for the centre and for the sub-regional and national network.

65. Most of the delegations expressed their support for the Director-General's idea of organizing a meeting of the Working Party in Havana immediately after the Sixteenth Regional Conference to discuss the functions and structure of this Centre.

66. Emphasis was also put on the need for the Centre to devote itself to concrete actions and not to become a forum for academic discussions.

67. Three countries (Bolivia, Dominican Republic and Ecuador) offered to be the site for the Regional Centre; Honduras and Nicaragua offered to be the site for a sub-regional centre for Central America; and Panama and Mexico offered to be the site for a regional or sub-regional centre specialized in agrô-industrial training as part of the proposed network of centres.

68. Two countries, although supporting the creation of the centre, expressed their concern that measures be adopted to avoid duplication, redundancy and waste of resources.

69. Three countries stated that they did not intend to participate in the Regional Centre because they felt it might constitute a duplication of activities, but at the same time recognized that it was a sovereign and legitimate right of the other countries to establish the

Centre if they so wished. Two of these countries mentioned the advisability of considering alternatives such as those suggested at the Consultation in Quito.

70. The U.S.A., an observer country, expressed its support for the creation of the Centre, while expressing the hope that everything possible would be done to avoid duplication of activities and waste of resources.

71. The Unesco observer stated that, should the establishment of the Centre be approved, this Agency would be willing to afford it all possible collaboration.

72. Emphasis was again put on the decisive importance that agrarian reform had in most countries' rural development programmes. It was pointed out that although it was necessary to modernize agriculture, care should be taken to see that modernization did not lead to concentration of wealth: technology alone was not sufficient to resolve the problems of the rural areas - on the contrary, where it had not been introduced in the right way it had rendered socio-economic problems more acute. Some delegations stated that in order for modernization to be of benefit, it was necessary for the land tenure system to be changed and an overall development plan to be drawn up covering in detail the social and economic sectors at both national and local level.

73. Many countries drew attention to the emargination in which great masses of landless peasants were still living in Latin America.

74. During the discussions, many delegations spoke to explain their position with regard to the follow-up of the Programme of Action, and at the same time described some of the programmes, projects and efforts being undertaken in the fields of agrarian reform and rural development.

75. Some countries offered to make available their experience in agrarian reform and rural development.

76. Reference was made to the need for the FAO budget for the 1982-83 biennium, to enable the Organization in compliance with the recommendations of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, to carry out properly the role of coordinator and leading agency with regard to agrarian reform and rural development, as requested by the countries.

77. In connection with this item, the Conference approved the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 1/80

The Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Bearing in mind the proposal for the establishment of a Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development presented by the Director-General of FAO following the recommendation made at the Inter-Country Consultation on the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, held in Quito, Ecuador, from 22 to 24 April 1980;

Considering that the promotion and successful implementation of agrarian reform and rural development programmes in Latin America require support from regional cooperation to reinforce the activities of the national centres concerned;

Considering also that this cooperation could be achieved through the establishment of a Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean;

Agrees to establish in Latin America a Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and, for this purpose,

Invites the Director-General of FAO:

to set up a Working Party, composed of the Latin American and Caribbean countries interested, which would meet immediately after the Sixteenth Regional Conference in Havana, on 8 and 9 September 1980, to advise him on the preparation of a Draft Agreement for the establishment of this Centre, with regard to its objectives, functions and structure;

to distribute a Draft Agreement, prepared in accordance with the views of the Working Party, to the Latin American and Caribbean countries so that they may formulate their comments;

to convene in due course a Conference of Plenipotentiaries which would examine the Draft Agreement with a view to its approval.

Note: When this Resolution was adopted, the delegations of Argentina, Chile and Uruguay reiterated the comments recorded in paragraph 69.

External resources and food and agricultural development in Latin America

78. In introducing this item, the Secretariat stressed: the characteristics and peculiarities of the process of capital formation in regional agriculture; the development and particular features of official external financial assistance; the contradictory and conflicting effect on agricultural and agro-industrial development of private foreign investment made through the transnational corporations; and the different types of problems facing the countries in their efforts to identify, prepare, implement and evaluate agricultural investment programmes and projects.

79. During the discussions, attention was drawn to the disparity between the sums assigned for public investment in agriculture and the amounts effectively spent. This situation should be carefully examined, so that the causes which had prevented full use of the sums intended for the expansion of agricultural development could be ascertained.

80. It was recognized that although official foreign financial aid had tended to increase in recent years, it was still small compared to what the Latin American countries needed in order to implement adequate food programmes and projects leading to a development of the region's agriculture that can no longer be delayed. Added to the insufficiency of financial and other types of external assistance, was the fact that the international financial agencies used as an indicator of development income per capita, which did not objectively reflect the real situation in the countries and the region. It was necessary to use social as well as economic indicators.

81. Some delegations pointed out that the complex methodologies and requirements of various kinds - some of them constituting an infringement of national sovereignty and freedom of decision - that are imposed by the international financing and credit agencies, are increasingly impeding the preparation and conduct of agricultural projects, and consequently the approval of these projects and the availability and disbursement of funds. Some delegates felt that these agencies excluded small farmers from credit programmes and directed funds preferably to large agricultural enterprises which already had considerable capital of their own, thus doubly blighting the hopes of the peasants.

82. It was pointed out that the developed countries had promised to contribute 0.7% of their Gross National Product (GNP) within the framework of the International Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, that this undertaking had not been respected and should be fulfilled.

83. As regards the transnational corporations, some delegations pointed out that, among other negative aspects, their activities had caused some countries' foreign debt to increase, and considered that it was necessary to increase measures for controlling their methods of operation, respecting national development plans and programmes. Stress was also put on the need to conclude the negotiations on a code of conduct for these enterprises, bearing in mind the proposals of the developing countries.

84. One delegation proposed that the World Bank, in the analysis it was preparing for the establishment of special lines for financing food imports, consider a substantial increase in the resources earmarked for food and agriculture and, by means of a window operating on easy terms, facilitate food production in the developing countries, without discriminating, imposing regulations or applying obsolete and inadequate criteria.

85. The same delegation expressed its concern that the tendency shown by many multi-lateral and bilateral bodies to accord Latin America and the Caribbean less favourable treatment in the assigning of both regular and concessional financial resources might continue or worsen. It also called attention to the need for the international financing agencies to substantially increase financing of the local costs of agricultural investment projects. The Conference shared this concern.

86. The representatives of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in their respective statements, described the nature, scope and methods of their specific assistance activities in Latin American countries to date, and expressed the intention of their agencies to strengthen their support for agricultural and food development in the region and continue to cooperate in the efforts made by FAO in this field.

87. In connection with this item, the Conference approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2/80

The Sixteenth FAO Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That development of agriculture in the region is imperative in order to overcome the problems connected with the world food situation expounded in various international forums;
2. That the existing flow of external financing is insufficient for adequate food and agriculture development in the developing countries, for which reason it is indispensable that considerable additional resources both material and human be mobilized for the next decade from the developed countries and other countries in a position to provide assistance;
3. That it is urgent that the developed countries which pledged themselves to contribute 0.7 percent of their GNP, as laid down in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, fulfil their pledges;
4. That the resources originating from international and regional institutions have not been sufficient to meet the requirements of food and agriculture development in the region;
5. That the international financing and credit institutions frequently demonstrate their insensitivity to the real political, economic and social situations in Latin American and Caribbean countries, making the grant of loans conditional on clauses which these countries find it difficult to accept and apply;
6. That it is necessary to reiterate the concern expressed by the Group of 77 regarding the activities of the transnational corporations and the problems they cause as regards the social and economic development of the developing countries, and to reaffirm the need for increasing measures to control their methods of operation so as to enable the countries to promote national development objectives;
7. That obstacles connected with the adequate preparation of investment projects have not yet been overcome and that this explains the limited impact of these projects on the behaviour and expansion of food production;

Resolves:

1. To proclaim itself in favour of any effort being made at international level to obtain the additional resources necessary to achieve in the next decade an annual growth rate in agriculture of the order of 4 percent;
2. To exhort the governments of the region to urge the countries which have pledged themselves to contribute 0.7 percent of their GNP, as laid down and approved in the Plan of Action of the Development Strategy, to fulfil this commitment;
3. To urge international financing and credit institutions to cease the frequent practice of making the grant of loans conditional on clauses which the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean find it difficult to accept and apply and which do not take into account the real economic, political and social conditions of these countries;
4. To reiterate the concern expressed by the Group of 77 regarding the activities of the transnational corporations and the problems these cause as regards the economic and social development of the developing countries, and to reaffirm the need for increasing measures to control their methods of operation so as to enable countries to promote national development objectives;
5. To recommend to governments that they improve the capacity of the pertinent national institutions to generate and promote investments in agriculture and make efficient and coordinated use of external financial resources;
6. To request the Director-General of FAO to strengthen the collaboration being provided in connection with training national personnel in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of agricultural investment projects to be submitted for external financing;
7. To urge financing agencies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to adjust their rules of operation so that Latin America and the Caribbean may participate more fully in international tenders, in order to increase the preferential margin in favour of the region's national producers;
8. To exhort the World Bank to give full consideration, in the analysis it is preparing for the establishment of a food facility, to a substantial increase in the resources assigned to food and agriculture in the region; this facility could have a window with easy terms intended to resolve food import and production problems, for all the developing countries, without discriminations, graduations, or categorizations.

Recent developments in Latin America's international trade of major agricultural commodities

88. In introducing this item, the Secretariat pointed out its complex nature, owing to the characteristics and the variability of present trade trends. Agricultural trade and its problems must be approached from a global point of view which also included international negotiations. National policies and agricultural prices were aspects related to trade which had a considerable effect on and conditioned the supply of exports. Another aspect of interest was that of protectionism and restrictions on trade, the continuance of which affected not only exports but also the development of the region's agricultural potential. In this connection, the activities carried out by FAO were emphasized. With regard to economic integration, regional schemes constituted an appropriate way of promoting and expanding intra-regional agricultural trade, and of ensuring that cooperation developed in an ever more effective way through specific projects.

89. The delegations expressed to FAO their appreciation of documents LARC/80/7 and LARC/80/INF-6, for the information they contained and for the careful treatment of the subject, which provided a good basis for the discussions.

90. Bearing in mind the importance of international trade of agricultural commodities and as part of a policy of monitoring and continuous evaluation of this matter the delegations indicated that this item should be kept on the agenda of the next Regional Conferences.

91. The delegates pointed out the deep and fundamental dependence of overall economic progress in Latin America on the conditions faced by the region in international markets for agricultural commodities. They emphasized that many countries in the region were closely dependent on the exportation of a few agricultural commodities, and that this affected the volume of their foreign currency earnings and hence their investment and economic development programmes in general. In addition, these earnings were limited by erratic movements in the international prices for commodities such as sugar, coffee and cacao. On the other hand, those countries of the region whose comparative advantages favoured the production for export of products such as sugar, meat, grain, dairy products and oilseeds, stated that their export efforts were being seriously limited by the agricultural protectionism and the subsidy policies of many developed countries which kept costs very high.

92. The Conference emphasized the negative effects on international trade resulting from the high levels of protection or subsidy that many industrialized countries granted to their agricultural and agro-industry processing sectors, and emphasized the seriousness of this for the export economies of the developing countries. Even more, the Conference stressed that it was necessary for these developed countries, with high costs, not only to cease their pressure for greater protectionism, but to liberalize their import regimes in favour of the developing countries. In this connection, the governments of the Latin American countries reiterated their dissatisfaction with the results of the GATT multilateral trade negotiations in the field of agriculture. The delegates pointed out that due to the position maintained by many developed countries, the results of these negotiations with regard to tariffs were meager, in that the bulk of the non-tariff measures which had such a direct effect on limiting agricultural trade had remained intact, and for this reason, it was essential that the multilateral trade negotiations continue until the demands of the developing countries had been met.

93. The Conference emphasized the necessity of more intense efforts being made to implement UNCTAD's Integrated Programme for Staple Commodities. This would make it possible to reduce the instability of international agricultural trade and promote stable growth in the export earnings of developing countries. In particular, the delegates considered that the long delay in implementing the Integrated Programme for Staple Commodities and the lack of progress that was evident in negotiations on already existing international agreements on commodities were attributable to the lack of flexibility and political will demonstrated by many of the developed countries. In highlighting the favourable fact that the negotiations for the Common Fund had been concluded, the Conference pointed out the need for the fund to come into operation as soon as possible, in particular to enable its "second window" to finance measures for the development of those staple commodities for which it was not possible to have agreements on buffer stocks.

94. Some delegations considered that FAO should carry out various studies on the results of the multilateral trade negotiations and on the effect of protectionism on the Latin American agricultural sector. The Secretariat stated that FAO Conference Resolution 2/79 had laid down FAO's role in these areas, that the Secretariat was carrying out these studies in close consultation with the UNCTAD and GATT Secretariats, and that it had taken due note of the interest expressed by the delegations in these studies being extended particularly to the Latin American region.

95. The observer of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) stressed the progress made by this agency since its creation in 1975. He referred to the critical situation of the international economy, to the difficulties being experienced in the North-South dialogue, and to obstacles to development for whose removal it was necessary for the region to intensify its efforts to promote intra-regional cooperation. In particular, he stressed the collaboration between FAO and SELA and stated that it was becoming ever more urgent to promote intra-regional action on food and agriculture geared towards concrete programmes and projects and to strengthen the negotiating position of the Latin American countries vis-à-vis third countries in international forums.

96. In connection with this item, the Conference approved the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 3/80

The Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That the process of reinforcing protectionist measures being conducted by many developed countries tends to aggravate the unfavourable impact of such policies on the production and trade of staple agricultural commodities of interest to the developing countries, particularly the countries of the region;
2. That in the GATT multilateral trade negotiations no significant concessions have yet been achieved in sectors which are of great importance for the agricultural trade of the developing countries;
3. That the long delay in the implementation of the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the obvious lack of progress in the renegotiations on already existing international agreements on commodities which are of interest to the countries of the region, are attributable to the lack of flexibility in the positions adopted by many developed countries;
4. That the projected geographical expansion of the European Economic Community may have adverse effects on Latin America's foreign trade;
5. That it is urgent for the countries of the region to increase their foreign currency earnings in order to be able to develop their economies;
6. That intra-regional agricultural trade is relatively small and that it is highly desirable to expand it;
7. That by reason of its composition, structure and objectives the Latin American Economic System is the appropriate regional body to ensure the coordination and joint action considered appropriate by Governments to protect the region's legitimate common interests;

Resolves:

1. To exhort the governments of the region to coordinate more thoroughly their actions in all international forums in order to achieve a New International Economic Order and conditions more favourable to the disposal of their products through elimination of the restrictions imposed by the developed countries that hamper them;
2. To condemn the growing tendency, especially in developed countries, to apply protectionist measures, and to recommend that the governments of the Latin American countries, in a coordinated way, insist that the competent bodies take adequate measures regarding those aspects of trade in commodities of vital importance for the countries of the region that have not been resolved in the GATT multilateral trade negotiations, with the aim of eliminating tariff and non-tariff trade barriers and suppressing tariffs on commodities that are of interest above all to the Latin American countries;
3. To request the Director-General to present to the Seventeenth Regional Conference a study evaluating the effects of the multilateral trade negotiations with regard to procuring greater expansion of international trade in agricultural products and in particular to what extent they have affected the external trade of Latin America;
4. To urge the developed countries to adopt a constructive approach to the consultations and negotiations aimed at establishing new international agreements on commodities, in compliance with Resolution 93 of UNCTAD IV and to promote successful operation of the agreements already in existence;

5. To draw the attention of the governments of the Latin American countries to the advisability of carefully examining the possibility of presenting a strong, united front in face of the unfavourable effects that the projected geographical expansion of the European Economic Community may have on the region;
6. To recommend that the Governments of the region seek ways of facilitating the expansion of agricultural trade and of the inputs and goods required for agricultural production;
7. To condemn the EEC's common agricultural policy, particularly in the sugar, meat and dairy sectors, and to recommend that the Governments of the region, by appropriate means, urge the EEC authorities to commence urgent negotiations in order to adhere to the International Sugar Agreement, and to fulfil the GATT commitments regarding meat;
8. To recommend that the Governments of the countries of the region formulate common positions and strategies on the above questions, essentially through the Latin American Economic System.

Soil conservation as a means of increasing food production in Latin America

97. The Regional Conference welcomed the report of the Technical Committee which had studied soil conservation and food production in Latin America at the meeting held in Havana from 26 to 28 August 1980.
98. It considered that soil conservation implied rational use of the resource, combining technical, economic and social measures with restoration, maintenance and increase of the resource's productivity. This included, in particular, land use planning, based on soil classification and interpretation studies in accordance with land use capacity and cultivation systems, and conditioned by the socio-economic and political structures of each country.
99. It agreed that soil conservation should be considered a fundamental part of rural development and that soil conservation practices should be included in the overall framework of economic and social development.
100. It considered that it was the responsibility of governments to safeguard the national heritage, encouraging suitable use of the soils as a way of improving their productivity.
101. The Conference emphasized that national and regional soil conservation programmes were a prerequisite for maintaining and increasing countries' food production on a sustained basis and for ensuring the well-being and development of their peoples. For this purpose, projects should be drawn up for the country as a whole, for watersheds, and for farms or plots. Government responsibility was also important in creating a social and economic environment conducive to the implementation of soil conservation projects in the country.
102. It was emphasized that the soil conservation work carried out in Latin America was inadequate to the gravity of the problem and that governments should provide bigger budgets for the development of large-scale programmes.
103. The Conference recommended that FAO's assistance in the Region consist mainly of help in:
 - formulating a soil conservation policy in countries which so requested, and preparing and launching concrete projects;
 - encouraging the transfer of knowledge and techniques and the exchange of experience among countries;
 - training within countries and at international level in all aspects of the conservation of renewable natural resources.

These points should be given priority in action at regional level.

104. Finally, the Conference pointed out that the requirements for investment in soil conservation were of such a magnitude that they justified international financial assistance, which should also include the formulation of feasible banking projects. It was also necessary that the financing agencies which normally supported rural development programmes grant special credit lines to soil conservation that facilitated implementation of the projects mentioned above.

105. In connection with this item the Conference adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 4/80

The Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

That conservation of the renewable natural resources is a prerequisite for development and that conservation of soils and water in particular is vital for ensuring the general well-being of the community;

That 80 percent of the soils in Latin America are affected by degradation in one form or another;

That the extensive and accelerated degradation of productive soils occurring in the region is due both to complex social, economic and ecological problems and to the fact that adequate protection measures are either not known or not applied;

That the disastrous consequences of land degradation affect society in general and the environment;

That improvement of the productivity of degraded lands, which is important for national productivity as a whole, is not always economically or technically feasible.

Fully aware:

That within the framework of regional self-sufficiency and world food security, the countries themselves are responsible for ensuring food for both present and future generations;

That real and concrete possibilities exist for reducing and preventing soil degradation by means of integrated conservation actions which also promote sustained and stable increases in agricultural production.

Convinced:

of the urgent need for all the sectors involved to act consciously and responsibly in taking decisive action with respect to soil conservation in order to obtain sustained agricultural production.

Resolves:

1. To recommend to the Governments that they accord political and budgetary priority to the immediate development and implementation of integrated and permanent soil conservation programmes aimed at obtaining a sustained increase in food production. Such programmes should include action at national, watershed, and plot or farm level, in order to:

stimulate general awareness of the importance for the country of nature preservation and soil conservation, and of the need to tackle problems in these fields at their roots and with determination;

provide social and economic conditions and organizational facilities favourable to soil conservation;

study the dynamics and characteristics of soil degradation and develop and implement systems to prevent and combat it;

train farmers and technicians in the use of soil conservation methods;

give priority to soil conservation programmes in the assignment of public funds and in channelling agricultural credit on special terms;

ensure that soil conservation form an integral part of national development plans and rural development policies.

2. To recommend to all the governments of the region that they cooperate actively in soil conservation and the reclamation of degraded lands, so that the knowledge acquired may be used for their mutual benefit, and implement actions in the interest of all.
3. To request the Director-General of FAO and, through his intercession, the UNDP, to give high priority to the preparation, financing and implementation of a Regional Project on Soil Conservation in Latin America to support soil conservation programmes, the training of technical staff and regional cooperation, bearing in mind the conclusions and recommendations of this Conference.
4. To request the Director-General of FAO to ask the World Food Programme to accord priority to soil conservation programmes by channelling food aid for this purpose at the right time and in sufficient quantities.

Changes in the Law of the Sea and their implications for fisheries management and development in Latin America

106. The Conference expressed its satisfaction at the inclusion in its agenda of the item on fisheries and the new ocean regime, which had been fully discussed at the Technical Committee meeting held in Havana from 28 to 30 August 1980. The report of this meeting was endorsed by the Regional Conference.

107. Document LARC/80/2, which served as the basis for the discussions of the Technical Committee, provided a serious and objective analysis of the opportunities and obstacles to fishery development in the region and included concrete suggestions for action and technical cooperation, both at national level and at regional and sub-regional levels.

108. Most of the delegations referred to the fishery situation in their respective countries. The following aspects were mentioned in their statements:

- present levels of catches;
- national policies drawn up or reoriented in order to achieve better utilization, conservation and protection of resources and the formulation of fishery development plans;
- the creation of reorganization of institutions or administrative services;
- the establishment or improvement of installations ashore and fishery infrastructures;
- the development of fishing fleets;
- the expansion of biological research on marine resources;
- the social and economic aspects of fishery activities;

- support for artisanal fisheries;
- financial assistance and credit facilities for fisherfolk;
- the improvement of training opportunities;
- the promotion of domestic fish consumption.

109. It was agreed that, although a considerable amount still remained to be done with respect to research into fishery resources in the countries of the region, it had been possible to ascertain that the present catch levels were considerably below the potential level of the region as a whole. This afforded excellent opportunities for establishing dynamic fishery industries which, in addition to contributing to the economic development of the countries, would make it possible to improve the population's food supply. Prospects had been improved by the widespread acceptance of the new ocean regime, based on an extension of national jurisdiction up to the 200-mile limit. In order to achieve harmonious and adequate development of Latin America's fishery industries, it was recommended that measures be adopted to provide education, technical training and adequate socio-economic protection for fishing communities.

110. Unanimous support was expressed for the FAO Director-General's Programme of assistance in the management and development of fisheries in exclusive economic zones, which had been approved at the last FAO Conference. It was considered that this constituted a useful and timely initiative, and satisfaction was expressed at the high priority given to it by the Director-General. While appreciating the fact that various countries of the region had submitted requests for assistance under this Programme, delegates pointed out that the assistance provided should be consonant with the policies, requirements and priorities established by the countries themselves.

111. It was emphasized that the success of the Programme would depend to a large extent on its being assured of obtaining the additional extra-budgetary resources that would be required. In this connection, the Conference expressed support for the Director-General's efforts to find these additional resources and urged the UNDP and other financing and donor sources to provide maximum possible assistance to the Programme. Member countries were urged to use their influence in the appropriate forums in order to raise extra financial resources for the Programme.

112. One delegation called attention to the need to devise methods for avoiding irrational exploitation and degradation of the biological marine resources of the coastal countries of the region, in particular with respect to activities in the area adjacent to the exclusive economic zone by large fleets from industrialized countries fishing species inhabiting this zone and the high seas, or associated species of both zones. The Conference noted the importance of this question.

113. Other delegations called attention to the fact that the appropriate framework within which to discuss legal aspects was the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. There was confidence that any difficulties which might arise in this connection would be resolved through the efforts which it was the right and duty of each country to make.

114. One delegation observed that fleets from outside the region were participating ever more intensively in fishery activities in the waters under the jurisdiction of some Latin American countries and that, in its opinion, this situation should be changed, by facilitating and encouraging collaboration among the countries of the region while respecting their sovereignty.

115. Various delegations again drew attention to the possibilities that the utilization of fishery resources afford for helping to meet the growing food requirements of the people of Latin America, and indicated that the problem of fish consumption in the region was not that there was a preference for other products, but that it was necessary to ensure an adequate supply at prices accessible to the majority of the population.

116. Several delegations referred to the necessity of having available better information on the greatest possible number of potential markets and their behaviour. In this connection, mention was made of the INFOPECSA Project, it being pointed out that, although it provided background information for market studies, the information on supply and demand did not usually reach those interested at the right time. It would be useful if this Project were to provide adequate advice on market analysis and on strategies to enter existing markets, without prejudice to the aims of the domestic and foreign trade policy of the countries of the region.

117. Considerable attention was devoted to aspects connected with regional and sub-regional cooperation. It was recognized that, where necessary, the activities of the regional commissions should be reoriented bearing in mind the principles of the new ocean regime and the requirements of the member countries. Several delegations expressed the opinion that, although they must conduct their work more flexibly and effectively, these bodies had an important role to play in fishery management and development in their respective areas of influence, particularly with regard to shared resources, due account always being paid to national sovereignty. It was also considered that decentralization would increase the effectiveness of the regional bodies. Reference was made to the proposal to establish a Committee for the Management and Development of Fisheries in the Lesser Antilles, owing to the special needs of the small island countries.

118. It was observed that the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) had limited its action to the exchange of information and national experience, neglecting other more important tasks. It was hoped that the technical assistance programme assigned to the Commission would receive sufficient resources to enable it to operate more dynamically.

119. The delegations of the countries concerned expressed their support for the establishment of a regional technology centre for Central America, which would serve as a support unit for the extension services in the countries of the area.

120. Various delegations expressed their willingness to provide technical assistance to coastal countries of the region. The delegation of Cuba confirmed its offer to make the 'Andrés González Lines' Fishery Institute available for use as a regional training centre, for which adequate technical and financial assistance, promoted by FAO, would be required. The delegation of Chile also indicated the willingness of its country to extend technical collaboration to other countries in the region which requested it, through FAO. The observer of the USA informed the Committee of his country's intention to join the Programme attached to the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC), and of the fact that the Agency for International Development (AID) was considering and would propose to the WECAFC Programme an assistance project for 1.5 million dollars for fishery development in the countries of the Lesser Antilles. The Conference expressed its appreciation of these offers of technical cooperation.

121. Some delegations pointed out that a particularly important mechanism for helping fishery development in the region was the Latin American Economic System (SELA); they therefore proposed that FAO increase its support in order to make it possible to put into effect and expand the projects agreed within SELA's Action Committee for Seafood and Freshwater Products.

122. Stress was laid on the need for harmonizing, coordinating and supporting the activities of the existing regional and sub-regional bodies, so as to strengthen them and avoid duplication. Special mention was made of the relations between FAO on the one hand, and SELA's Action Committee for Seafood and Freshwater Products and ECLA's Caribbean Development and Coordination Committee on the other.

123. The observer of SELA's Action Committee for Seafood and Freshwater Products, in his statement, welcomed the opportunity offered by the meeting to make an analysis of the problems of Latin American fisheries. He pointed out that the background document for the discussions contained an adequate interpretation of the situation and historical evolution of fishery development in the region. In illustrating the activities being carried out by the Action

Committee, he emphasized the collaboration it received from the countries and the wide participation of technicians from the region in its projects, thus stimulating horizontal cooperation. He emphasized the collaboration it had received from FAO and other agencies in the United Nations System for projects such as stock assessment in the South-East Pacific, the production of low-cost food, etc.

124. He indicated the necessity of establishing an autonomous body as a legal entity within the framework of SELA to encourage the development of the sector in the region, and item which would be the subject of discussion at the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Committee. Finally, he referred to the advisability of continuing to strengthen cooperation with FAO for the benefit of the countries of the region.

125. Several delegations underlined the importance of small-scale fisheries in supplying fish for direct human consumption and considered it necessary to suggest to FAO that it provide assistance directed towards the improvement of this sector, in harmony with the respective policies of Member Nations.

126. Various delegations referred to the importance that should continue to be given to the development of inland fisheries and aquaculture as a source of food and an aid to rural development. They were informed of the high priority that FAO was continuing to assign to inland fishery and aquaculture programmes, which it considered to be complementary to and not in competition with those for marine fisheries.

127. The Conference took note of the problems caused by pollution of the sea and of inland waters and suggested that countries devote special attention to the formulation and application of internationally agreed prevention and control regulations in order to avoid such damage.

128. The delegation of Ecuador stated that the EEZ concept had not yet been adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the competent body in that connection, and therefore its use in the present document was provisional, pending the final decision of the aforesaid Conference.

129. The Conference approved the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 5/80

The Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That fishery development in the region forms an integral part of the challenges facing economic and social development in Latin America, to the same extent as its financing requirements, the lack of technical personnel, the shortage of infrastructure, constraints on the development of research, or the lack of appropriate legislation, which, among other things, prevents the sector from being adequately developed for the benefit of the population;
2. That fisheries form an integral part of the general state of dependence and the economic and social problems from which the Latin American economies suffer: shortage of means of production, lack of access to more advanced technologies, and, where industrial fisheries are concerned, dependency on imposed fluctuations in foreign markets;
3. That although the new regime of the sea has recognized the inalienable right of the coastal countries to exploit the stocks available within their exclusive economic zones, close collaboration among the countries of the region is necessary in order to achieve better and more rational utilization of the fishery resources, improve fisheries development, acquire more technical expertise and achieve collective self-sufficiency in a sector which is so important as a source of food;

4. That FAO has made an important contribution to fisheries development and is now in a position to play a key role in assisting the coastal countries which are endeavouring to cope with these problems.

Resolves:

1. To support the Programme of the Director-General of FAO, based on Resolution 4/79 of the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference, for assistance in the management and development of fisheries in the exclusive economic zones of developing countries, aimed essentially at strengthening technical assistance projects for the countries of the region on matters such as: evaluation of fisheries resources, fisheries technology, adequate management of fisheries, fisheries economics, and the processing and distribution of fishery products.
2. To request the Director-General to endeavour to obtain additional resources from UNDP, in the third programming cycle (1982-1986), in order to strengthen these important fisheries development activities in the region;
3. To recommend that FAO assist in obtaining the necessary financial resources to strengthen the regional and sub-regional projects, including the multidisciplinary ones, increasing appreciably the participation of Latin American experts;
4. To recommend that Member Nations exert all their influence, in the appropriate forums, in support of the Director-General's efforts aimed at promoting fisheries development for the social and economic benefit of the countries of the region;
5. To emphasize the importance accorded by the Sixth Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to cooperation in the field of fisheries among the countries of the Movement and other developing countries and to the opportunities that the use of these resources for their own benefit represents for the countries of the region, as well as the need to be able to count on a considerable contribution from FAO to achieve these objectives;
6. To recommend evaluation and strengthening of the regional and sub-regional fishery bodies through the implementation of multidisciplinary cooperation projects for fisheries development in the region; to this end FAO, with the agreement of the countries concerned, will establish the necessary contacts in order to prepare the appropriate projects;
7. To support the proposal adopted by the Ministers of the Caribbean countries at the Fifth Meeting of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), held in Jamaica from 4 to 10 June 1980, to establish a multinational project for fisheries development among the countries of the sub-region, for which FAO help is requested both in formulating the project and in seeking financial resources for its implementation;
8. To insist on the advisability of establishing the necessary coordination between regional bodies and FAO for the purpose of rationalizing their activities and improving the utilization of resources, above all coordination between FAO on the one hand and SELA and CDCC on the other, in view of their similar objectives and projects in the fishery sector. It is also recommended that FAO increase its support for the projects of these regional bodies.
9. To recommend to FAO and to other international organizations that they accord priority treatment with regard to fisheries to countries like Nicaragua and Grenada which are engaged in the task of national reconstruction and development;
10. To thank the Government of Cuba for its offer of the Instituto Superior de Pesca "Andrés González Lines" as a regional fisheries training centre and to request that FAO make a decisive contribution to achieving better utilization of national training schools in the fisheries sector, giving technical assistance and seeking to obtain the financial support required.

FAO Programme in the Region

130. The Assistant Director-General, FAO Regional Representative, illustrated the development in Latin American agriculture in recent years, the present situation and the prospects.

131. He presented the documents corresponding to this item of the agenda and underlined certain chapters which summarized FAO's Programme in the region.

132. He also referred to the FAO Regional Commissions, to the results of the first Consultation of International Agencies connected with agriculture in Latin America, held in the FAO Regional Office in Santiago, Chile, from 27 to 29 May 1980, to the actions undertaken for the control and eventual eradication of African Swine Fever, and to other aspects of animal and plant health.

133. The Assistant Director-General, Special Assistant to the Director-General, summarized the Joint FAO/UNDP Regional Programme for the next programming cycle, 1982-86.

134. The Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department, referred to the recently established United Nations Interim Fund on Science and Technology.

135. The Conference expressed satisfaction at the way in which the Organization, particularly through its Regional Office for Latin America, was fulfilling its task of assisting the member countries of the region, continuously adapting itself to their circumstances and conditions. It requested that the Regional Office continue its activities along the same lines.

136. The Conference noted with satisfaction FAO's excellent collaboration and working relations with the Economic Commission for Latin America in those aspects in which the work of the two organizations was interrelated, and expressed the hope that this collaboration would continue and be strengthened as appropriate.

137. The delegations appreciated the good working relations that existed between FAO and the Latin America regional and sub-regional bodies for cooperation, trade and integration, and expressed the hope that they would grow even stronger. They specially recommended closer relations with SELA.

138. The Conference expressed its satisfaction at the orientation, contents and, in particular, the priorities set out in the FAO/UNDP Regional Programme: development of the economy of the traditional sector, conservation and rational use of the natural resources, and promotion and strengthening of regional cooperation. Several delegations pointed out the necessity of regional projects being adapted to the requirements of the countries, for which purpose machinery should be set up for consultation with the countries so that the order of priority might be determined prior to presentation of the projects to the UNDP Governing Council. In this connection the UNDP observer stated that machinery for consultation with all the countries connected with each project was in fact being contemplated, and CEPAL and the UNDP were organizing a regional intergovernmental meeting for this purpose.

139. The Conference expressed the hope that FAO would continue to make efforts to attract extra-budgetary funds with which to carry out regional projects of interest to and urgency for the Latin American countries, on matters such as animal and plant health. Particular mention was made of the advisability of raising funds for these purposes from the European Economic Community.

140. Several delegations expressed their concern at the progressive decrease in real terms of the resources of the UNDP Regional Programme, which, according to what had been said by the UNDP observer, would continue in the forthcoming cycle.

141. Mention was made of the particular interest of some Caribbean countries in the FAO/UNDP Regional Programme, because the regional projects emerging from it could help to decrease the dependency of the small islands in this sub-region.

142. The Conference noted with appreciation the results of the FAO meeting held in Kingston, Jamaica, in July 1980, on rationalizing the use of natural agricultural resources in small farms, the main purpose of which had been to exchange experience and research on farming systems adapted to the social, economic and ecological conditions of small farmers in the Caribbean area.

143. The delegations expressed their appreciation of the Director-General's action in convening the first consultation of international bodies connected with agriculture in Latin America, held in May 1980 in the Regional Office, and emphasized the usefulness of the results, for which reason they requested that this practice be continued and another meeting be held before the next Regional Conference.

144. The Conference expressed satisfaction at the way in which FAO, and in particular the Regional Office for Latin America, was working to promote cooperation among the countries of the region, through the establishment of cooperative networks of national, sub-regional and regional institutions with common interests, considering also actions of an interdisciplinary nature which took into account the integrated way in which rural development problems should be treated, as recommended by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. One delegation suggested that the countries in a position to do so, can mark part of their Indicative Planning Figure of UNDP funds for increasing technical cooperation among developing countries.

145. One delegation expressed concern at the imbalance existing in projects in operation between different subject-matter areas, to the comparative detriment of external trade. As regards animal health problems, the same delegation suggested that it would be advisable to include in regional programmes endemic as well as exotic diseases. He also referred to the launching in his country of an ambitious and realistic plan for the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease.

146. Several delegations from Caribbean countries referred to the usefulness of establishing in one of them a sub-regional reference centre on swine diseases, requesting that FAO help them to obtain funds for this purpose from multilateral or bilateral agencies. They also recommended that FAO try to obtain with support from the European Economic Community and other donors, the resources necessary to eradicate African swine fever from the Caribbean area.

147. The Conference criticized the fact that within UNDP the idea prevailed of limiting assistance to countries on the basis of the criterion of gross product per capita and recommended to the governments represented in the UNDP Governing Council that they prevent this idea from gaining ground.

148. The observer from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) referred to the activities being carried out by this body with FAO, particularly in the Latin American region. He mentioned in particular the steps taken to put into effect the Plan of Action for the Caribbean region and the establishment of a network of high-level institutions for training in environmental matters in Latin America, as well as the preparation of a world soil policy. Finally, he emphasized how much FAO and UNEP agreed on the principles for management of the environment.

149. The observer of the World Federation of Trade Unions referred to the lack of political will to carry out real and democratic agrarian reform displayed by many governments. He requested FAO to cooperate actively with the international trade union organizations to help put into practice steps which would help to resolve the problems of the emarginated peasants of Latin America.

150. The Conference approved the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 6/80

The Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Having noted, from the contents of Document LARC/80/INF/4, that the new procedures established by UNDP for the approval of regional and interregional programmes envisage consultations and regional sectorial meetings on these programmes, which will also facilitate the approval of regional and inter-regional projects that are submitted to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development:

Recognizing that, as stated in document LARC/80/INF/4:

1. FAO has carried out a desk examination of the UNDP/FAO Field Programme in order to determine whether or not its current orientation meets the most urgent requirements of Member Nations, as was requested by the Fifteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America; and has established priority fields for regional technical cooperation in agriculture, which has made it possible to identify the projects to be included in the 1982-86 UNDP/FAO Regional Programme;
2. These priority fields correspond to the need to:
emphasize development in the sub-sector of agriculture for small farmers,
conserve natural resources and use them rationally, and
promote and strengthen regional cooperation;
3. The proposals for the 1982-1986 UNDP/FAO Regional Programme incorporate new methods of cooperation adapted to the stage of development attained by the region, in particular:
the promotion of technical cooperation among participating countries,
the exchange of information, experience and experts among national and regional institutions, and
maximum possible utilization of regional experts and institutions;
4. The projects to be financed by the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development will be geared towards strengthening national, regional and inter-regional institutions of science and technology;
5. The seven projects submitted by FAO to the Interim Fund, which are described in document LARC/80/INF/4, will help to strengthen the national and regional institutions of agricultural science and technology in Latin America, and complement the projects proposed for the UNDP/FAO Regional Programme;

Resolves:

1. To support the regional projects that form part of the programme drawn up jointly by FAO and UNDP and the regional and inter-regional projects submitted to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development;
2. To request the Director-General to transmit this Resolution to the Administrator of the UNDP and to the Director of the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development;
3. To recommend to the Director-General of FAO that he take the necessary steps to obtain the approval of these two Organizations for those projects;
4. To recommend that the opinion of the countries be taken into account when regional projects are being prepared, so that the priority to be given to these projects may be determined prior to the commencement of the programming cycle.

Round table on energy cropping and agricultural production

151. At the invitation of the Director-General a round table on the above subject, chaired by Mr. Carlos Vallejo (Ecuador), was held within the framework of the Regional Conference. Mr. Enrique Iglesias, Executive Secretary of CEPAL, participated by special invitation.

152. The Conference endorsed the conclusions of these discussions, as follows:

There is clear awareness of the global importance of the energy problem and of the need to tackle it with both national and international energy programmes, in which agriculture would have priority in the search for alternatives compatible with each country's style of development and particular food patterns.

It is useful for countries to continue to encourage inventories on conventional and alternative sources of energy and to evaluate the progress achieved in this respect.

There continue to be serious doubts regarding the real contribution that agriculture can make to solving the energy problem and that the economic, social and ecological analysis, and the studies on repercussions on food and nutrition being carried out by the countries should therefore be continued in order to arrive at valid conclusions. These conclusions would obviously be applicable only to specific situations, but they could serve as references for use in relatively similar situations.

The subject affords a wealth of opportunities for regional cooperations in the future. A network of basic information on technology, economic aspects and social impacts, through which to share experiences, could be encouraged.

The principles of horizontal cooperation could be put into practice in dealing with this subject, since it is obvious that there is scope for doing so, experiences to be exchanged and a spirit of cooperation. The United Nations World Conference on Non-Conventional Sources of Energy could provide the Latin American countries with opportunities for cooperation in this field.

The countries should establish focal and contact points on the problem of agriculture and energy, and FAO and CEPAL should accelerate their studies and examination of the subject, which should be a standing concern and be included in the regular future discussions of the two organizations, in order to arrive at more widely applicable conclusions based on greater experience than that now available.

FAO and ECLA should continue to support the activities of the Latin American Energy Organization and coordinate their efforts in energy programmes in the region.

Representation of Latin America on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

153. On the basis of document LARC/80/10, the Conference discussed the representation of Latin America on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. It decided that Colombia and Cuba should represent the region for the two-year period ending 31 December 1982. The new members elected promised to nominate competent experts who would attend all the meetings of the Group. It was recommended that in future geographical representation be extended so as to include countries in the South Cone.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

Adoption of the report

154. The Chairman submitted for consideration by the Conference the draft report presented by the Rapporteur. After examining it paragraph by paragraph and introducing the modifications that are incorporated in this final version, the Conference adopted the report unanimously.

Place of the Seventeenth Regional Conference for Latin America

155. The Conference noted the offers made by the delegations of Argentina, Bahamas and Nicaragua to host the next Regional Conference. The delegation of Mexico also made known its interest in hosting this Conference, but conceded precedence to the offer made by Nicaragua. The Conference noted that the Director-General would carry out consultations with the member countries in order to decide, at the appropriate time, on the most appropriate venue.

Closure of the Conference

156. The Director-General addressed the Conference to underline the most important aspects of the discussions and indicate the responses that FAO hoped to be able to give to the recommendations adopted.

157. He highlighted, first of all, the significance of the great interest shown in the Conference by President Castro and the great contribution made by the Cuban authorities to the successful running of the Conference. He also emphasized the generous hospitality offered to delegates and to the FAO Secretariat. At his proposal, the Conference decided by acclamation to send a telegram of appreciation to President Castro.

158. He then stressed the importance of representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture being included in Latin American delegations to international meetings, both world-wide and specialized, in which questions connected with agriculture and food are discussed.

159. He welcomed the support given by the Conference to the action being promoted by FAO as a follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, in particular the creation of a Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development; to the FAO programme in the region; to the FAO/UNDP Regional Programme; to FAO's Plan of Action for World Food Security; to the proposal made by the International Monetary Fund to help low-income, food-deficit countries with their balance of payments; and to FAO's efforts to create an International Emergency Food Reserve, emphasizing the importance of this being the subject of a legally binding international agreement. He added that it was also necessary for countries to redouble their efforts to achieve a new International Wheat Agreement.

160. As regards the question of energy, he emphasized the wealth of opportunities this offers for regional cooperation, in particular with regard to a possible network of basic technological information, for which it would be advisable for countries to establish focal points. In this connection he stated that in the next Programme of Work and Budget he would propose the establishment of a special unit for the study and continuous examination of this type of problem, which would be gradually strengthened in future biennia.

161. He expressed his thanks for the unanimous support expressed by the delegations for FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme.

162. He concluded by expressing to the Chairman appreciation for his efficient conduct of the Conference and thanking the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur, as well as the officials of the Palacio de las Convenciones, for their collaboration.

163. The representatives of Colombia, Guyana and Haiti, and the observer of the U.S.A., spoke on behalf of all the delegations to express thanks for the generous hospitality provided by the people and Government of Cuba. They also referred to the achievements of FAO in the region, underlining the significant success of the Regional Conference.

164. Finally, the Chairman of the Conference took the floor. Before closing the meeting, he expressed satisfaction at the consensus reached on substantial matters, such as: the magnitude of the efforts that the countries would have to make to overcome the problems of malnutrition, and the necessity for these efforts to be complemented by support from the international agencies and an appropriate external flow of financial and other types of resources; the leading role of FAO in identifying the requirements of the countries and channelling possible external assistance; support for the Director-General's proposals with regard to food security and adequate reserves to meet emergencies; and the majority feeling that agrarian reform was an indispensable prerequisite for rural development.

165. The Chairman emphasized that the flow of financial resources for the region's agricultural development must be increased, stressing that the monetary and financing agencies and the donor countries should scrupulously respect the development priorities, schemes and policies of the countries in the region.

166. He then referred to the need to intensify regional cooperation and to avoid food trade and supply being used as a political weapon; and to the problem of the rise in fuel prices and the advisability of continuing research to discover new sources of energy that did not compete with food production.

167. He ended by thanking the Director-General for the quality of the documentation submitted to the Conference and for the efforts made by the Secretariat.

AGENDA

- I. Introductory items
 1. Opening of the Conference
 2. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur
 3. Appointment of members of the Drafting Committee
 4. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
- II. Statement by the Director-General of FAO
- III. General debate on situation and prospects of food and agriculture in Latin America
- IV. Statement by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme
- V. Regional implications of international action
 1. Stengthening of World Food Security
 2. Follow-up of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD): Latin American Region
- VI. Selected aspects of agricultural and rural development in Latin America
 1. External resources and food and agricultural development
 2. Recent developments in Latin America's international trade of major agricultural commodities
 3. Soil conservation as a means of increasing food production in Latin America
 4. The Changing Law of the Sea and its Implications for Fisheries Management and Development in Latin America
- VII. FAO Programme in the Region
 1. Statement by the FAO Regional Representative for Latin America
 2. Other matters
 3. Round Table on Energy Cropping and Food Production
- VIII. Concluding items
 1. Adoption of the Report
 2. Site for the Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America
 3. Closure of the Conference

ADDRESS GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
COUNCIL OF STATE AND OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF FIDEL CASTRO RUZ

Esteemed friend Edouard Saouma,
Distinguished delegates,
Guests:

The Cuban people and their government thank you for the opportunity to hold the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America in our island and welcome your presence here.

Nothing could please Cuba more than to host this gathering in which Latin America and the Caribbean join in the work of the FAO. Our vision of Latin America is well known. We firmly believe that, beyond the divisions that occasionally arise among us and notwithstanding each country's chosen social system, history, which has given us common roots, geographical entity and the same enemies, demands that the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean work together for freedom, progress and justice. In so doing, most, if not all, of our countries must immediately make the tremendous social and technical transformations which agriculture so urgently needs. In this great task, the FAO has been, and we hope will continue to be, of considerable help.

The Regional Conference enables us to acknowledge publicly how much our countries, and all those throughout the world who share with us the tasks of development, owe to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

FAO has provided a systematic flow of technical aid, direct assistance, up-to-date and complete scientific-technical programmes and information to help develop agriculture. Moreover, FAO assistance has proved valuable to the economically developed countries that use its facilities and research. The FAO has also served as a centre for regional and world analyses of agricultural problems and has pushed for agrarian reform as an essential social change, without which mere technological transformations can only lead to partial and temporary results.

At this decisive moment in the struggle for development, when the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization is making every effort to meet its obligations in this field, we believe it is important that FAO should be headed by a man from the Third World, our esteemed friend Edouard Saouma.

The Sixteenth Regional Conference is being held at a time when its work will once again help to demonstrate the tremendous importance of agricultural progress for all mankind. Five years ago, representatives from all over the world met in Rome for the World Food Conference. The urgent need to solve mankind's food problems was dramatically emphasized, and although there was a feeling of frustration at the niggardliness of the commitments made there by some of the major developed countries - especially the United States - organizational, political and technical plans did emerge. Had these plans been collectively implemented - especially by those countries that ought to use their surplus wealth to help mitigate world hunger - progress would have been made towards solving the serious problem of undernutrition afflicting most people in the Third World.

Unfortunately, hunger is still with us; not in the devastating and dramatic form in which it once scourged various parts of the world, including Europe, but in a more systematic and subtle way, persistently affecting hundreds of millions of men and women.

At the time the World Food Conference was held, the FAO estimated that 450 million people were suffering from the modern form of hunger, malnutrition, which often means premature death and, worse still, condemns hundreds of millions of children and young people to a lifetime marred by all kinds of physical deformities and illnesses.

There has been no lack of technical progress in agriculture in recent years. The Green Revolution raised great hopes; the discovery of new crop varieties, more effective pesticides, and scientific methods of fertilization, irrigation and drainage, promised well. But hunger persists because, as has been said, hunger is a product of poverty and we must add that poverty and hunger go hand in hand with underdevelopment.

Thus, every time we meet to examine world problems of food and agriculture, the unavoidable and pressing question of development arises.

Latin America is no exception. Five years ago, the World Bank acknowledged that nearly 40 percent of Latin America's rural population was poverty-stricken. In addition, tens of millions of Latin Americans have been driven from the impoverished countryside into the well-known slums and shanty towns that ring most of the continent's big cities, where they lead a semi-destitute life. The great tragedy of rural unemployment cannot be solved by Latin America's rickety urban economies.

Agricultural backwardness not only means poverty and suffering for these hundreds of millions of people who lack the means to feed themselves properly, it is also forcing our countries, just to prevent undernutrition from turning into starvation, to import food in quantities which, as FAO has pointed out, exceed our capacities for payment, thus increasing our indebtedness yet further and pushing us to the brink of disaster.

All of this is, of course, aggravated by the unequal terms of trade, which force on the countries that produce agricultural raw materials inequitable and unstable prices that sometimes negate all efforts at productivity.

Quite frankly, at this moment the outlook for the vast majority of people is sombre. This is the conclusion reached in almost all the studies made by researchers, analysts and scientists of the developed Western countries that have most benefited from exploiting our natural resources and, in every sense, bear the major moral responsibility for the present serious world situation and the future we face.

Every five days more than a million new people are added to the world population, 90 percent of them in the already necessitous, technically backward underdeveloped countries that most lack the material input needed for food production. World population, which is now 4 300 million, will rise to about 6 400 million in 20 years time, and 80 percent of this total - or more than 5 thousand million - will be living in what is known as the Third World. Imagine what efforts the world community will have to make to meet the inescapable moral responsibility of providing food, adequate housing, clothing, health care, education and jobs for these millions of human beings in such a short time. Whatever advances countries may make in implementing a correct population policy, this growth is already inevitable. There are already dozens of countries in which one out of every four children dies within a year of birth. It is estimated that every year, some 25 million children in the underdeveloped countries die before their fifth birthday, most of them from curable diseases and hunger. The World Health Office estimates that it would cost three dollars to immunize each new-born child in the underdeveloped world against the most common childhood diseases. Meanwhile, in more than 30 of these countries 80 percent of the population is illiterate.

In 1960, the developing countries imported about 20 million tons of cereals; in 1978 they had to import 80 million tons, and that figure is expected to double in the next ten years.

Some 800 million people do not have sufficient resources to obtain an adequate diet. Will this sombre picture improve in the next two decades? Everything points to the contrary. present world trends are towards a worsening of the situation - in the underdeveloped countries, that is. But food production in the developed countries, where the people are, in

general, already wellfed, will increase at a much higher rate than in the rest of the world. They have and will continue to have the resources: investments, technology, machinery, fuel, high-yielding varieties, fertilizers, pesticides.

Although the industrialized countries account for only a fourth of the world population, they consume three-fourths of the minerals produced in the world and are essentially the big energy consumers.

Increases in the prices of oil and gas, which are basic to the production of fuel, fertilizers and pesticides, will raise the cost of food production. It will be much more difficult for the non-oil-producing underdeveloped countries to acquire these resources and real food prices will nearly double in the next 20 years.

At a time when the forests are disappearing at the rate of nearly 20 million hectares a year, mainly in the underdeveloped countries, the possibility of replacing firewood by other fuels is fading for hundreds of millions of families who have no other way of cooking their meagre food or obtaining a little warmth. There is no guarantee that these people will have either wood or any other fuel 20 years from now, when the forests in those countries will have been reduced by about a half.

At a time when there is less land per capita, when the land is less fertile and mineral fertilizers are not readily available, hundreds of millions of tons of natural and traditional fertilizer in the form of manure have to be used for fuel every year. Erosion, loss of organic material, salinization and other factors transform millions of hectares a year - just about equal to Cuba's entire arable land - into deserts and arid soil. Because of the increase in population, soil loss due to the aforementioned factors and the increased use of fertile land for urban and industrial purposes, the amount of agricultural land available per capita, which 10 years ago was 0.5 hectares, will have been reduced to 0.25 has in 20 years time. In the year 2000, then, each human being will have to live off this fragment of land. It is doubtful that there will be any per capita increase in marine and freshwater products; on the contrary, they are already tending to decrease. Moreover, these hectares of fertile land, the rivers, seas and material resources are not equally available to all countries - so the per capita estimates are not equally distributed throughout the world either.

To keep this brief, I shall not go into other factors, such as: the increasing demand for water, which will rise by 200 percent during this period; pollution of the environment through the increasing use of pesticides and chemical products; the potential danger of plagues; prolonged drought; ecological changes; and other worrying problems that humanity will have to face. These problems concern all statesmen equally. But those who die for want of a crust of bread cannot be expected to worry very much about the environment.

The irritating and shameful gap between the developed and the developing countries becomes greater every year. We cannot just resign ourselves to it.

To be realistic is not necessarily to be pessimistic.

Reality should make us all struggle with greater determination and a higher sense of our historic responsibility.

Agrarian reform is certainly essential and indispensable in every one of our countries. Any solution based on oligarchic methods and extensive farming is unthinkable. The fight against hunger and poverty will never be won without social justice. I also believe that small holdings and subsistence agriculture are unproductive. Sufficiently large farms, with socially just and efficient forms of production and distribution, are what is needed.

Experience has shown that agrarian reform is only the first step, however. Without a certain degree of mechanization and use of chemicals, agriculture cannot be productive and agricultural production will be unable to meet the local and international needs of a world increasingly threatened by hunger.

This is where the agricultural problem overlaps with the overall problem of development whence the urgent need for the world to undertake the tasks necessary to achieve a new international economic order.

Last year, when I spoke at the United Nations on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, presenting the conclusions reached at the Movement's 6th Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government, I took the opportunity to raise certain problems which are still extremely relevant, problems related to development and especially to agriculture. I cited figures - many of which came from FAO - to show that, in the next ten years, it would be necessary to cultivate some 76 million new hectares, irrigate another 10 million hectares, and repair the irrigation systems in an additional 45 million hectares of land in the developing countries. When I spoke of the 76 million hectares I referred to new hectares, From this we deduced that, on the basis of rather modest world estimates, the developing countries would have to invest 8 to 9 thousand million dollars a year in agriculture just to attain a low 3.5 to 4 percent agricultural growth rate.

A few months after I spoke, the Brandt Commission Report provided figures that in this and other aspects confirmed the statements we had made.

How can we solve this dramatic problem, which is undoubtedly one of the most urgent questions facing humanity because, as I said then, it is closely linked with the major problem of our time: peace? Without development, there can be no peace.

I said then that, if the problems of unequal trade were solved, if agricultural products and other raw materials that the developing countries supply to the industrialized countries were given their rightful value, a decisive contribution would be made to the self-financing of our countries' development.

Regarding the enormous expenditure for military purposes, I also said, and now repeat once more : "\$300 thousand million a year ... could build 600 thousand schools, with a capacity for 400 million children; or 60 million comfortable homes, for 300 million people; or 30 thousand hospitals, with 18 million beds; or 20 thousand factories, with jobs for more than 20 million workers; or an irrigation system for 150 million hectares of land which, with the application of technology, could feed a thousand million people."

Finally, I suggested that the next International Development Decade include in its strategy a guarantee that the developing countries receive additional funds of no less than \$300 thousand million over the decade, to be made in yearly installments of at least \$25 thousand million right from the beginning. I wish to repeat this proposal now, since it was endorsed at the 34th General Assembly of the United Nations and confirmed in Havana and New Delhi by the Group of 77 which, together with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, represents the developing world.

As the FAO's Sixteenth Regional Conference for Latin America is meeting here, the Special Assembly of the United Nations has just started its work on the guidelines for the Third Development Decade. Unfortunately, the international situation is not the most propitious for the results we need. Increased international tensions, the spectre of another cold war era and the stepped-up arms race make it unlikely that there will be any change regarding the lack of political will shown by developed capitalist countries in the United Nations and other international meetings in discussing what are inappropriately referred to as "North-South" relations.

A recent, in-depth report by a group of specialists, drawn up at the behest of the United States government, on the serious problems that mankind will have to face in the forthcoming decades, after analyzing the terrifying prospects in considerable detail, concludes that the changes required are way beyond the capacity and responsibility of this or that individual nation and that it is indispensable for an era of unprecedented cooperation and commitments to dawn.

I wonder what sense there is to the arms race, the cold war, the policy of force and the aggravation of international tension, if an era of unprecedented cooperation and commitment is necessary to save humanity from certain disaster. Is it not total madness?

As I once said, bombs can kill the hungry, the sick and the illiterate, but they cannot kill hunger, diseases and ignorance.

However, difficulties on the international political scene cannot delay this battle for new and more just international economic relations. We are forced to take up the struggle in the first place by the needs of our peoples and the intolerable living conditions of those hundreds of millions of hungry and backward men and women who are a burden for the international community. But this struggle is also essentially linked to the desire for peace and international cooperation. As I have repeatedly said, the development of the backward countries is the only way in which the economic crisis in the capitalist world could be abated.

Mr. Chairman, delegates to this Conference:

Cuba will continue to fulfil its responsibilities and will be in the front line of the battle for development. The Cuban delegation to this Sixteenth Conference will discuss the important agenda you have before you in a constructive and cooperative spirit.

Our country also makes available to you its modest experience in social and technical changes, effected in a persevering, steady and promising effort to develop modern and highly productive agriculture on a socially just basis. With annual exports of 6 million tons of sugar and a population density of one person per half hectare of agricultural land for its less than 10 million people, Cuba is probably the world's biggest per capita exporter of food. Every nation has the duty to do as much as it can for itself and to cooperate to the maximum with other countries. Only in this way will our peoples be able to win the difficult, decisive and vital battle that lies ahead.

Thank you.

STATEMENT BY MR. EDOUARD SAOUMA,
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellencies the Ministers and Heads of Delegations,
Honourable Delegates and Observers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Conference can and should give us an opportunity for grave reflection and for strengthening our collective will to face tomorrow victoriously, whatever be the problems of today.

Progress is a matter of will and of policy. I call on you today to trace the path for this onward march. And in this nothing could be more inspiring than the glorious grounds of this harmonious city.

But first of all I must express FAO's thanks to the Government and people of the Republic of Cuba for the unstinting hospitality they are showering upon us, and also for the remarkable installations and facilities of this marvelous Palacio de las Convenciones.

And let me take advantage of this occasion to pay tribute to His Excellency Fidel Castro, President of the Republic of Cuba, the "lider massimo" whose high and noble vision has occupied the forefront of his country for more than two decades, and whose government's efforts to deliver his country from the misery of the past, and to secure for its people the benefits of balanced development, self-sufficiency in food and a happy, dignified way of life, I have been following with lively interest.

Mr. Chairman,

I would also like to express my deep pleasure at your unanimous election as Chairman of this Conference; your talent, as well as your personal qualities, promise well for the success of its work. And lastly, it is a great pleasure to welcome and thank Their Excellencies the ministers, heads and members of delegations met together here, and also the distinguished observers and representatives of the international and regional organizations, with which FAO maintains very cordial relations. I would like to mention specially the Economic Commission for Latin America, with which we cooperate closely and fruitfully, thanks in particular to the work of the Joint FAO/ECLA Division; I owe a great debt to my good friend Mr. Enrique V. Iglesias, Executive Secretary of ECLA, whose abilities and devotion to duty are well known to all of us.

At the dawn of the Third Development Decade, the international community seems to be disillusioned. We have fallen short of all the targets set for the first two decades. The developing countries, whose economic take-off had been thought, perhaps too naively, to be only a short time away, are struggling against an infinite number of problems.

Within their borders, frequent social and political upheavals, the gap between the rich and the poor, the city-dwellers and the rural population increasing dangerously, misery and malnutrition ever-present and spreading. Abroad, often victims of conflicts in which they are not concerned, reduced to the state of captive economies of the major powers, threatened by the rebirth of protectionism in the wealthy countries and with no real negotiating power in dealing with the transnational corporations. Crushed under a monstrous debt of more than \$360 billion, depriving them of any freedom of action. To crown it all, energy crisis, inflation and recession constrict their export markets ever more painfully, and suffocate them even more, while assistance from the developed countries remains shamefully sluggish, despite all the endlessly-renewed declarations of good will.

Meanwhile, expenditures for arms have reached unimaginable levels, and a world incapable of feeding its inhabitants properly is perfectly capable of killing them all off, a dozen times over. While its food reserves could hardly cover a series of major crop failures, its arsenals are crammed with four tons of TNT for every man, woman and child alive. The arms trade suffers none of the restrictions of trade in food, and no one can be sure that nuclear energy will not be diverted some day from its positive uses by the proliferation of atomic weapons.

In recalling these bitter facts I do not seek to sow discouragement. On the contrary, I am convinced that mankind is able to meet their challenge and build a more just and fraternal society.

There is no Book of Fate. It is for man himself to shape his destiny by seeing what needs to be done and by exercising the political will to do it.

The urgency of a new food order

From that point of view, I affirm that food is one of the highest priorities, and that any new international economic order whose first objective is anything other than to feed all mankind properly is nothing more than a sham.

I call therefore for a new world food order as a pre-condition for any new economic order. Not only are hunger and famine common today, but world food security is in serious danger. But no country can live in social and civil tranquillity with the permanent threat of food shortages suspended over its head like the sword of Damocles. No nation that relies on imports for its basic food supplies is safe from abnormal pressures. As an old African proverb has it, "The hand that holds your bread holds your dignity."

But in many of the poorer countries, food production is falling farther and farther behind population growth, and per caput cereal production now stands far below its levels of the 1960s. Overall, food self-sufficiency is on the wane, which means that dependency on foreign supplies is increasing. Cereal import costs of the developing countries reached almost \$17 billion in 1979, absorbing more than three quarters of the official development assistance of the developed countries. The situation has reached such a point that I have had to propose that the IMF grant additional support for the balance of payments of the countries that are forced to import food in large quantities. I have suggested that a food financing facility be established along the lines of the facility set up for oil imports.

The food situation is critical, not only in Africa but also in some Asian and Latin American countries. Not long ago, I was compelled to sound the alarm. Food supplies are getting shorter every day, and this year a fall in cereal production of 14 million tons in the poorest countries is to be feared. Meanwhile, emergency situations are becoming more and more frequent, and if some of them are due to natural catastrophes, just as many are due to man himself: civil outbreaks and wars unloose floods of refugees whose misery, seen on television by the entire world, is a mute indictment of man's intelligence and wisdom.

As Director-General of FAO, I am deeply disturbed - heartsick - at this state of affairs.

I need not go into the reasons why agriculture is falling behind: they are known, and so are the chief answers to the problem. We know that the developing countries have the technologies and natural resources they need to double their food and agricultural production, to distribute it fairly, and to reduce malnutrition considerably by the end of the century, provided that they mobilize enough resources for investment and apply the right policies, take the right encouragement measures and reform their institutions in the right way. The first thing they must do is to assign agriculture higher priority in their development plans, so as to produce more and better. The developing countries need to invest massively from their own resources and to obtain still more from abroad. According to the provisional conclusions of our study Agriculture: Toward 2000, their investments in agriculture should double in the next 20 years, and foreign aid, which stood at about \$4.3 billion in 1977, should be tripled in real terms by 1990 and quadrupled by the end of the century.

The developing countries will also need to apply well-defined rural development policies aimed at mobilizing their populations and integrating them into the development process. And often they will need to reform their institutions and structures so as to guarantee equal access to the means of production and services for all and make it possible for all to share in the blessings of progress.

In short, they will need to take the measures set out in the Programme of Action laid down by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development that took place in Rome in July 1979.

Your region played a very active role in the Conference, and it is taking the implementation of the Programme of Action very seriously. Among the many measures being studied with interest is a proposal to set up a Latin American Rural Development Centre which would assist your countries to formulate rural development policies, programmes and projects aimed at increasing the revenues and improving the living conditions of the least privileged rural populations, and bringing them into the mainstream of the national economy. It would also be a useful tool for regional cooperation.

FAO has contributed to the creation of similar centres in Africa and Asia, and here, too, it can help to set one up for the countries which feel the need for one.

Mr. Chairman,

I said a few minutes ago that higher priority has to be assigned to agriculture, and there is a new opportunity for this under the New International Development Strategy and the North/South global negotiations. I have just been attending the Special Session of the General Assembly which is dealing with these two questions. The text on the Strategy that is being drawn up seems to be well-balanced and satisfactory as regards the agricultural sector, but the important thing will be its implementation. The global negotiations will only begin next year and, as you know, agriculture is only one of the subjects they will be dealing with. It is true that the world's attention is focussed on the energy question and on financial and monetary problems. But the developing countries should bear in mind that increasing their dependency on the developed countries for their basic foods is not in their own interest, and that in order to develop their economies they need greater access to international markets of agricultural products. That is one reason why food and agriculture, too, should receive due attention in the global negotiations.

Constraints on the agricultural development of Latin America

Let us turn now to the specific case of Latin America. On the whole, your region is surely in a better position than other parts of the world. If its vast natural resources were efficiently exploited and managed, it could become self-sufficient in basic foods and even play an important role in furnishing food to other regions. Its food production has increased by about 30% in the last ten years, a performance much better than the average for the developing countries. With 8% of the world's population, it produces 10% of the world's food, and it is a net food exporter.

This being so, can Latin America say, like Candide, that all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds? Alas no, because these overall figures conceal weaknesses, inequalities, constraints that will absolutely have to be overcome if the entire development process is not to be interrupted.

These questions cannot be dealt with in the abstract, while we pretend to ignore the geopolitical conditions and the historic influences that have shaped your region, at the same time so homogeneous and so diversified. But neither can we neglect the striking contrasts among your countries and within each of them. Even if your continent provides the world with a large part of its needs in coffee, cacao, sugar, bananas, meat, etc., many of your countries still suffer from food deficits, particularly as regards cereals, milk products and oils and oilseeds, while in certain sub-regions, such as the Caribbean, the stagnation of agriculture is becoming positively alarming. Food imports have tripled since 1970, and the bill for them reached nearly \$6.4 billion in 1978 alone.

What is more, partly owing to the weak effective demand, the increase in per caput food production is less than 0.5% per year, far from being enough to ensure rapid improvement in the nutritional levels of the most underprivileged. Although enough food is available in the region overall, at least 20% of the population has an insufficient calorie intake. Malnutrition is spreading rather than decreasing. The causes are clear: absolute poverty, lack of purchasing power, no access to land and the means of production, and unequal distribution of income within most Latin American societies.

The economic and social structures of your region are complex, and it would be wrong to draw any hasty generalizations from these facts. But it is not unfair to stress the major contradiction that is affecting most of your economies: the coexistence in the same country of a modern, highly developed, dynamic, expanding agricultural sector dedicated to production for export rather than for local consumption, and a poor, backward traditional sector left to exist on the fringes of the economy and excluded from overall progress. In some cases this double sector is leading to the concentration of the land in the hands of a few latifundistas as against a growing mass of smallholders and landless peasants.

Food security and emergency aid

Let me now turn to the problem of the collective food security of your region, its capacity to guarantee adequate food supplies at any time, despite capricious climates and human misdeeds. Of course, the situation is very different if we consider exporting countries such as Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina on the one hand, or the countries where food deficits and malnutrition are the most serious on the other. But overall, cereal stocks are enough to cover only one month of consumption, and this is a weak barrage indeed against a crisis. A larger security reserve is needed, and I believe that Latin America is suitable for the establishment of subregional food security programmes.

You will recall that in 1978 I proposed a Plan of Action for World Food Security. Since that time, the Plan has been adopted by the FAO Conference and approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Its main purpose is to guarantee at all times the existence of large enough stocks to face any crisis. I earnestly hope that all the countries in your region that are concerned will take the steps that are needed to implement it without delay.

Your countries are exposed to calamities that must be confronted swiftly: floods, cyclones, drought, civil conflict, etc. In all these cases, FAO does what it can to assist you, as it is preparing to do again now that cyclone Allen has struck several Caribbean countries. Since your last Regional Conference two years ago, I have been able to provide your region with more than \$10 million of emergency aid from the World Food Programme and nearly \$4 million for agricultural rehabilitation financed by our Technical Assistance Programme, the UNDP or various trust funds.

Unfortunately, as I have already pointed out, there have been so many emergencies recently that, although I am responsible for multilateral emergency aid, I find myself almost empty-handed in the face of the immense needs. In addition to the scanty credits available under the WFP, all I have to work with is the International Emergency Food Reserve created by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its Seventh Special Session.

It is distressing that the Reserve, based on voluntary contributions, has never reached its target of 500,000 tons of cereals, and that in fact it has levelled off at about 300,000 tons. This explains why I recently proposed that the Reserve be transformed into a true international convention, duly signed and ratified, so as to guarantee firm commitments and increase them gradually in order to meet the real requirements. I urge you to support this initiative.

I should also mention another calamity: African swine fever. As soon as it broke out, FAO set to work to head off the threat and stop its spreading. I already discussed the matter with you at your 1978 Regional Conference. Since then, in October 1979, a technical consultation was organized in Panama City, and a campaign was worked out. FAO has been able to allocate

some \$1,250,000 from its Technical Cooperation Programme for assistance projects in 14 countries. In addition, we are now attempting to mobilize extra-budgetary funds for a \$10.6 million regional project for strengthening veterinary services in the countries at risk.

I would like to emphasize the importance of a massive effort by all concerned to master this outbreak. Without such an effort, there will be enormous losses, bringing misery to countless small producers.

Soil erosion

Mr. Chairman,

Soil erosion is another danger that cannot be overlooked. According to our estimates, nearly 80% of your land is affected, and it is only too true that the dynamic character of your agriculture and the rapid increase in areas under cultivation have often led to serious ecological imbalances. Your Technical Committee, which met here a few days ago, pointed out that the problem is basic not only to maintaining your present productive capacity but also for the proper management of new land that may be opened up to agriculture. Further, it has serious repercussions on other sectors of the economy, since erosion can silt up waterways, choke ports, and even compromise future hydroelectric energy supplies by silting dams. I recognize that your region is becoming ever more aware of the danger, but what is needed now is an overall, large-scale, long-term approach to soil conservation and environmental protection. FAO is prepared to assist you in this as best it can, and is now preparing to launch a regional soil conservation project.

International trade

Mr. Chairman,

Until now I have been speaking of a number of internal constraints on increasing agricultural production in Latin America. But I willingly recognize that there are also serious external constraints, the worst of which, beyond any doubt, are restrictions on trade in raw and processed agricultural products, discouraging production in the exporting countries. In this regard, my fears of a rebirth of protectionism, expressed at your last Regional Conference, were, alas! not unfounded.

It is true that we must not underestimate the results of the recent multilateral trade negotiations under GATT, which as regards agricultural products were better than those of earlier negotiations. But the fact remains that tariff concessions were granted on more than 60% of industrial imports but on only 30% of agricultural imports. What is worse, rising tariffs continue to penalize the exportation of processed agricultural products, coffee, cacao, oil and oilseeds, etc., which are important for many countries of your region.

In the same way, the non-tariff concessions were much less impressive for agriculture than for industrial products. In fact, most of the barriers still exist for the products of direct interest to you, such as beef, milk products, sugar and citrus fruits.

This being so, it is not surprising that the developing countries consider that the GATT negotiations failed to take their interests and their concerns into account. They made this point perfectly clear at the FAO Conference last November. There is no doubt that we will have to be increasingly vigilant, in GATT and elsewhere, if we wish to head off this rising tide of protectionism.

There is another major problem of international trade that your countries know only too well: the excessive fluctuations in the prices of agricultural raw materials, compromising the economies of the exporting countries. Only recently, the prices of cacao, coffee and oils and oilseeds collapsed. Sugar prices, which were very depressed, have risen somewhat, but for how long?

The agreement that was finally reached at UNCTAD on the Common Fund for Commodities is therefore particularly welcomed, although its ability to play a stabilizing role will depend on how well it can be associated with existing agreements and give rise to new ones. I am also satisfied with the agreement on the "second window" of the Common Fund, which would make it possible to finance activities in favour of research and development, improved productivity, marketing and processing. FAO has already demonstrated its support for the UNCTAD Integrated Programme by drawing up project proposals in these fields, and we are planning to cooperate closely with the Fund as soon as it becomes operational.

Investment

Mr. Chairman,

All this shows clearly that Latin America needs to mobilize all its human and material resources to increase its food and agricultural production, reduce inequalities and improve the nutritional level of the underprivileged populations. This means long and exacting labour, sustained by the determined political will to give high priority to agriculture. But above all it means that much greater resources than in the past will have to be found for massive investment in this sector: according to our estimates, the investment requirements of your region will increase from \$12 billion in 1975 to nearly \$35 billion at the end of the century. More attention will also have to be paid to drawing up sound investment projects and to strengthening the capacity of national institutions to conceive them and carry them out.

In this regard, I am satisfied to note that during the biennium 1978-79, Latin American agricultural projects prepared by FAO led to investments amounting to about \$ 1,138,000,000.

I may add that, more generally, FAO is paying close attention to your needs, in particular through its 16 representatives covering 18 countries of your region. Our commitment to you is reflected in the many field projects financed from our regular budget or from extra-budgetary sources. As an example, I may recall that as of 30 June 1980, 193 projects, totalling about \$12.3 million, had been approved under our Technical Cooperation Programme.

Mr. Chairman, I have two more short observations before I conclude.

The first has to do with energy, on which you are to be holding a round table. I considered that it would be useful to call it together not only because of the importance of the subject itself but because of the experience some of your countries have gained in agricultural production for energy purposes, and I intend to study its conclusions very carefully.

Finally, I have always been concerned with the need to strengthen the capacity of governments to make the right choices in the technical cooperation available to them. At a time when UNDP resources for the region are not increasing, it is most important for governments to be fully informed as to the programmes of the intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, and it is just as necessary for the organizations to be informed about each other's activities, so as to make the best possible use of the scarce resources available for development.

With that end in view, I announced at the last Regional Conference that I would be submitting to this session a compendium of information not only on FAO's programmes and activities but also on those of other governmental and nongovernmental organizations active in the rural, agricultural and food sectors. At the time, I stated that I would invite the organizations concerned to meet at our Regional Office in Santiago. Document LARC/80/INF. 7, which has been distributed for your information, is the result of that meeting, held in May and attended by 33 organizations.

I should emphasize that this is the first time that such an exercise has been carried out. The document before you may therefore be incomplete, and even contain errors; if necessary, a corrigendum will be published. We would be glad to receive comments on the report, and we are prepared to repeat the exercise before the next Regional Conference in 1982, if such a collection of information is found useful.

Mr. Chairman,

Voltaire tells us that the bore is the man who leaves out nothing. That is why I have deliberately refrained from commenting on your agenda. Standing back a little distance, I have limited myself to underlining the seriousness of the world food situation and to observing how far we still are from a new international economic order.

Also, I have touched on some of the problems of special importance to your region, and the constraints it will have to overcome if it is to progress toward development and peace. Latin America is in a unique position as the most developed of the developing regions. Thanks to its great human, scientific and technical potential it is almost in a position to assist other, less favoured regions of the world. And yet it too still has urgent need of assistance and of favourable conditions for its development.

In helping it to start out, we are also helping it to help others who are in a less fortunate position.

I wish you great success in your discussions and thank you for your kind attention.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

A. Basic Documents

LARC/80/1	Provisional Agenda
LARC/80/1(a)	Provisional Annotated Agenda
LARC/80/2	The Changing Law of the Sea and its Implications for Fisheries Management and Development in Latin America
LARC/80/3	Soil Conservation as a means of Increasing Food Production in Latin America
LARC/80/4	Regional Implications of International Action to Strengthen World Food Security
LARC/80/5	Follow-up of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD): Latin American Region
LARC/80/5-Sup.1	Proposal for the Establishment of a Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in Latin America
LARC/80/5-Sup.1 (Appendix)	Appendix to Document LARC/80/5 Sup. 1
LARC/80/6	External Resources and Food and Agricultural Development in Latin America
LARC/80/7	Recent Developments in Latin America's International Trade of Major Agricultural Commodities
LARC/80/8	Energy Cropping versus Agricultural Production
LARC/80/9	FAO Programme in the Region
LARC/80/10	Representation of Latin America on the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

B. General Information

LARC/80/INF/1	Information Note
LARC/80/INF/2	Provisional Timetable
LARC/80/INF/3-Rev.2	Provisional List of Documents
LARC/80/INF/4	Regional Programmes, on-going activities and proposals for the future
LARC/80/INF/5	FAO's Programme on Technical Collaboration to prevent the spread and introduction of African Swine Fever (AFS) in Latin America
LARC/80/INF/6	Rice Production Potential in Latin America
LARC/80/INF/7	Final Report of the First Consultation of International Agencies on their Programmes and Activities related to Agriculture and Food in Latin America, Santiago, Chile, 27 - 29 May 1980
LARC/80/INF/8	The FAO Regional Commissions in Latin America
LARC/80/INF/9	Provisional list of participants

C. Conference Documents

- LARC/80/CONF/1 Statement by Mr. Edouard Saouma, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America
- LARC/80/CONF/2 Statement by Mr. Pedro Moral López, Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Latin America, at the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America

D. Series LARC/80/TC

- LARC/80/TC/1 Provisional Agenda of the Technical Committee on Soil Conservation and Food Production in Latin America
- LARC/80/TC/2 Provisional Timetable of the Technical Committee on Soil Conservation and Food Production in Latin America
- LARC/80/TC/3 Provisional Agenda of the Technical Committee on Fishery Development and the Impact of the New Ocean Regime in Latin America
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- LARC/80/TC/REP/1
Rev. 1 Report of the Technical Committee on Soil Conservation and Food Production in Latin America
- LARC/80/TC/REP/2
Rev. 1 Report of the Technical Committee on Fishery Development and the Impact of the New Ocean Regime in Latin America
- LARC/80/TC/CONF/1 Introductory remarks by Mr. Pedro Moral López, Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Latin America, on opening the meeting of the Technical Committee on Soil Conservation
- LARC/80/TC/CONF/2 Introductory remarks by Mr. Pedro Moral López, Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Latin America, on opening the meeting of the Technical Committee on Fishery Development and the Impact of the New Ocean Regime in Latin America

LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
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Presidente
Chairman
Président

Arnaldo Milián Castro (Cuba)

Vicepresidentes
Vice-Chairmen
Vice-Présidents

Gustavo Dajer Chadid (Colombia)
Jaime Wheelock (Nicaragua)
Ralph C. van Sluytman (Guyana)
Carlos O. Keller Sarmiento (Argentina)

Relator
Rapporteur

G. Martínez Corbala (México)

Comité de Redacción
Drafting Committee
Comité de Rédaction

Barbados
Brasil
Cuba
Uruguay

ESTADOS MIEMBROS ATENDIDOS POR LA OFICINA REGIONAL
MEMBER NATIONS SERVICED BY THE REGIONAL OFFICE
PAYS MEMBRES DESSERVIS PAR LE BUREAU REGIONAL

ARGENTINA - ARGENTINE

Delegado Carlos O. KELLER SARMIENTO
Embajador
Representante Permanente de Argentina ante la FAO
Roma

Suplente Carlos Darwin SANCHEZ AVALOS
Consejero Agrícola
Roma

Suplente L. BARBERIS
Asesor de Gabinete de la Secretaría de Estado de
Agricultura y Ganadería
Buenos Aires

Suplente José IBARBIA
Asesor de Gabinete de la Secretaría de Estado de
Agricultura y Ganadería
Buenos Aires

Asesor Ismael Mario SCHUFF
Consejero Económico
Embajada Argentina
La Habana

BAHAMAS

Delegate George SMITH
Minister of Agriculture
Nassau

Alternate Idris REID
Deputy Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
Fisheries and Local Government
Nassau

Alternate Godfrey ENEAS
Director of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture
Nassau

BARBADOS - BARBADE

Delegate Fozlo BREWSTER
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
Food and Consumer Affairs
Bridgetown

Alternate Lionel HARCOUT SMITH
Chief Agricultural Officer
Ministry of Agriculture
Food and Consumer Affairs
Bridgetown

BOLIVIA - BOLIVIE

Delegado Lucio ARCE PEREIRA
Director General de Agricultura
Ministerio de Agricultura
La Paz

Adjunto Freddy ARTEAGA
Jefe de la Oficina de Mercadeo Agropecuario del
Ministerio de Asuntos Campesinos y Agropecuarios
La Paz

BRASIL - BRAZIL - BRESIL

Delegado Francisco THOMPSON FLORES NETTO
Coordinador de Asuntos Internacionales
Ministerio de Agricultura
Brasilia

Suplente Arrhenius Fabio MACHADO DE FREITAS
Representante Permanente ante la FAO
Roma

Suplente Francisco MONTEIRO
Asesor del Ministro
Ministerio de Agricultura
Brasilia

Suplente Abeilard Fernando DECASTRO
Jefe Servicio Nacional de Levantamiento y
Conservación de Suelos
Río de Janeiro

Asesor Antonio ARANTES LICIO
Asesor del Ministro de Agricultura
Ministerio de Agricultura
Coordinación de Asuntos Internacionales
Brasilia

Asesor Antonio Carlos DO NASCIMENTO PEDRO
Segundo Secretario
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Brasilia

COLOMBIA - COLOMBIE

Delegado Gustavo DAJER CHADID
Ministro de Agricultura
Bogotá

Suplente Gonzalo BULA HOYOS
Embajador Representante Permanente de Colombia
ante la FAO
Roma

Suplente José Manuel ARIAS CARRIZOSA
Embajador de Colombia en Cuba
La Habana

Suplente Paulina de CASTRO MONSALVO
Embajadora Extraordinaria y Plenipotenciaria de
Colombia ante los Organismos de las Naciones
Unidas en Europa
Barranquilla

Suplente Francisco ROY RIASCOS
Secretario General
Ministerio de Agricultura
Bogotá

Suplente Jaime NAVAS ALVARADO
Director
División de Agronomía
Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario
Bogotá

Adjunto Fernando BUSTOS
Primer Secretario
Embajada de Colombia
La Habana

COSTA RICA

Delegado Fernando GUARDIA
Representante Permanente ante la FAO
Roma

CUBA

Delegado Arnaldo MILIAN CASTRO
Ministro de Agricultura
Ministerio de Agricultura
La Habana

Suplente Adolfo DIAZ
Viceministro
Ministerio de Agricultura
La Habana

Suplente Manuel TORRES
Viceministro
Comité Estatal de Colaboración Económica
La Habana

Suplente José R. VIERA LINARES
Viceministro
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
La Habana

Suplente Pelegrín TORRAS DE LA LUZ
Viceministro de Relaciones Exteriores
La Habana

Suplente Miguel RODRIGUEZ MAYEA
Viceministro
Ministerio de Agricultura
La Habana

Adjunto Julio VALMASEDA
Viceministro
Ministerio de Agricultura
La Habana

Adjunto Antonio CARRILLO
Viceministro
Ministerio de Industria Pesquera
La Habana

Adjunto Celso CARPIO
Viceministro
Ministerio de Agricultura
La Habana

Adjunto Amadeo BLANCO
Viceministro
Ministerio de Comercio Exterior
La Habana

Adjunto José GARCIA PEÑA
Viceministro
Banco Nacional de Cuba
La Habana

Adjunto Luis O. GALVEZ
Viceministro
Ministerio de Industria Azucarera
La Habana

Adjunto Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO
Vicepresidente Primero
ANAP
La Habana

Adjunto Pedro MORALES
Embajador Representante Permanente de Cuba ante la FAO
Roma

Asesor Eddy FERNANDEZ CHAVIANO
Director del Ministerio de Agricultura
La Habana

Asesor Rafael CABRERA
Director de Relaciones Internacionales del Ministerio
de la Pesca
La Habana

Asesor Renán PEREZ
Director del Instituto de Investigaciones Pesqueras
La Habana

Asesor Rafael GARCELL
Director de Planificación del Ministerio de Agricultura
La Habana

Asesor Cristóbal COLOM
Director del Ministerio de Agricultura
La Habana

Asesor Manuel ANDERES
Vice Presidente de la Academia de Ciencias de Cuba
La Habana

Asesor Eduardo DELGADO
Ministerio de Comercio Exterior
La Habana

Asesor Ramiro LEON TORRES
Jefe de Departamento de la DOEI del Comité Estatal de
Colaboración Económica
La Habana

Asesor Grafila SOTO
Especialista Organismos Económicos Internacionales
Comité Estatal Colaboración Económica
La Habana

Asesor Esperanza BALLESTER
Comité Estatal de Colaboración Económica
La Habana

Asesor Osvaldo SOTOLONGO
Asesor del Comité Estatal de Colaboración Económica
La Habana

Asesor José GONZALES ROJAS
Asesor de la Vicepresidencia de Políticas del CECE
La Habana

Asesor Ernesto TIZOL
Tercer Secretario de la Misión Cubana ante la FAO
La Habana

Asesor Patria SAN ROMAN
Funcionario del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
La Habana

Asesor Rosa GONZALES
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
La Habana

Asesor Andrés PEREZ
Banco Nacional de Cuba
La Habana

Asesor Julio ARIAS CAMPO
Especialista en Política Comercial del Ministerio
de Comercio Exterior
La Habana

Asesor Elena BLANCO
Jefe de Departamento del Ministerio de Comercio Exterior
La Habana

Asesor Félix PIÑA PADRON
Especialista en Política Comercial del Ministerio
de Comercio Exterior
La Habana

Asesor Carlos TALLET
Especialista del Ministerio de la Pesca
La Habana

Asesor César VALDIVIA
Ministerio de Agricultura
La Habana

Asesor Paulino LOPEZ
Ministerio de la Industria Azucarera
La Habana

CHILE - CHILI

Delegado Elio BACIGALUPO SORACCO
Embajador Representante Permanente de Chile ante la FAO
Roma

Suplente Diego VALENZUELA RODRIGUEZ
Director de Política Multilateral
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Santiago

Suplente Luis O. LUCO ECHEVERRIA
Asesor de la Oficina de Planificación Agrícola
Ministerio de Agricultura
Santiago

Suplente Alejandro PONCE URRIOLA
Funcionario de la Sub-Secretaría de Pesca
Ministerio de Economía
Santiago

Suplente Eduardo GALVEZ Carvallo
Tercer Secretario
Dirección de Asuntos Económicos Multilaterales
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Santiago

Suplente Esteban CORDOVA TAPIA
Asesor de la Oficina de Planificación Agrícola (ODEPA)
Ministerio de Agricultura
Santiago

ECUADOR - EQUATEUR

Delegado Carlos VALLEJO
Asesor de la Vicepresidencia de la República
Quito

Suplente Hugo BUITRON
Director General de Desarrollo Campesino
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
Quito

Suplente Francisco PROAÑO ARANDI
Consejero de la Embajada del Ecuador
La Habana

EL SALVADOR

Delegado Octavio ORELLANA SOLIS
Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería
San Salvador

Suplente Carlos Federico PAREDES CASTILLO
Subsecretario Planificación y Coordinación del
Desarrollo Económico y Social
Ministerio de Planificación y Coordinación
del Desarrollo Económico y Social
San Salvador

Suplente Gonzalo Ernesto MARTINEZ MENENDEZ
Director General
Recursos Naturales Renovables
San Salvador

Suplente Amílcar MARTINEZ-ARGUERA
Director General de Asuntos Económicos y Sociales
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
San Salvador

Suplente Sigfrido MUNES
Secretario Información de la Presidencia
de la República
San Salvador

Suplente Carlos Edmundo HERRARTE
Jefe del Departamento de Información Agropecuaria
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
San Salvador

GRANADA - GRENADA - GRENADE

Delegate A. ANTOINE
Adviser to Minister of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture
St. George's

Alternate George M. KIRTON
Consultant
Ministry of Agriculture
St. George's

GUYANA - GUYANE

Delegate Ralph C. VAN SLUYTMAN
Minister of State for Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture
Georgetown

Alternate John S.L. BROWMAN
Chief Agricultural Officer
Ministry of Agriculture
Georgetown

Alternate Reuben CHARLES
Principal Fisheries Officer
Ministry of Agriculture
Georgetown

HAITI

Délégué Alex Louis TANIS
Coordonnateur de l'Asistance Externe
Departement de l'Agriculture, Damien
Port-au-Prince

Suppléant André Jean LOIS
Assistant a la Direction Générale
Ministere de l'Agriculture, Resources
Naturelles et Développement Rural
Port-au-Prince

HONDURAS

Delegado Rafael LEIVA
Embajador de Honduras
Santo Domingo

Suplente
Ismaelia J. ACOSTA
Director
Planificación Sectorial de la Secretaría
de Recursos Naturales
Tegucigalpa

JAMAICA - JAMAIQUE

Delegate
Frederick B. ZENNY
Director of Production and Extension
Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Kingston

Alternate
Judith ANN WEDDERBURN
Counsellor
Embassy of Jamaica
Havana

MEXICO - MEXIQUE

Delegado
Abelardo AMAYA BRONDO
Subsecretario de Agricultura y Operación
de la Secretaría de Agricultura y
Recursos Hidráulicos
México, D.F.

Suplente
Gonzalo MARTINEZ CORBALA
Embajador de México
La Habana

Suplente
Alvaro ECHEVARRIA ZUNO
Supervisor General de Distritos de Temporal
de la Secretaría de Agricultura y
Recursos Hidráulicos
México, D.F.

Asesor
Jorge ALFONSO FUENTES
Ministro Consejero
Subdirector General de Organismos Especializados
Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores
México, D.F.

Asesor
Osvaldo VALDES OLIVARES
Subdirector de Cooperación y Servicios Internacionales
Secretaría de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos
México, D.F.

Asesor
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Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario
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Ministerio de Pesca
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Managua

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Responsable Departamento Legal Instituto de
Recursos Naturales y del Ambiente
Managua

Suplente Mauricio CUADRA
Asistente del Ministro de Desarrollo Agropecuario
Managua

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Ministry of Agriculture
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Washington, D.C.

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International Economics Division
Economics, Statistics and Cooperative Service
US Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

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Washington, C.D.

James STORER
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Office of Fisheries Affairs
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Washington, D.C.

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PNUD
Nueva York

Alberto A. SOJIT
UNDP
New York

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World Food Programme
Rome

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Senior Economist
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Rome

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CARICOM
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Franz J. PERITZ

Regional Animal Production and Health Officer

Rigoberto SANDOVAL

Senior Officer (Production Structure), Human
Resources, Institutions and Agrarian Reform
Division

Kazuki TAKAMIYA

Regional Land and Water Development Officer

Participants

5. The following countries were represented at the meeting of the Technical Committee on Soil Conservation and Food Production in Latin America:

Argentina	Costa Rica	Mexico
Brazil	Cuba	Nicaragua
Chile	El Salvador	Peru
Colombia	Guyana	Uruguay
		Venezuela

6. Observers were present from the U.S.A. and the Holy See.

7. Representatives of the following UN Specialized Agencies attended:

- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- World Health Organization

8. The names of the delegates, observers and FAO officers attending are shown at the end of this report.

II. SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS

Soil degradation situation in Latin America

9. Document LARC/80/3, "Soil conservation as a means of increasing food production in Latin America", was considered useful in summarizing the serious problems of soil degradation in Latin America, some of the causes of these problems and technical, socio-economic and institutional possibilities for solving them.

10. Analysis of the document enabled delegates to express their opinions on the technical, political and economic causes of soil degradation, as well as ideas for solutions.

11. It was estimated the 80 percent of the soils of Latin America were affected by degradation in one form or another. These problems were serious not only because they resulted in the loss of productive soils, led to social conflicts and made food prospects more difficult, but also because they affected the economy and society as a whole, for example: the production of hydroelectric energy, due to the silting-up of dams; navigable waterways; pollution of waters; deterioration of the urban and road infrastructure, etc.

12. In Latin America techniques which could be adapted and promoted to reduce or prevent the loss of productive soils were available. But it was emphasized that activities for the conservation of this resource had not received sufficient support in the region.

13. During the last decade awareness of the gravity of these problems had undoubtedly increased: The Committee recognized, however, that in order to guarantee valid and workable conclusions more knowledge and direct action were necessary, particularly to spread information on the complex global problems of degradation, how it originated and affected not only the farming sector but also the community as a whole.

14. It was also recognized that the main cause of degradation was incorrect use of the land, combined with other factors connected with the topography, climate, soil types and adverse socio-economic conditions. In this connection, some delegates stated that these problems had their roots in the characteristics of the prevailing development model, the inequitable distribution of wealth in general and excesses based on the aim of increasing to the maximum the profit margin, for which the transnational corporations had no small share of responsibilities.

Modern approach to soil conservation

15. Soil conservation implied rational use of the resource in accordance with its capacity, combining technical, economic and social measures with restoration, maintenance and increase of the soil's productivity. It was achieved through land use systems geared to improving productivity; and hence conservation practices must necessarily be adapted to local conditions. Even more important, soil conservation must be included in and form an integral part of official initiatives, of national development plans and priorities, including those for rural development.

Responsibility and national programmes

16. The Committee recognized that the responsibility of governments for soil conservation activities in the widest sense of the term must include producers and other sectors involved, as well as the public in general; their activities should therefore be characterized by high social content and concern for ecological balance. Such an approach led first to political recognition of the problem for the economy of the country.

17. The Committee considered it of fundamental importance to carry out soil classification and interpretation studies and studies on land use planning within the framework of soil conservation programme.

18. It was considered that in soil conservation, action at the level of watersheds was one the most appropriate, since it made it possible to carry out overall actions and to integrate technical, social, economic and infrastructural development programmes. For all these reasons emphasis was laid on the importance, whenever appropriate, of full participation by the whole population, and particularly of those directly concerned, in the planning and implementation of the policies, actions and works to be undertaken.

19. The size and complexity of soil conservation programmes at national level and in watersheds were such that solid public and social organization was required for the coordination and execution of activities, which included the transference of techniques and economic facilities to participants in the programme. Some delegates stated clearly that much still remained to be done in this respect in Latin America. Some delegations considered that, in the case of the smallest producers, the creation of an infrastructure for erosion control was an investment which should be the responsibility of the government, since, as in other investments in the public sector, it benefited the whole community.

20. Soil conservation research should be geared towards the practical aspects of a conservation programme. It should include, among other things, a programme for rational land use planning, and should be directed mainly towards the selection of practices adapted to the particular conditions of each ecological zone.

21. Emphasis was laid on the urgent need for training technicians at various levels for planning and implementing conservation programmes at all levels. Various delegations pointed out the need for theoretical and practical training in soil conservation within the educational system, from primary schools to universities, and on a continuing basis.

22. The delegates considered that the existence of soil conservation legislation was a basic requirement not only for the installation of conservation programmes and the services which support them, but also as basic guidelines for appropriate use of land. The laws should preferably be of an incentive rather than a punitive nature.

23. The traditional practice of shifting agriculture, as well as the problems caused by excessive population pressure, required special consideration within a conservation programme.

Economic, financial and investment aspects

24. It was recognized that in general soil conservation measures were profitable. However, it was noted that, in Latin America as in the rest of the world, information on the economic benefits of soil conservation was scarce. It was obvious that more study was required in this

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON SOIL CONSERVATION

AND FOOD PRODUCTION IN LATIN AMERICA

(Havana, 26 - 28 August 1980)

I; INTRODUCTION

1. The Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America was preceded by the meeting of a Technical Committee on Soil Conservation and Food Production in Latin America, held in Havana, Cuba, from 26 to 28 August 1980, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Cuba.

Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting was opened by the Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Latin America, Mr. Pedro Moral López, who thanked the President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers, the Government and the Cuban people for the hospitality shown to this FAO meeting, underlining the facilities provided by the Government. On behalf of the Director-General he welcomed the delegates present, emphasizing the importance that FAO attached to the discussions of this Committee.

Mr. Moral López stated that this was the first time that the FAO Regional Conference had had an opportunity of treating in detail one of the main problems facing agricultural development and increased food production in the continent, owing to its geographical and ecological characteristics. Latin America must tackle this problem with suitable technology if it was to continue to be one of the most promising continents for the increase of world agricultural and food production.

He pointed out that FAO had cooperated with the Latin American countries at regional level in seeking solutions that would make it possible to tackle these problems in an integrated way.

He emphasized the importance of the interrelations between different sectors and sub-sectors of activity whose progress depended on the conservation and good use of soils. These were not matters of interest merely to agriculture, but affected social and economic development in general. They did not concern exclusively the agricultural and rural population, but through their consequences affected also the urban population and the people as a whole.

Finally, Mr. Moral López expressed the hope that it would be possible to establish increased cooperation between the countries of the region and FAO, in order to achieve the common objective of conserving this important heritage of the Latin American countries.

Election of Officers

3. The Technical Committee on Soil Conservation and Food Production in Latin America unanimously elected Mr. John Browman, of the Delegation of Guyana, as its Chairman, and Mr. José Ibarbia, of the Delegation of Argentina, as Vice-Chairman.

Programme of Work of the Committee

4. The Committee adopted the following programme of work:
- (a) Soil erosion situation in Latin America and its effect on food production and other sectors of the economy;
 - (b) Need for soil conservation measures;
 - (c) Modern approach to soil conservation (increased productivity and stability of soils);
 - (d) National soil conservation programmes;
 - (e) Technical assistance by FAO at national and regional levels.

area, particularly with respect to small farms with few economic resources and serious difficulties in undertaking investment in this field. It was noted, however, that contrary to what was thought regarding the long time needed to obtain returns on investments in soil conservation work, there were many examples of rapid returns in which production levels increased sharply. Emphasis was put on the need for support from the community and the government for the implementation of conservation measures which did not give immediate returns. Assistance to these farmers should consist of incentives, since other sectors of the economy which drew advantage from the soil conservation measures should also finance them. The necessity of encouraging farmers through productive measures was mentioned by several delegations.

25. In order to carry out integrated soil conservation programmes, many countries needed considerable international financial assistance, on favourable conditions.

Collaboration among countries

26. The Committee considered it extremely important that greater cooperation be established among the countries of the region with regard to soil conservation. Several delegations and an observer country offered to cooperate, within the framework of collaboration among countries, in concrete training, research and construction projects.

FAO assistance

27. The assistance provided by FAO for soil conservation in the region was recognised by the Committee, but it was emphasized that it should be substantially increased owing to the urgency and gravity of the problem.

28. The Committee made it clear that, in order to produce successful results, international assistance for soil conservation must be combined with willingness and counterpart organization within the country sufficient to ensure that cooperation would really be of maximum use for the country: if necessary, the organization of the participants must adjust its structures so as to be compatible with the requirements of effective soil conservation.

29. FAO was requested to continue and increase its contributions to regional cooperation and to the exchange and provision of useful information in all aspects of the conservation of renewable natural resources, in accordance with concrete programmes.

30. Recognition was given to FAO's action through the World Food Programme, it being suggested that this Programme be oriented towards providing also an incentive for the implementation of conservation measures at farm level.

III. CONCLUSIONS

31. Soil conservation implies rational use of the resource, combining technical, economic and social measures with restoration, maintenance and increase of the resources's productivity. It includes, particularly, planning the use of the land in accordance with its capacity and with the cultivation systems, conditioned by the social, economic and political structures of each country.

32. Soil conservation must be considered a fundamental part of rural development and soil conservation practices included within the overall framework of economic and social development.

33. It is the responsibility of governments to safeguard the national heritage, encouraging suitable use of the soils as a way of improving their productivity.

34. National and regional soil conservation programmes are a prerequisite for maintaining and increasing food production in the countries on a sustained basis and for ensuring the well-being and development of their peoples. For this purpose projects should be drawn up for the country as a whole, for watersheds, and for farms or plots. Government responsibility is also important in creating a social and economic environment conducive to the implementation of conservation projects in the country.

35. It is considered that the soil conservation work carried out in Latin America is inadequate to the gravity of the problem and that governments should provide bigger budgets for the development of large-scale programmes.

36. It is proposed that FAO assistance in the region consist mainly of help in:

- formulating a soil conservation policy in countries which so request, and preparing and launching concrete projects;
- encouraging the transfer of knowledge and techniques and the exchange of experience among countries;
- training within countries and training at international level in all aspects of the conservation of renewable natural resources.

These points should have priority in action at regional level.

37. Requirements for investment in soil conservation are of such a magnitude that they justify international financial assistance, which should also include the formulation of banking projects. It is also necessary that the financing agencies which normally support rural development programmes grant special credit lines for soil conservation that facilitate implementation of the projects mentioned above.

AGENDA

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Statement by the Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department
4. Substantive discussions: soil conservation as a means of increasing food production in Latin America, including:
 - (a) Soil erosion situation in Latin America and its effect on food production and other sectors of the economy;
 - (b) Need for soil conservation action;
 - (c) Modern approach to soil conservation (increased productivity and stability of soils);
 - (d) National soil conservation programme;
 - (e) Technical assistance by FAO at national and regional levels
5. Adoption of the Report

LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

Presidente
Chairman
Président

John Browman (Guyana)

Vicepresidente
Vice-Chairman
Vice-Président

José Ibarbia (Argentina)

ESTADOS MIEMBROS ATENDIDOS POR LA OFICINA REGIONAL
MEMBER NATIONS SERVICED BY THE REGIONAL OFFICE
PAYS MEMBRES DESSERVIS PAR LE BUREAU REGIONAL

ARGENTINA - ARGENTINE

Delegado Carlos Darwin SANCHEZ AVALOS
Consejero Agrícola
Roma

Suplente L. BARBERIS
Asesor de Gabinete de la Secretaría de Estado
de Agricultura y Ganadería
Buenos Aires

Suplente José IBARBIA
Asesor de Gabinete de la Secretaría de Estado
de Agricultura y Ganadería
Buenos Aires

Asesor Ismael Mario SCHUFF
Consejero Económico
Embajada Argentina
La Habana

BOLIVIA - BOLIVIE

Delegado Lucio ARCE PEREIRA
Director General de Agricultura
Ministerio de Agricultura
La Paz

BRASIL - BRAZIL - BRESIL

Delegado Francisco THOMPSON FLORES
Coordinador de Asuntos Internacionales
Ministerio de Agricultura
Brasilia

Suplente F.M. DE FREITAS
Representante Permanente ante la FAO
Roma

Suplente Francisco MONTEIRO
Asesor del Ministro
Ministerio de Agricultura
Brasilia

Suplente Abeilard DE CASTRO
Jefe
Servicio Nacional de Levantamiento y Conservación
de Suelos
Río de Janeiro

Asesor Antonio Carlos NASCIMENTO PEDRO
Segundo Secretario
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Brasilia

Asesor Antonio ARANTES LICIO
Asesor del Ministro de Agricultura
Brasilia

COLOMBIA - COLOMBIE

Delegado Jaime NAVAS
Director
División de Agronomía
Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario
Bogotá

COSTA RICA

Delegado Fernando GUARDIA
Representante Permanente ante la FAO
Roma

CUBA

Delegado Miguel RODRIGUEZ
Viceministro
Ministerio de Agricultura
La Habana

Asesor Cristóbal COLOM
Director
Ministerio de Agricultura
La Habana

Asesor Lucas COLOM
Director
Instituto Riego y Drenaje
La Habana

Asesor Roberto MIRANDA
Jefe
Departamento Conservación Suelos
La Habana

Asesor Joaquín TREMOLS
Jefe
Departamento Evaluación y Recomendaciones
Ministerio de Agricultura
La Habana

Asesor Miguel ZALDIVAR
Jefe
Departamento Suelos
Ministerio del Azúcar
La Habana

Asesor Abilio CARDENAS G.
Director Instituto de Suelos de la Academia de Ciencias
La Habana

Asesor Grafila SOTO
Especialista Organismos Económicos Internacionales
Comité Estatal Colaboración Económica
La Habana

Asesor Carlos GONZALEZ
La Habana

Asesor Luis BORGES
Asesor Viceministro
Ministerio de Agricultura
La Habana

Asesor Rafael GARCELL
Director de Planificación
Ministerio de Agricultura
La Habana

Asesor José GONZALEZ ROJAS
Asesor de la Vicepresidencia de Políticas del CECE
La Habana

Asesor Osvaldo SOTOLONGO
Asesor del CECE
La Habana

CHILE - CHILI

Delegado Elio BAGICALUPO SORACCO
Embajador Representante Permanente de Chile ante la FAO
Roma

Suplente Luis O. LUCO ECHEVERRIA
Asesor de la Oficina de Planificación Agrícola
Ministerio de Agricultura
Santiago

Suplente Alejandro PONCE URRIOLO
Funcionario de la Sub-Secretaría de Pesca
Ministerio de Economía
Santiago

Suplente Eduardo GALVEZ CARVALLO
Tercer Secretario
Dirección de Asuntos Económicos Multilaterales
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Santiago

Suplente Esteban CORDOVA TAPIA
Asesor de la Oficina de Planificación Agrícola
(ODEPA)
Santiago

EL SALVADOR

Delegado Gonzalo Ernesto MARTINEZ MENENDEZ
Director General Recursos Naturales Renovables
San Salvador

GUYANA - GUYANE

Delegate John BROWMAN
Chief Agricultural Officer
Ministry of Agriculture
Georgetown

JAMAICA - JAMAIQUE

Delegate Frederick B. ZENNY
Director of Production and Extension Department
Kingston

MEXICO - MEXIQUE

Delegado Abelardo AMAYA BRONDO
Subsecretario de Agricultura y Operación
Secretaría de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos
México

Suplente Alvaro ECHEVERRIA
Supervisor General de Areas de Temporal
Secretaría de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos
México

Suplente Ricardo GARCIA LAGOS
Director General Conservación Suelo y Agua
México

NICARAGUA

Delegado Erwin AGUILAR
Representante Permanente ante la FAO en Roma
Roma

Suplente Humberto CARRION
Delegado Alterno ante la FAO en Roma
Roma

Suplente Juan GAZOL
Director de Investigaciones y Desarrollo Pesquero
Instituto Nicaragüense de la Pesca
Managua

Suplente José A. LOPEZ EUSTAQUIO
Responsable en Caracterización de Suelos
Instituto de Recursos Naturales y del Ambiente
Managua

Suplente Hugo CENTENO
Responsable Departamento Legal del Instituto de
Recursos Naturales y del Ambiente
Managua

Suplente Mauricio CUADRA
Asistente del Ministro de Desarrollo Agropecuario
Managua

PERU - PEROU

Delegado Gastón IBÁÑEZ
Primer Secretario
Embajada de Perú en Cuba
La Habana

Suplente Ricardo COAYLA
Director de Evaluación de Proyectos
Ministerio de Pesquería
Lima

Suplente Estuardo GAVA
Asesor de la Dirección Superior
Ministerio de Agricultura y Alimentación
Lima

URUGUAY

Delegado Mateo MARQUES SERE
Embajador Representante Permanente ante la FAO
Roma

Suplente R.G. AMATO UDABE
Consejero - Encargado del Departamento de Asuntos
Económicos Internacionales
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Montevideo

Suplente Pedro OLMOS
Director de la Oficina de Programación y Política
Agropecuaria
Ministerio de Agricultura
Montevideo

Suplente J.J. NUÑEZ
Director General de Secretaría
Instituto Nacional de Pesca
Montevideo

Suplente Tomás GUARINO
Director de Asistencia Técnica
Ministerio de Agricultura
Montevideo

VENEZUELA

Suplente Luis FROMETA BELLO
Gerente General del Fondo Nacional de Investigaciones
Agropecuarias del Ministerio de Agricultura y Cría
Caracas

Suplente Nelson TINEO VALLADARES
Jefe de la Oficina de Relaciones Internacionales del
Ministerio de Agricultura y Cría
Caracas

ESTADOS MIEMBROS QUE NO SON ATENDIDOS POR LA OFICINA REGIONAL
MEMBER NATIONS NOT SERVICED BY THE REGIONAL OFFICE
ETATS MEMBRES QUI NE SONT PAS DESSERVIS PAR LE BUREAU REGIONAL

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

William M. JOHNSON
Soil Conservation Service
Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

Wade F. GREGORY
Latin American Branch
International Economics Division
Economics, Statistics and Cooperative Service
US Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

SANTA SEDE - HOLY SEE - SAINT SIEGE

Giuseppe LAZZAROTTO SIMONETTO
Primer Secretario
Embajada de la Santa Sede en Cuba
La Habana

Pastor GONZALES GARCIA
Embajada de la Santa Sede en Cuba
La Habana

REPRESENTANTES DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS Y ORGANISMOS ESPECIALIZADOS
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES
REPRESENTANTS DES NATIONS UNIES ET INSTITUTIONS SPECIALISEES

PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL DESARROLLO
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT

Roger GUARDA
Representante Residente del PNUD
La Habana

Alberto A. SOJIT
UNDP
New York

Steven DOUGLAS
Oficial de Programas PNUD
La Habana

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL DESARROLLO INDUSTRIAL
UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT INDUSTRIEL

Hans ALLDEN
Oficial de Programa
ONU
La Habana

ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL DE LA SALUD
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE

Daniel J. JOLY
Representante OPS/OMS en Cuba
La Habana

SECRETARIAT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON SOIL CONSERVATION
AND FOOD PRODUCTION IN LATIN AMERICA

Secretary	Kazuki TAKAMIYA
Conference Affairs Officer	Bernard LINLEY
Reports Officer	Julio CASTELLANOS
Administrative Officer	M. Luisa MOCOÇAIN
Conference Documents	M. Teresa LOPEZ VALLARINO
Interpreters	M.T. DE LANDA F. PIRAUD A. BARRAJOSA A. COLOM B. FISHER B. PONETTE B. RADOFF F. RONKIN A. TOVAP
Translators	C. AIZPURUA V. BARKER J. COURTIOL J. MARECHAL C. MORRIN
Secretaries	S. BENOIT C. GILLEBERT P. GUERRA I. HALEBY M. HALES C. IANNICELLI M. MARINKOVIC I. MATYSZCZYK M.A. NAVARRO C. ROSSETTO G. VIANCOS

FAO STAFF

Pedro MORAL LOPEZ	Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Latin America
Marco A. FLORES RODAS	Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department
Antonio J. BOTELHO-NEIA	Deputy Regional Representative for Latin America
Guy CHAPOND	FAO Representative in Cuba
Philippe CULOT	Regional Soil Management and Conservation Officer
Rodrigo DUARTE TORRES	Chief, Regional Operations Service - Latin America, Agriculture Department
Claudio FORNARI	Regional Information Officer
Fernando FUENZALIDA	Regional Senior Economist and Chief, Planning and Programming Unit
F.W. HAUCK	Chief, Soil Resources, Management and Conservation Service
Pedro NIEMEYER	Liaison Officer (Regional Development) Development Department

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON
FISHERY DEVELOPMENT AND THE IMPACT OF THE
NEW OCEAN REGIME IN LATIN AMERICA

(Havana, 28 - 30 August 1980)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Technical Committee on Fishery Development and the Impact of the New Ocean Regime in Latin America met in Havana, Cuba, from 28 to 30 August 1980.

Participants

2. The meeting of the Technical Committee was attended by delegates from the following countries:

Argentina	Cuba	Nicaragua
Barbados	Dominican Republic	Panama
Bolivia	El Salvador	Peru
Brazil	Grenada	Uruguay
Chile	Guyana	Venezuela
Colombia	Jamaica	
Costa Rica	Mexico	

3. Observers were present from Canada, the U.S.A. and the Holy See.

4. Representatives from the following international agencies were also present in an observer capacity:

Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IICA)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
Junta de Acuerdo de Cartagena (JUNAC)
Latin American Economic System (SELA)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Organization for Industrial Development (UNIDO)
World Food Council (WFC)
World Food Programme (WFP)
World Health Organization (WHO)

5. The list of participants is given in Annex B to this report.

Opening

6. Mr. Pedro Moral López, FAO Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Latin America, welcomed the participating delegations on behalf of the Director-General and reiterated his thanks to the Government and people of Cuba for the generous hospitality and welcome extended to this FAO meeting.

7. He then underlined the dynamic and relatively sustained development experienced by the fishery sector in Latin America and the timeliness of this opportunity to examine the nature and effects for this sector of the changes in the ocean regime.

8. He stressed the need to seek and adopt adequate formulas for collaboration and co-operation among the countries of the region in order to make full use of the possibilities provided by these new circumstances. He pointed out that FAO was ready to assist countries in this task, through its comprehensive programme of assistance in the management and development of fisheries in exclusive economic zones.

Officers

9. The Regional Representative then invited the delegates to elect the Officers of the Technical Committee. Mr. Ricardo Coayla, of Peru, and Mr. Virgilio Mayol, of the Dominican Republic, were unanimously elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

10. The Technical Committee approved the agenda for the meeting which is given in Annex A of this report.

Introduction of the Item

11. The item to be discussed by the Committee was introduced by Mr. Jean Carroz, Director of the Policy and Planning Division of the FAO Fisheries Department, who started by underlining the fact that Latin American countries had been the first to proclaim, more than 30 years ago, 200-mile limits of jurisdiction.

12. He provided some indicative figures on the level of catches reached in the region and referred to the opportunities that the various sub-regions afforded for greater development of fishery activities. In this connection, he stated, attention should be given not only to increases in the volume of catches, but also to their utilization and value, in view of the great differences in the market prices of the various species.

13. As regards policies and strategies aimed at accelerating fisheries development, he stressed that, since the traditional concept of free access to the resources of the sea had been replaced by that of national control over zones of extended jurisdiction - within which approximately 99 percent of the commercially exploited species were to be found - it was necessary for coastal countries to undertake constant evaluation and monitoring of the resources at their disposal. He added that the objectives of fisheries development should be defined within the context of overall development plans.

14. He stressed the importance of regional and sub-regional cooperation as a means of exchanging experiences and transferring technology in the fields of research, stock assessment, infrastructures, marketing, and control and monitoring of the extended zones of jurisdiction. Cooperation was indispensable where the exploitation of migratory species was concerned. It was also important for the small Caribbean countries, whose fishery resources were very limited and which were faced with serious budgetary constraints.

15. He then referred to aspects related to foreign trade in fishery products. Some Latin American countries did not possess sufficient fish resources, and would thus continue to be net importers. However, it was worth noting that the bulk of imports for human consumption came from countries outside the region. Since projections of demand by the year 2000 indicated a possible increase of 3.5 to 6 million tons of fish used for human consumption, there was ample room for promoting intra-regional trade in this sector, and this was, in fact, beginning to materialize. As regards exports for human consumption, these had been increasing at a rate of between 10 and 15 percent in recent years. Since demand from outside the region had been increasing faster than supply, this was an additional reason for encouraging accelerated development and improved utilization of catches.

16. He stated that the widespread extension of jurisdictional limits would affect trade patterns in the same way as it was affecting production patterns. Studies conducted by FAO on the situation and prospects for foreign trade in fishery products indicated that several developing countries would undoubtedly increase their imports, but that the greatest potential demand in the medium term would come from certain industrialized countries. In order to take advantages of this demand, however, the Latin American countries would have to compete with developed countries which were exporters of fishery products.

17. He also stated that both intra-regional and extra-regional trade in fishery products had been hampered by a series of obstacles and that the countries of the region should continue their efforts to remove these. He referred in particular to the lack of information on market outlets and specific product requirements; the lack of trade communications and contacts; costly and irregular transport connections; technical and other shortcomings in product quality and in production processes; tariff and other trade barriers.

18. The main objective of the Director-General's programme of assistance in the management and development of fisheries in exclusive economic zones was to help individual countries or groups of countries acquire the capacity required to manage and develop their fisheries in the extended zones of jurisdiction. Several requests for assistance from this programme had been received from countries of the region, and the assistance requested was now being provided.

19. The Programme was financed basically from extra-budgetary resources, mainly from UNDP and the Government of Norway. Negotiations were underway with other donor sources, both bilateral and multilateral, to obtain additional funds. Offers of collaboration in the form of training courses, fellowships, research vessels, etc., were being received from both developed and developing countries.

II. SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS

Fishery situation in the region

20. Various delegations expressed their satisfaction at the inclusion of the item on fishery and the new ocean regime in the agenda for the Regional Conference.

21. Document LARC/80/2, which served as the basis for the discussions of the Technical Committee, was commended by the delegations as containing a serious and objective analysis of the opportunities and obstacles to fishery development in the region and including concrete suggestions for action and technical cooperation both at national level and at regional and sub-regional level.

22. Most of the delegations referred to the fishery situation in their respective countries. The following aspects were mentioned in their statements:

- (i) present levels of catches;
- (ii) national policies drawn up or reoriented in order to achieve better utilization, conservation and protection of resources and the formulation of fishery development plans;
- (iii) the creation or reorganization of institutions or administrative services;
- (iv) the establishment or improvement of installations ashore and fishery infrastructures;
- (v) the development of fishing fleets;
- (vi) the expansion of biological and technological research on marine resources;
- (vii) the social and economic aspects of fishery activities;
- (viii) support for artisanal fisheries;
- (ix) financial assistance and credit facilities for fisherfolk;
- (x) the improvement of training opportunities;
- (xi) the promotion of domestic fish consumption.

23. It was agreed that, although a considerable amount still remained to be done with respect to research into fishery resources in the countries of the region, it had been possible to ascertain that the present catch levels were considerably below the potential level of the region as a whole. This afforded excellent opportunities for establishing dynamic fishery industries which, in addition to contributing to the economic development of the countries, would make it possible to improve the population's food supply. Prospects had been improved by the widespread acceptance of the new ocean regime, based on an extension of national jurisdiction up to the 200-mile limit. In order to achieve harmonious and adequate development of Latin America's fishery industries, it was recommended that measures be adopted to provide education, technical training and socio-economic protection for fishing communities.

FAO'S Programme for the Exclusive Economic Zones

24. The Technical Committee expressed unanimous support for the FAO Director-General's programme of assistance in the management and development of fisheries in exclusive economic zones, which was approved during the last FAO Conference. It considered that this constituted a useful and timely initiative and expressed its satisfaction at the high priority given to it by the Director-General. While appreciating the fact that various countries of the region had submitted requests for assistance under this Programme, it pointed out that the assistance provided should be consonant with the policies, requirements and priorities established by the countries themselves.

25. The Committee agreed that the success of the Programme would depend to a large extent on its being assured of obtaining the additional extrabudgetary resources that would be required. In this connection, it supported the Director-General's efforts to find these additional resources and considered it advisable to urge the UNDP and other financing and donor sources to provide maximum possible assistance to the Programme. The Committee urged Member Countries to use their influence in the appropriate forums in order to raise extra financial resources for the Programme.

Management Issues

26. One delegation called the attention of the Committee to the need to devise methods for avoiding irrational exploitation and depredation of the biological marine resources of the coastal countries, in particular with respect to activities in the area adjacent to the exclusive economic zone by large fleets from industrialized countries fishing species occurring in this zone and the high sea, or associated species of both zones. The Committee noted the importance of this question.

27. Other delegations called the attention of the Committee to the fact that the appropriate framework within which to discuss legal aspects was the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. The Committee expressed its confidence that any difficulties which might arise in this connection would be resolved through the efforts which it was the right and duty of each country to make.

28. One delegation observed that fleets from outside the region were participating ever more intensively in fishery activities in the waters under the jurisdiction of some Latin American countries and that, in its opinion, this situation should be changed, by facilitating and encouraging collaboration among the countries of the region while respecting their sovereignty.

Fish Consumption

29. Several delegations again drew attention to the possibilities that the utilization of fishery resources afford for helping to meet the growing food requirements of the people of Latin America, and indicated that the problem of fish consumption in the region was not that there was a preference for other products, but that it was necessary to ensure an adequate supply at prices accessible to the majority of the population.

Trade of fishery products

30. Several delegations referred to the necessity of having available better information on the greatest possible number of potential international markets and the prospects they offered. In this connection, mention was made of the INFOFESCA Project, it being pointed out that, although it provided background information for market studies, the information on supply and demand did not usually reach those interested at the right time. It would be useful if this Project were to provide adequate advice on market analysis and on strategies to enter existing markets, without prejudice to the aims of the domestic and foreign trade policy of the countries of the region.

Regional Cooperation

31. The Committee devoted considerable attention to aspects connected with regional and sub-regional cooperation. It was recognized that where necessary, the activities of the regional commissions should be reoriented bearing in mind the principles of the new ocean regime. Several delegations expressed the opinion that, although they must conduct their work more flexibly and effectively, these bodies had an important role to play in fishery management and development in their respective areas, particularly with regard to shared resources, due account always being paid to national sovereignty. It was also considered that decentralization would increase the effectiveness of the regional bodies. Reference was made to the proposal to establish a committee for the management and development of fisheries in the Lesser Antilles, owing to the special needs of the small island countries.
32. It was observed that WECAFC had limited its action to the exchange of information and national experience, neglecting other more important tasks. The Committee expressed the hope that the technical assistance programme assigned to the Commission would receive sufficient resources to enable it to operate more dynamically.
33. The delegations of the countries concerned expressed their support for the establishment of a regional technology centre for Central America, which would serve as a support unit for the extension services in the countries of the area.
34. Various delegations expressed their willingness to provide technical cooperation to coastal countries of the region. The delegation of Cuba confirmed its offer to make the "Andrés González Lines" Fishery Institute available for use as a regional training centre, for which adequate technical and financial assistance, promoted by FAO, would be required. The delegation of Chile also indicated the willingness of its country to extend technical collaboration to other countries in the region which requested it, through FAO. The observer of the U.S.A. informed the Committee of his country's intention to join the Programme attached to the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission, and of the fact that the Agency for International Development (AID) would propose to the WECAF Programme an assistance project for 1.5 million dollars for fishery development in the countries of the Lesser Antilles. The Committee expressed its appreciation of these offers of technical cooperation.
35. Some delegations pointed out that a particularly important mechanism for helping fishery development in the region was the Latin American Economic System (SELA); they therefore proposed that FAO increase its support in order to make it possible to put into effect and expand the projects agreed within SELA's Action Committee for Seafood and Freshwater Products.
36. The Committee emphasized the need for harmonizing, coordinating and supporting the activities of the existing regional and sub-regional bodies, so as to strengthen them and avoid duplication. Special mention was made of the relations between FAO on the one hand and SELA's Action Committee for Seafood and Freshwater Products and ECLA's Caribbean Development and Coordination Committee on the other.
37. The observer of the SELA Action Committee for Seafood and Freshwater Products, in his statement, welcomed the opportunity offered by the meeting to make an analysis of the problems of Latin American fisheries. He pointed out that the background document for the discussion contained an adequate interpretation of the situation and historical evolution of fishery development in the region. In illustrating the activities being carried out by the Action Committee, he emphasized the collaboration it received from the countries and the wide participation of technicians from the region in its projects, thus stimulating horizontal cooperation. He emphasized the collaboration it had received from FAO and other agencies in the United Nations System for projects such as stock assessment in the South East Pacific, the production of low-cost food, etc.

38. He indicated the necessity of establishing an autonomous body as a legal entity within the framework of SELA to encourage the development of the sector in the region, an item which would be the subject of discussion at the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Committee. Finally, he referred to the advisability of continuing to strengthen cooperation with FAO for the benefit of the countries in the region.

Small-Scale Fisheries

39. Several delegations underlined the importance of small-scale fisheries in supplying fish for direct human consumption and considered it necessary that the Committee suggest to FAO that it provide assistance directed towards the improvement of this sector, in harmony with the respective policies of Member Nations.

Inland fisheries and aquaculture

40. Various delegations referred to the importance that should continue to be given to the development of inland fisheries as a source of food and an aid to rural development. The Committee was informed of the high priority that FAO was continuing to assign to inland fishery and aquaculture programmes, which it considered to be complementary to and not in competition with those for marine fisheries.

Water Pollution

41. The Committee noted the problems caused by pollution of the sea and of inland waters and suggested that countries devote special attention to the formulation and application of internationally agreed prevention and control regulations in order to avoid such damage.

DRAFT RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERY
DEVELOPMENT AND THE IMPACT OF THE NEW OCEAN REGIME IN LATIN AMERICA 1/

The Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America,

Considering:

1. That fishery development in the region forms an integral part of the challenges facing economic and social development in Latin America, to the same extent as its financing requirements, the lack of technical personnel, the shortage of infrastructure, constraints on the development of research, or the lack of appropriate legislation, which, among other things, prevents the sector from being adequately developed for the benefit of the population;
2. That fisheries form an integral part of the general state of dependence and the economic and social problems from which the Latin American economies suffer: shortage of means of production, lack of access to more advanced technologies, and where industrial fisheries are concerned, dependency on imposed fluctuations in foreign markets.
3. That although the new regime of the sea has recognized the inalienable right of the coastal countries to exploit the stocks available within their exclusive economic zones, close collaboration among the countries of the region is necessary in order to achieve better and more rational utilization of the fishery resources, improve fisheries development, acquire more technical expertise and achieve collective self-sufficiency in a sector which is so important as a source of food;
4. That FAO has made an important contribution to fisheries development and is now in a position to play a key role in assisting the coastal countries which are endeavouring to cope with these problems.

Resolves:

1. To support the Programme of the Director-General of FAO, based on Resolution 4/79 of the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference, for assistance in the management and development of fisheries in the exclusive economic zones of developing countries, aimed essentially at strengthening technical assistance projects for the countries of the region on matters such as: evaluation of fisheries resources, fisheries technology, adequate management of fisheries, fisheries economics, and the processing and distribution of fishery products;
2. To request the Director-General to endeavour to obtain additional resources from UNDP, in the third programming cycle (1982-1986), in order to strengthen these important fisheries development activities in the region;

1/ This Draft Resolution was fully endorsed by the Sixteenth Regional Conference for Latin America and appears in its Report as Resolution 5/80

3. To recommend that FAO assist in obtaining the necessary financial resources to strengthen the regional and sub-regional projects, including the multidisciplinary ones, increasing appreciably the participation of Latin American experts;
4. To recommend that Member Nations exert all their influence in the appropriate forums, in support of the Director-General's efforts aimed at promoting fisheries development for the social and economic benefit of the countries of the region;
5. To emphasize the importance accorded by the Sixth Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to cooperation in the field of fisheries among the countries of the Movement and other developing countries and to the opportunities that the use of these resources for their own benefit represents for the countries of the region, as well as the need to be able to count on a considerable contribution from FAO to achieve these objectives;
6. To recommend evaluation and strengthening of the regional and sub-regional Fishery bodies through the implementation of multidisciplinary cooperation projects for fisheries developments in the region; to this end FAO, with the agreement of the countries concerned, will establish the necessary contacts in order to prepare the appropriate projects;
7. To support the proposal adopted by the Ministers of the Caribbean countries at the Fifth Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, held in Jamaica from 4 to 10 June 1980, in order to establish a multinational project for fisheries development among the countries of the sub-region, for which FAO help is requested both in formulating the project and in seeking financial resources for its implementation;
8. To insist on the advisability of establishing the necessary coordination between regional bodies and FAO for the purpose of rationalizing their activities and improving the utilization of resources, above all coordination between FAO on the one hand and SELA and CDCC on the other, in view of their similar objectives and projects in the fishery sector. It is also recommended that FAO increase its support for the projects of these regional bodies.
9. To recommend to FAO and to other international organizations that they accord priority treatment with regard to fisheries to countries like Nicaragua and Grenada which are engaged in the task of national reconstruction and development.
10. To thank the Government of Cuba for its offer of the Instituto Superior de Pesca "Andrés González Linares" as a regional fisheries training centre and to request that FAO make a decisive contribution to achieving better utilization of the national training schools in the fisheries sector, giving the technical assistance and seeking to obtain the financial support required.

AGENDA

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Statement by the Assistant Director-General,
Fisheries Department
4. Substantive discussion: The changing Law of the Sea and its implications for fisheries
management and development in Latin America:
 - (a) Present situation of fisheries in the region;
 - (b) International trade and cooperation in the field of fisheries in the region;
 - (c) Possibilities for expansion of fisheries in the region:
policies required and possible strategies;
 - (d) Technical assistance needs in the field of fisheries in Latin America;
 - (e) FAO's EEZ Programme
5. Adoption of the Report

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LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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Vice President	
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Buenos Aires

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Buenos Aires

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Embajada de Argentina
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Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales
Ministerio de la Pesca
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Academia de Ciencias de Cuba
La Habana

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Embajador
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San Salvador

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Suplente Humberto CARRION
Delegado Alterno ante la FAO en Roma
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Director Nacional de Reforma Agraria del Ministerio de
Desarrollo Agropecuario
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Montevideo

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Department of State
Washington, D.C.

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New York

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La Habana

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