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ORGANIZATION DE L'UNITE  
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Council of Ministers

32nd Ordinary Session

Nairobi, Kenya

23rd February - 2nd March 1979

OM/952 (XXXII)

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

ON THE 10th P.A.O REGIONAL

CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

ARUSHA (TANZANIA) 18-29 SEPTEMBER 1978



REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
OF THE 10th FAO REGIONAL  
CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA  
ARUSHA (TANZANIA) 18-29 SEPTEMBER 1978

At the invitation of the Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the OAU General Secretariat, represented by Ambassador Mouredine DJCUDI, Assistant Secretary-General in-charge of Scientific and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Moise Akló, Chief of the Drought and Natural Disasters Section, Dr. P. ADDO, Director of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (Yaoundé), Dr. A.G. TALL, Assistant Director of the Inter-African Bureau of Animal Research (Nairobi) and M.K.O. Adeneji, Live-stock officer of Animal Research Bureau, Nairobi, took part in the deliberations of the 10th FAO Regional Conference for Africa in Arusha. (United Republic of Tanzania from 18 to 29 September 1978).

Prior to the Conference proper, the technical Committee met from 18 to 22 September 1978 under the Chairmanship of Mr. S.A. Madallali, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, United Republic of Tanzania. The main conclusions of the work of this Committee are attached to this Report as Annexe I. The Conference was declared open on Monday 25th September 1978 by Ndugu Adword M. Sokoine, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The detailed Report on the deliberations of the 10th FAO Regional Conference for Africa are contained in annexe II of this Report.

#### I. SUMMARY OF DEBATES

Apart from Speeches delivered by such high personalities as Prime Minister Sokoine, the Director General of the FAO, the Executive Secretary of the ECA, Assistant Secretary-General of the OAU, and the representative of the World Food Council, most of the interventions dwelt on national experiences on the principal items of the Conference, in particular :

- Agrarian reform and rural development within the context of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development scheduled to be held in Rome in July 1979;
- the situation of natural resources and the environment with regard to food and agriculture;
- technical cooperation among developing countries, with special reference to national and regional institutions;
- regional agricultural cooperation and integration, consideration of achievements and prospects;

- the regional Food plan for Africa, etc...

1. On the first item all the speakers were of the opinion that the question of agrarian reform and rural development constituted the back-bone of agricultural development in the African region. Many delegations emphasised the point that the economic future of the African Continent was closely linked with the transformation of agricultural inputs and outputs in Africa. They emphasised the need for considerable improvement in the living conditions of the rural areas as basis for increased production.

The delegates unanimously spoke in favour of the holding of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development which FAO intends organising in July 1979.

However many delegations hoped to be able <sup>to</sup> exchange views on the various african experiences in the matter before the World Conference.

As regards our activities in the field of agricultural and rural development, the OAU General Secretariat delegation informed the Conference of its intention to actively participate in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. It intimated that it must be possible to submit a programme to the next OAU Council of Ministers to enable it authorise the organisation of a symposium on agrarian reform and rural development in consonance with the desire of African delegations with a view to harmonising their view points before the World Conference. A resolution on agrarian reform and rural development was adopted by the Conference.

On

2./speaking on the second item, many delegations emphasised the anachronistic nature of the African Food situation given Africa's enormous natural resources. Most of the delegates spoke of the current utilisation of natural resources in their countries and thanked the FAO for its efforts in helping African governments to implement projects leading to rational utilization of their natural resources to satisfying food requirements.

Still on this item, our delegation spoke of our activities in the fight against the damage done to the natural resources by Natural Disasters and human activities. Our delegation mentioned in particular the active participation of the OAU in the last United Nations Conference on Desertification held from 29 August to 9 September 1977 in Nairobi, our contribution in the search for funds, especially from BADEA for urgent assistance to countries hit by drought, tropical cyclones and pests.

Our delegation informed the Conference that the OAU, within the context of its new dynamism, was ready to cooperate actively with all the other organizations especially the FAO with a view to formulating a continental natural resources development plan which would reduce the effects of Natural Calamities, such as drought, desertification, tropical cyclones and pestes.

3. On the third item, delegations recognised the important role the FAO had already played and is called upon to play in the promotion of cooperation among African Countries especially in agricultural production, agro-based industries, training and agricultural loans. Emphasis was also laid on cooperation <sup>in</sup> the field of research, agricultural development, development of pastures, plant and animal disease control, the effective use of fertilizers, forest development and timber industries as well as the appropriate technology.

One of the important conclusions on this item was the desire expressed by all the delegations for an early setting up of a regional research centre on the appropriate technology with a view to stimulating cooperation among neighbouring countries with similar conditions, an integrated rural development centre which Tanzania has officially applied to host. Besides, the conference approved the choice of Tanzania for this centre.

4. As regards cooperation between the FAO and the OAU, some delegations suggested that OAU should set up liaison office in the FAO General Secretariat in Rome. But some delegations opposed this suggestion because they did not see the use and also because of the financial implications involved. The 10th FAO Regional Conference was not the appropriate forum for such a suggestion to be made. At the end of the discussion on this item, a resolution was adopted by the Conference (See annex for resolution 2)

5. The 5th item on regional cooperation and integration in agriculture also generated by enriching debates. Many interventions were on regional programmes on the development of river basins, forestry, agro-based industries and live-stock production.

Two main obstacles to this regional integration in agriculture were stressed : The material constraints and human difficulties. Of special emphasis was the wide nature of the agricultural economies of the continent.

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According to most delegations a noticeable change should be in the exchanges mechanism and the present production and consumption structures. The delegates also stressed the too bureaucratic nature of the support offered by the international organizations to the different agricultural development programmes carried out on the continent.

6. The 6th item was the most important one of the conference. All the delegations expressed their satisfaction with the regional food plan prepared by the FAO Secretariat. They equally supported the idea that there was the need for the region to undertake major steps to achieve self-sufficiency in food production from now up to the year 1985. In order to achieve this they recognized the need to harmonize national strategies judiciously balancing the short-term, medium-term and long term priorities to concretely start the execution of this plan, the delegates called on the FAO and international and intergovernmental organizations of the African region to help the governments formulate national plans including the identification and the preparation investment projects in the food production sector. To this end, the FAO was invited to expand its technical cooperation programme activities and in cooperation with the ECFA and the OAU establish a statistical data service on the agricultural produce of Africa. A resolution was equally adopted in this direction. Three other resolutions were adopted bearing respectively on :

- The prevention of food losses;
- the fight against African animal trypanosomiasis;
- the drought problems in Africa and their implications on self-sufficiency in food.

The conference finished its work in the afternoon of Thursday 28 September and unanimously decided that the Republic of Togo should host the 11th FAO Regional Conference for Africa in 1980.

## II. MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF INTEREST TO THE OAU

Many delegations took the floor on the attempt of the different speeches made by the FAO Secretariat on the various items of the agenda to emphasize the need for fruitful cooperation between all the international and intergovernmental organizations of the region with a view to achieving the objectives set out in the regional food plan and the national development of the natural resources.

As regards cooperation between the FAO and the OAU the Conference thought that cooperation links should be improved upon within the context of a larger efficiency especially :

- a) The OAU should do all to dynamise in collaboration with the FAO within the context of a joint commission FAO/OAU/WHO for food and nutrition in Africa;
- b) the OAU is called upon to continue to assure coordination of activities within the framework of the interafrican programme for the fight against African Animal Trypanosomiasis and should enjoy the assistance and the larger collaboration of the FAO and WHO;
- c) in collaboration with the FAO and the WCA the OAU is called upon to work for the establishment of a regional agricultural data service and other information on food produce with a view to favourising interafrican exchanges.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
THIRTY-SECOND ORDINARY SESSION  
NAIROBI, KENYA  
FEBRUARY 23 - 2 MARCH 1979

CM/952(XXXII)

Annex I

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY

THE CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION ON THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME (TCP)

The Conference,

Recalling the decision taken by the FAO Council in its Sixty-ninth session and confirmed by the FAO Conference in its Nineteenth session on the establishment of a Technical Co-operation Programme entirely financed by the FAO ordinary budget;

Noting with satisfaction the substantial advantages that most of the Governments in the Region have already derived from the programme;

Considering that in future it will be necessary to offer important supplementary technical assistance to the Governments to help them achieve their objectives in food production and strengthen their co-operation in such important areas as rural development, training, research and the application of intermediary technology;

Taking into account the mandate of the TCP, namely to offer assistance to technical training activities, pre-investment studies, emergency operations and to other small scale activities needing prompt attention;

Calls urgently on Governments to undertake all necessary steps to strengthen this programme in the future FAO Work Programmes and Budget to enable the Director General to duly satisfy the most urgent needs of Member States with a view to developing their agriculture, forests and fishing.



RESOLUTION ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENTThe Conference

Recalling Resolution 13/77 of the Nineteenth F.A.O. Conference convening a World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) in Rome in July 1979;

Concerned over the continued deterioration of the physical and human environment in the Country-side and the rapid increase in rural exodus;

Conscious of the fact that the majority of the populations of the Region live in the rural areas; and that to a large extent is prone to poverty, malnutrition, unemployment or under-employment; that it cannot have access to means and utilise them fully, neither to technical know-how allowing for an increase productivity; and that it does not take part in the decision making process;

Realizing that land tenure systems and traditional rural institutions are subjected to increasing economic and social pressures;

Conscious of the existence of land tenure systems and production structures in the African Region which could be restructured to facilitate rural development and which calls for concerted action on the part of African governments;

Recognizing that the rural populations of Africa are more an advantage than a handicap to their own development;

Expressing satisfaction at the fact that the governments of the Region have supported organization of the World Conference on this all important issue, that they take part in its preparation and that many of them have submitted reports on their rural zones experiences; and satisfied with the F.A.O.'s consideration of the agrarian reform and rural development programmes;

Considering that the aim of the World Conference should be the definite elimination of rural poverty, the increase of production in the country side, the effective promotion of the participation of the populations, especially women as well as the promotion of gainful employment in the agricultural and the non-agricultural sectors and of effective demand;

Urgently calls on governments of the Region to remedy the present situation and to implement individually or collectively, conditions for improving economic and social well-being and on the quality of life of the rural populations, by giving support assistance to the said populations which would enable them to overcome the obstacles to development;

Recommends to the governments to step agricultural production within the framework of rural and national development, to increase the flow of financial resources for rural development, to widen employment openings, to raise the levels of productivity and to assure an equitable distribution of the resources and the revenues;

Recognizes that it is essential for each sovereign state to improve upon its agrarian structure and its institutional manpower by consequently modifying the land tenure systems and organizing production;

Reaffirmed that to ensure a genuine rural development, it is essential to take steps and corrective measures aimed at improving the World Trade terms for the agricultural sector, guaranteeing access to the markets of the developed countries, and reducing effects of price fluctuations on the export of agricultural produce items and improving them as well as establishing generally a fairer and more equitable international economic relations system;

Invites the institutions of the United Nations to undertake a joint and coordinated action to channel the financial and technical resources towards rural development programme for the poorer sectors of the population;

Urgently calls on Governments of Member countries to take the necessary steps to establish a rural development regional centre in Africa whose main aims would be to analyse and assess rural development programmes, to formulate policies and for research and training means in this field;

Urges the FAO Director General, in collaboration with the OAU and the E.C.A. to offer all possible assistance to the Member countries for the establishment of such a centre and the mobilization of necessary financial resources to this purpose.

Expresses satisfaction with the measures taken by the FAO Director General for the preparation of the World Conference and urgently calls on Governments to participate actively in the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee and the World Conference itself;

Further expresses satisfaction with the efforts undertaken by the Director General to seek the full cooperation of the United Nations, its subsidiary agencies and its main specialised institutions in the organization of the World Conference and the formulation of a concerted action of the United Nations system to speed up rural development.

RESOLUTION ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION  
BETWEEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Recognizing the need to strength and urgently expand technical cooperation among African developing countries on the bases of their common interests and the complementarity of their resources;

Taking into account Resolutions 2974 (XVII), 3251 (XXIX), 3461 (XXX) 31/179 of 21 December 1976 and 3362 (S.VII), the Kuwait Declaration on TCDC, and Resolution 9/77 adopted in November 1977 by the FAO Conference;

Considering that food and agriculture, including forestry and fishing are of vital importance to the economy of African countries and that the exchange of know-how and experiences can greatly contribute to the development of these sectors in the direction of a collective self reliance;

Noting the action already undertaken by <sup>a</sup>number of African countries and the FAO in favour of technical cooperation among developing countries in the Region;

Noting also that numerous African countries have already offered teaching and others facilities available of their best training centres and have demonstrated their desire to benefit, in many important fields, from the assistance of other African States;

Realizing however that in order to further intensify the TCDC it will be necessary to mobilize the huge supplementary resources so as to strenghten the various institutions of the region and thus increase their capacity :

Approved the areas retained in document ARC/78/3 and areas of the TCDC in Africa which should be strengthened in food and agricultural sectors including forestry and fishing;

Invites the Governments of the Region to take all necessary measures to intensify their internal cooperation at national, sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels in the areas where they already cooperate, and to extend this cooperation to cover new sectors; especially :

- a) Establishment on the national level for the TCDC of research centres and points;
- b) Organization of meetings, seminars, debates, studies or intergovernmental training programmes aimed at promoting the TCDC;
- c) identification of national institutions and evaluation of their competence in the field of research, training and information;
- d) exchange of results obtained and experience acquired in the field of research and technology, setting up of new tools and machinery and exchange of technical staff.

Calls on the Director General :

- a) to take the necessary steps so that the FAO ordinary and extra-budgetary action programmes would concentrate more on TCDC;
- b) to index and evaluate, on request, information <sup>on</sup> the capacity and the material potentials of the regional, sub-regional and national TCDC institutions;
- c) to increase the FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) resources so as to support actions relating to the TCDC as requested by Member Countries;
- d) to assist in obtaining the supplementary financial support from extra-budgetary source, necessary for strengthening the various institutions of the developing countries and, in this way, place them in a better position to help the TCDC.

Invites the Governments of African countries to elaborate and implement appropriate policies and programmes aiming at increasing self-sufficiency in food, ensuring particularly at modernizing the subsistence agricultural sector and small-scale farming; as well as mobilizing the accrued financial resources for the food and agriculture sector;

Recommends that the FAO, in collaboration with the ECA, help the Member countries, on their request and within the limits of its resources, to prepare and formulate plans and programmes with a view to increasing food production;

Appeals to international and regional institutions such as the IBRD/IDA and the ADB/IFAD to assist the existing sub-regional and regional intergovernmental agriculture organizations to pursue their objectives in the field of agricultural development;

Urgently calls on Governments of African countries to avail themselves of the opportunities offered by the various regional and sub-regional organizations in order to improve self-sufficiency in food in Africa and in particular to engage themselves more energetically in strengthening economic and technical co-operation with a view to:

(a) promoting joint enterprises in the fields of research, agricultural inputs production as well as promoting transport and communication networks among countries;

(b) exploiting together the land and water resources and establishing co-operation in the fight against poachers and diseases;

(c) promoting the regional agricultural produce trade, by reducing progressively non tariff and tariff barriers which continue to hinder regional and sub-regional exchanges;

Invites the FAO, in collaboration with the ECA and OAU Member countries, to study the possibility of setting up an information service on the movements of foodstuffs in order to gather and give out information on the prices and the quantities of food products available in the region, in order to facilitate the expansion of inter-regional trade; and to submit the report of the this study to the next FAO Regional Conference for Africa;

Calls the attention of the International Community to the seriousness of the food problem in Africa, and

Urgently invites the institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors to increase substantially their technical and financial assistance, especially their favourable terms aid, for the preparation of programmes and sectoral plans, as well as for the identification, training and the implementation of economically viable investment projects for food production.

RESOLUTION ON THE PREVENTION OF FOOD LOSSES (PFL)

The Conference,

Recognizing that it is of paramount importance to prevent the losses of food produce, especially post-harvest losses if World food requirements is to be satisfied;

Recalling paragraph V.3 of Resolution 3362 (S-VII) of the Seventh Extraordinary Session of the United Nations General Assembly, which states that action aimed at constant reduction of post-harvest food losses in the developing countries should be accorded priority so as to bring these losses down to at least 50 per cent by the year 1985;

Approving the adoption by the Conference in its nineteenth session of Resolution 3/77 setting up the action programme for the prevention of food losses and, by virtue of Article 6.7 of the Financial Regulation, dealing with the establishment of a Special Fund to this end;

Expressing its thanks to all Member countries who, in conformity with paragraph 4 of Resolution 3/77, refrained from calling for the restitution of their normal amount due to them by virtue of Resolution 35/75;

Expressing also its thanks to Member countries who, after asking for the payment of the amount due to them by virtue of Article 6.1(b) of the Financial Regulation, paid them to the Special Fund;

Expressing its gratitude to Governments for the contributions they have made to the Special Fund and congratulating itself warmly on the measures taken to pay supplementary contributions to the said Fund;



Noting with satisfaction the moves initiated by the Director General to keep Member countries informed of the follow-up to Resolution 3/77, to mobilize funds for the Special Fund, to constitute a co-ordination unit, issue directives and relative procedures; the implementation of projects and to undertake missions in many countries of the region;

Recommends vividly to Member countries who, by virtue of Resolution 35/75, have withdrawn their contributions, to pay equivalent contributions without delay to the Special Fund;

Invites the other FAO Member countries and donors to continue to give generously to the Special Fund to bring it to the minimum level of 20 million dollars and then to 10 million per year;

Asks the Director General to continue energetically his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources in the implementation of the Action Programme projects in the countries of the Region.

RESOLUTION ON DROUGHT PROBLEMS IN AFRICA AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS ON  
SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD

The Conference,

Considering the importance that the FAO attaches to the realization of the regional Food Plan for Africa;

Considering the negative effects of the drought befalling on African countries and especially in the Sahel, in Ethiopia and Somalia for a couple of years;

Considering the need for African countries to come together in appropriate groupings with a view to combatting drought;

Considering the political wish several times expressed by African Heads of State to lead their countries to self-sufficiency in food;

Considering the adoption of a strategy and combat programmes against drought by the CILSS Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Sahel Club and the national combat programmes against drought drawn up by Ethiopia and Somalia;

Recommends that

1. The FAO continues to lend its support to sustaining the CILSS Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel Member States, Ethiopia and Somalia's efforts in the elaboration and the execution of their food programmes;

2. The FAO and the other institutions of the United Nations approach countries and donor organisms with a view to implementing the global development strategy adopted by the Heads of State of the Member States of the CILSS in their Summit Conference in Banjul (Gambia) in December 1977 and the national programmes of Ethiopia and Somalia.

Draft Resolution

on

World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Nairobi (Kenya), from 23 February to 2 March 1978.

Having discussed the report of the Administrative Secretary General (Document CM/952 (XXXII)) on the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa held in Arusha (United Republic of Tanzania) from 18 to 29 September 1978;

Recalling Resolution 13/77 of the General Conference of the FAO calling a World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARD) in Rome (Italy) in July 1979;

Recalling the special resolution of the United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted at its Ordinary Session in Geneva and approving the Organization of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development under the auspices of the FAO;

Further recalling the resolution of the Tenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa relating to Agrarian Reform and Rural Development;

Concerned about the ceaseless deterioration of the physical and human environment in rural Africa and by the rapid progression of rural depopulation in African countries;

Being aware that a change in the national rural and agrarian development structures and policies constitutes a corner-stone of agricultural development and of the modifications of production relations in the African region;

Further recalling the African Declaration of 1973 on co-operation, development and economic independence adopted in May 1973 at the Twenty-First Session of the OAU Council of Ministers in Addis Ababa;

Bearing in mind the need for a full success of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development;

Mindful of the necessity of harmonizing the points of view of the African Group for a better and effective participation of the Continent in the said Conference;

1. CONGRATULATES the Administrative Secretary General for having awakened the African Group to this important Conference;
2. AUTHORIZES the Administrative Secretary General to organize a symposium on Rural Development and Agrarian Reform in Africa with a view to proceeding to an exchange of views and experience among Africans and to seeking minimal common points of view which should lead to a full and effective participation of the African Group in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development;
3. AUTHORIZES the Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters to make available the funds needed for the said symposium;
4. APPEALS to all Member States to massively participate in the African symposium and World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development scheduled to take place in Rome (Italy) in July 1979;
5. CALLS upon all international organizations working in Africa to closely co-operate with the OAU General Secretariat for the success of the African symposium on Rural Development and Agrarian Reform.

Evaluation of the cost of the Symposium on  
Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in Africa

Duration : 7 days

Number of experts : Six

Air tickets (Economy class) ... ..	5 703.36
Daily subsistence allowance (per diem) ... ..	1 176.00
Transport ... ..	588.00

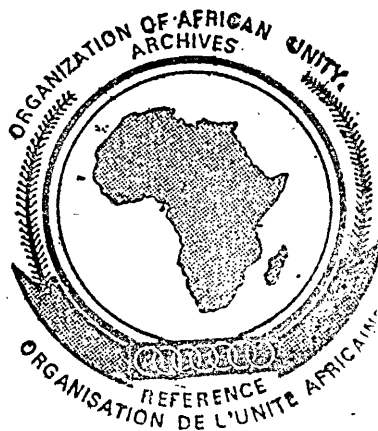
Interpreters : Six

Air tickets : 1 277x6 ... ..	7 662.00
Wages for 7 days : 116x6x7 ... ..	4 872.00
Daily subsistence allowance (per diem) : 28x6x7 ..	1 176.00

Translators : Three

Air tickets : 1277x3 ... ..	3 831.00
Wages for 7 days ... ..	1 650.00
Daily subsistence allowance (per diem): 28x3x7 ...	588.00

Total in US \$ ... ..	<u>27 246.35</u> =====
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