

	FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS	CFS: 76/1 January 1976
	ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE	
	ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION	

Item I(b) of the
Provisional Agenda

COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

First Session

Rome, 5-9 April 1976

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS
 - (a) Election of chairman and vice-chairman
 - (b) Adoption of agenda
 - (c) Membership of the Committee
 - (d) Adoption of rules of procedure
 - (e) Future programme of work of the Committee
- II. FOOD SECURITY SITUATION AND ADEQUACY OF WORLD CEREAL STOCKS
 - (a) General review
 - (b) Identification of problems
- III. STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING
 - (a) Special assistance to developing countries
 - (b) Current status of national cereal stock policies and targets
 - (c) Global Information and Early Warning System
- IV. RECOMMENDATIONS ON SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM POLICY ACTION
- V. OTHER MATTERS
 - (a) Date of second session
 - (b) Any other business
 - (c) Adoption of report

Agenda Notes

The first session of the Committee on World Food Security, which was established as a standing committee of the Council by the Eighteenth Session of the FAO Conference, will open at 10.30 hours on Monday, 5 April 1976 at FAO Headquarters, Rome. Provision has been made for it to continue up to 9 April 1976.

I. Organizational Matters

(a) Election of chairman and vice-chairman

The Committee will elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from among the representatives of members attending the session. The term of office would be for the current biennium.

(b) Adoption of agenda

The provisional agenda for this first session, which has been prepared by the secretariat, includes a number of essential organizational matters as well as an order of business based on the Committee's terms of reference.

(c) Membership of the Committee

The Committee is open to all Member Nations of the Organization and all States Members of the United Nations. It will be composed of those states which notify the Director-General in writing of their desire to become members of the Committee and of their intention to participate in its work. Membership will be for a biennium. The secretariat will circulate a list of the current members of the Committee, based on notifications made during the Eighteenth Session of the FAO Conference and subsequently in reply to the letter of invitation.

(d) Adoption of rules of procedure

The Committee will adopt rules of procedure. Draft rules, similar to those adopted by other Committees of the Council with appropriate modifications, will be prepared and circulated by the secretariat.

(e) Future programme of work of the Committee

The new Committee will wish to examine how to organize its future work efficiently so as to fulfill its functions. These are: (1) to keep the world food security situation under continuous surveillance; (2) to evaluate periodically the adequacy of world cereal stocks to ensure food security; (3) generally to oversee the implementation of the Undertaking; and (4) to recommend prompt policy actions to resolve difficulties which arise. While reporting to the FAO Council, the Committee is expected to submit periodic and special reports to the World Food Council. The secretariat will circulate a note suggesting a programme of work to fulfill these functions, for the Committee's consideration. The order of business, set out below in the provisional agenda, has been drawn up on this basis.

II. Food Security Situation and Adequacy of World Cereal Stocks

(a) General review

Delegates are invited to express views on the general food security situation, as well as on the adequacy of current and prospective cereal stock levels, in aggregate in exporting and importing countries. The specific aim is to identify problems foreseen in

ensuring there is a regular flow of supplies to meet food requirements in domestic and world markets (including food aid requirements) in time of short crops and serious crop failure. In this connection, the Committee will be able to examine the situation as regards the cereals import requirements of the 42 MSA (Most Seriously Affected Developing) countries, which the World Food Council and FAO Conference recommended should be kept under review. These amount in 1975/76 to about 18.6 million tons, and delegates of countries concerned are invited to submit up-to-date figures to the session. As a basis for the Committee's evaluation, the secretariat will circulate a short note summarising the situation, including the findings of the Intergovernmental Group on Grains on the world stock position. The rice stock position will be reviewed by the Intergovernmental Group on Rice, which will meet immediately prior to the Committee's session, and its conclusions will also be reported to the session.

(b) Identification of problems

The secretariat's document on this subject will attempt to identify specific elements of insecurity in the short and medium-term.

III. Steps Taken to Implement the International Undertaking

The terms of reference of the Committee require it "to review the steps taken by governments to implement the International Undertaking on World Food Security". The Committee's future arrangements for handling this major item will be considered under the earlier item I(e), as noted above. To facilitate the Committee's task, it is suggested that separate attention be given to each of the three main components of the Undertaking: (a) measures to provide special assistance to the production and stock programmes of developing countries; (b) measures to adopt national stock and reserve policies; and (c) action to establish a food information system.

(a) Special assistance to developing countries

It is expected that the Committee will wish to make periodic reviews of the special assistance being provided to developing countries in accord with section IV of the Undertaking. Delegates are accordingly invited to exchange information on this question and, in particular, on the special assistance being provided to, or required by, developing countries to promote food security. The Committee can discuss, under this item, the implications for assistance programmes of any problems identified under its review of the food security situation, including the import requirements of MSA countries. In the light of this, the Committee may examine what action to recommend.

The Committee may also take note of the activities being developed through the FAO food security assistance programme which advises developing countries on their national food security policies and helps to mobilize the external aid required. FAO missions visited nine developing countries under this scheme in 1974/75 (Bangladesh, Botswana, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines and Thailand). A further four missions (Haiti, Indonesia, Tanzania and Tunisia) are planned for 1976. The FAO Conference invited all potential donor countries to cooperate in this scheme and to date 10 countries have agreed to do so (Austria, Canada, Denmark, Germany F.R., Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom, United States of America) plus the EEC. The secretariat will submit a short background note which may assist the Committee to give an appropriate orientation to the special aid being provided in accordance with the Undertaking, including the activities of the FAO food security assistance scheme.

(b) Current status of national cereal stock policies and targets

In order that the Committee can inform itself of the present status of national cereal stock policies, delegates are invited to make country statements of the action being taken by their governments to review, formulate or establish national food stock and reserve policies in accordance with the provisions and guidelines in sections I, II and III of the Undertaking. The secretariat is assembling information on this matter, and will circulate a short analysis of the current status of national stock policies for cereals.

(c) Global information and early warning system

To date, 60 countries have joined the Global System which was set up in March 1975, and the secretariat is consulting governments on the detailed working arrangements required to put it into full effect. The secretariat will report on the present position to the Committee. As the consultations will not be completed by April, it is suggested that at its first session the Committee might take note of the steps being taken and defer a full-scale evaluation of the new System until its meeting in 1977.

IV. Recommendations on Short-Term and Long-Term Policy Action

In the light of the foregoing discussions, the Committee is empowered to "recommend such short-term and long-term policy action as considered necessary to remedy any difficulty foreseen in assuring adequate cereal supplies for minimum world food security". A secretariat document will make a number of suggestions, as a basis for discussion.

V. Other Matters

(a) Date of second session

The Committee will meet twice in a biennium and, according to its terms of reference, may hold additional sessions if required. If the Committee considers it warranted by uncertainties in the food security situation, it may hold an additional session later in 1976 to reassess the position (e.g. in October 1976).

(b) Any other business

The Committee may wish to review the progress achieved to date in negotiations towards an international grains arrangement and, in particular, on provisions for reserve stocks to assure world food security.

(c) Adoption of report

The Committee will prepare a report to the FAO Council. It may wish to consider whether it should also submit a special report to the second session of the World Food Council.

Proposed Timetable

(morning: 9.30-12.30 hours; afternoon: 14.30-17.30 hours)

Monday 5 April	morning	Opening Statement I. Organizational Matters (a) Election of chairman and vice-chairman (b) Adoption of agenda (c) Membership of the Committee (d) Adoption of rules of procedure
	afternoon	I(e) Future programme of work of the Committee
Tuesday 6 April	morning	II. Food security situation and adequacy of world cereal stocks (a) General review (b) Identification of problems
	afternoon	III. Steps taken to implement the International Undertaking (a) Special assistance to developing countries (b) Current status of national cereal stock policies and targets
Wednesday 7 April	morning	III(c) Global information and early warning system IV. Recommendations on short-term and long-term policy action
	afternoon	V. Other matters (a) Date of second session (b) Any other business
Thursday 8 April	morning	No plenary meeting Reserved for Drafting Committee
	afternoon	No session (translation and printing of report)
Friday 9 April	morning	V(c) Adoption of Report