



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

# COUNCIL

Hundred and Twelfth Session

Rome, 2-7 June 1997

REPORT OF THE 23RD SESSION OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY  
(Rome, 14-18 April 1997)

## CONTENTS

### MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION BY THE COUNCIL

Page iii

	Paragraphs
<b>I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS</b>	1 - 6
<b>II. WORLD FOOD SECURITY SITUATION</b>	
(a) Nutrition	7 - 9
(b) Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS)	10 - 20
(c) Presentation of the Current World Food Security Situation	21 - 27
<b>III. FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT</b>	
(a) World Food Summit: Preparation Process and Outcome	28 - 30
(b) Proposals for Amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization	31 - 34
(c) Institutional Arrangements for Monitoring and Reporting on Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action	35 - 45
(d) Workplan for Developing Targets and Indicators of National and Global Food Security and Establishing a Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System	46 - 48
<b>IV. OTHER MATTERS</b>	49 - 50

- 
- APPENDIX A - AGENDA
  - APPENDIX B - COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED AT THE SESSION
  - APPENDIX C - LIST OF DOCUMENTS
  - APPENDIX D - OPENING STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL DELIBERED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
  - APPENDIX E - WORLD FOOD SUMMIT: PREPARATION PROCESS AND OUTCOME
  - APPENDIX F - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL RULES OF THE ORGANIZATION (GRO)

**MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION BY THE COUNCIL**

**THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT IN  
ITS ENTIRETY IS SUBMITTED  
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE  
COUNCIL.**



## I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. The Committee on World Food Security held its Twenty-third Session from 14-18 April 1997 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The session was attended by delegates from 109 Members of the Committee, by observers from one other Member Nation of FAO, the Holy See, and one other Member Nation of the United Nations; the Sovereign Order of Malta, by representatives from 9 United Nations agencies and Programmes; and by observers from 31 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations. The full list of participants is available from the CFS Secretariat (Ext.53069). The countries and organizations represented at the session are shown in Appendix B.

2. The Session was opened by H.E. Pedro Medrano Rojas (Chile), Chairman of the Committee. He was assisted by a Bureau comprised of Mr. David Sands Smith (U.K.), Mr. Andrew Pearson (Australia), H.E. M. Balla Sy (Senegal) and Mr. S. Rashid (Pakistan). The Committee expressed its gratitude to the Bureau for its hard work, and in particular to the Chairman for his excellent leadership; it also gave special thanks to Mr. D. Sands Smith and Mr. S. Rashid, who were leaving the Bureau during the next months.

3. The Chairman in his opening address pointed out that the Committee had been given the honour and responsibility to prepare the main documents of the World Food Summit, which it fulfilled faithfully. He expressed the hope that the Committee would focus in this Session on defining the methods to carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the Summit.

4. The Committee adopted its Agenda which is reproduced in Appendix A. The list of documents considered by the Committee is given in Appendix C.

5. Mr. H.W. Hjort, Deputy Director-General, delivered on behalf of the Director-General the opening statement which is reproduced in Appendix D. The Director-General's Statement pointed out the important role played by the Committee in the preparations for the Summit and in making the Summit a success, and thanked the Chairman of the Committee H.E. Pedro Medrano Rojas for his dedication and diligence in guiding the work of the Committee. He expressed full confidence that the Committee would perform its task of monitoring implementation of the Plan of Action with a comparable high standard of effort.

6. The Committee appointed a drafting committee composed of the delegations of Australia, Bangladesh, Chile, Egypt, Japan, Republic of Korea, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Romania, South Africa, United States of America, under the chairmanship of Mr. I. Marincek (Switzerland).

## II. WORLD FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

### (a) Nutrition

7. The Committee discussed this item on the basis of document CFS:97/2. The Committee recognized the contribution which street foods made towards food security by providing access to food, both physically and economically, in urban and small town environments as well in rural areas. Recognizing that street foods were a prominent feature in most cities and countries where they also performed a valuable socio-economic function including employment creation and income generation, the Committee supported the view that the best option for dealing with them was to ensure that the activity operated within proper regulations and in accordance with the goals of improved nutrition and food security. The Committee noted that concerns remained about the quality and safety of street foods in certain situations, but stressed that regulation of the sector should promote rather than overly restrict its ability to contribute to the food security of ever-

increasing populations. The Committee stressed the need to take into account the work of other institutions in this field, and called for continued effective cooperation with relevant international agencies such as WHO, ILO and UNICEF, and with relevant NGOs and other institutions.

8. The Committee generally agreed with the Conclusions and Recommendations contained in paragraphs 44 to 47 of the paper. It stressed the need to assure the contribution of street foods to food security, nutrition and overall development. Attention was also drawn to the need for nutrition education to encourage proper dietary habits by all people. The Committee recommended direct action in the sector itself and the strengthening of national and municipal capabilities to improve the quality and safety of street foods. It noted that improvements in production, marketing and distribution systems could help assure the availability, quality and safety of street foods. Activities aiming at such improvements should be undertaken with the participation of representatives of the sector as well as of consumers and NGOs and should rely on co-operative activities, training and extension. The respective roles of all interested parties needed to be defined.

9. The Committee called on the Secretariat for further assessment and analysis to assist in proper planning and implementation of activities for better nutritional quality and safety of street foods. The Committee supported the work of FAO in providing technical assistance, training and education for street food operators and local governments. A number of delegates encouraged FAO to provide assistance to national governments in formulating regulations which could also be appropriate to local situations.

#### **(b) Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS)**

10. The Committee reconfirmed its support for the objectives of the SPFS. It expressed appreciation for the information provided in the document CFS: 97/3, supplemented by the introductory statement of the Secretariat, in updating the Committee on the progress achieved to date in the implementation of the SPFS.

11. Many delegates welcomed the reference made in the document CFS:97/3 to the important role that SPFS will play in achieving food security objectives as set out in the World Food Summit Plan of Action and in providing a focus for some FAO field activities. Some delegates indicated that while SPFS could become important in dealing with essential elements of food security, they felt that it was not the basis for the Organization spearheading its response to the WFS Plan of Action. The Committee believed that the SPFS could not provide an umbrella for co-ordinating all FAO field activities, but recognized that countries which have SPFS can use it to coordinate FAO field activities in their countries.

12. A number of delegates from participant countries reported on their positive experience and the results achieved as a consequence of the implementation of the Pilot Phase activities in their countries, particularly indicating their conviction that the SPFS approach will help them in achieving greater national food security. They expressed their commitment to actively pursue the implementation of the Programme. They expressed their satisfaction on the participatory approach followed in the programme and the fact that the programme is nationally owned and is in full accord with their national strategies.

13. The Committee welcomed the phased approach followed by the Programme which, during the Pilot Phase, focuses on small-scale water control, intensification of plant production systems, diversification of agriculture and identification, analysis and resolution of constraints impeding increased food production and productivity. It added that the Pilot Phase should provide concrete results for use in the food security, agricultural sector policy, and agricultural sector investment programmes envisaged to be dealt with during the Expansion Phase. Many delegates requested a rapid expansion of the SPFS coverage to include all Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs).

They also urged the donor countries, the multilateral institutions and the international and regional financial institutions and banks to enhance their financial support to the SPFS. Many requested that the expansion of the programme be handled in a balanced manner, enabling all regions to equally benefit from it, and that attention be paid to small island developing states.

14. Many delegates considered the Programme too oriented toward production technology. They wished to see more emphasis on areas such as access, policy issues, and sustainability, and encouraged additional attention to net returns to the producers, socio-economic issues, gender issues, people's participation, farmers' adoption rate of technologies and identification of constraints. The Committee called for evaluation of the SPFS in the participating countries, before going into the Expansion Phase, and the establishment of an adequate monitoring and evaluation system at the country level.

15. Many delegates when considering the relationship between the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), emphasised that the funding for these two programmes needed to be strengthened and should remain separate, and that the TCP resources should continue to be used according to existing criteria.

16. Some delegates referred to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget document (SPWB) where reference is made to substantial contributions to SPFS by various Regular Programme activities of the Organization, and requested early reports which quantify such contributions, and the funds attracted from national and extra-budgetary resources.

17. The Committee welcomed the Director-General's initiative on South-South Cooperation launched within the framework of the SPFS. Some delegates requested that further details on South-South cooperation be made available in future reports. Attention was drawn to limitations of national capacities required for the implementation of the Expansion Phase, thus the need for training and capacity building. Some delegates also suggested the greater use of TCDC.

18. A number of delegates expressed their appreciation for the Director-General's efforts in mobilising the necessary funding for the SPFS. They welcomed the signing of agreements between FAO and the World Bank and the African Development Bank, to further expand the collaboration activities between FAO and the above-mentioned financial institutions to promote rural development and food security in Africa, particularly through the SPFS, although some delegates requested more information on the above-mentioned cooperation and its implications for the SPFS. Some delegates informed the Committee of their Government's intentions to fund SPFS activities in a number of countries.

19. The Committee requested the Secretariat to seek greater involvement of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the Programme. It also encouraged further coordination of activities with other relevant UN agencies, and requested that future reports provide information on these matters.

20. The Committee requested regular updates on progress in implementing the Programme. It was suggested that the status of implementation of the SPFS should be discussed at the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) meeting, while CFS discussions should relate to the impact of the Programme on food security, as well as progress achieved in resource mobilisation.

(c) **Presentation of the Current World Food Security Situation**

21. This item was discussed with the help of Secretariat documents CFS:97/4, CFS:97/4/Sup.1, CFS:97/4 Supp. 1, and CFS 97/Inf. 9. There was general appreciation for the Secretariat's assessment and the visual presentation of its content. Several delegates provided alternatives to the document's projections and interpretative analysis.
22. The Committee welcomed the general improvement in the global supply of most food commodities, which was reflected in favourable changes of world food security indicators traditionally used by the Committee. In particular, production of food staples had recovered in 1996 and a further modest rise of cereals was foreseen for 1997 provided weather conditions remained favourable. In this context, the positive production response to increased prices in the previous year was noted. It was anticipated that stocks should rise in 1996/97. Moreover, lower cereal prices could lead to reduced cereal import bills in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs).
23. The Committee, however, expressed concern at adverse features of the world food security situation, both structural and temporary. These related to the estimated 800 million people suffering from chronic malnutrition; the rising number of LIFDCs suffering from food emergencies; high food import bills of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (NFIDCs) and LIFDCs, despite the decline in 1996/97. Many delegates also expressed concern at the relatively low cereal stock levels, as well as the fall in food aid over the past five years, although it had leveled off in 1996/97. The Committee noted that the analysis of the factors determining the future stability of international grain markets, including those related to levels, composition and ownership of cereal stocks, was being undertaken by the Inter-Governmental Group (IGG) on Grains.
24. Regarding volumes of food aid, while its level had declined by half between 1992/93 and 1995/96, the contraction seemed to have ceased in 1996/97. Some delegates suggested that this lower level of food aid could be due to more effective modalities of food aid, including local purchases; and greater use of higher cost food aid products for emergencies, which reduced the volume of food aid from fixed budgets. They noted that international shipments of food aid in kind should generally be reserved for emergency situations. Some others also pointed to greater purchasing power in some LIFDCs and greater reliance on commercial imports, in some cases supported by balance of payments assistance, but others disagreed with this interpretation. It should be taken into account that food aid for development is also important.
25. The Committee agreed on the need for developing countries, particularly the LIFDCs, the LDCs, and NFIDCs, to raise their food production and productivity in a sustainable way. The role of non-cereal food staples and diversification of production was emphasized. It was pointed out that increases in world market prices did not always benefit the producers. In this connection the importance of improving the transmission of world price signals to producers was stressed. It was noted that the IGG on Grains was studying reasons for possible imperfect price transmission and corresponding responses by producers. It was also suggested that similar studies be carried out for other commodities. Increased resources and technical assistance would also contribute to boosting food production in a sustainable way. To achieve this, many delegates suggested that international cooperation should be strengthened, both among developing countries and in the form of assistance on the part of the developed countries.
26. The Committee noted that the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Singapore in December 1996 had made recommendations concerning the Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries, and recalled the related Commitment Four of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. The Committee welcomed the initiation of action in 1997 to develop



recommendations towards establishing a level of food aid commitments sufficient to meet the legitimate needs of the LDCs and NFIDCs during the reform programme.

27. Several delegates noted that the assessment provided in the main document (CFS:97/4) focused on global food supply rather than the overall food security situation. The Committee agreed that in future the document should contain an assessment of all factors affecting food security, including food supply, access to and demand for food, international, national and household food security; likewise the implications for food security of the market situation and outlook as assessed by other FAO bodies. The need to broaden the commodity coverage, including oils and fats, meat and dairy products was also stressed. The document should also have new indicators on the follow-up to the World Food Summit, including information on under- and malnutrition, food insecurity and vulnerability.

### **III. FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT**

#### **(a) World Food Summit: Preparation Process and Outcome**

28. The Committee recalled that Conference Resolution 2/95 requested it to report through the Council to the Twenty-ninth Session of the Conference in 1997 on all aspects of the World Food Summit and its follow-up. It decided accordingly to request the Council to onforward to the Conference the outcome of its deliberations on Follow-up to the World Food Summit as recorded in its report.

29. With regard to the preparation process and outcome of the Summit, the Committee was satisfied that the information provided by the Secretariat, contained in paras 1-13 of Section I of CFS: 97/5, would serve the purpose of its report to Council and Conference. Accordingly it decided to transmit this information, though with an abbreviation to para. 12 of CFS:97/5, as an attachment to its report (Appendix E).

30. Some delegates would have preferred more information on the costs of the Summit set out in CFS:97/Inf.10. The Committee noted that members requiring additional information could seek it through the Finance Committee.

#### **(b) Proposals for Amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization**

31. The Committee reviewed the proposed amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) and to its own Rules of Procedure<sup>1</sup>.

32. The Committee reached agreement on the text of the draft amendments to Rule XXXIII (GRO) as contained in Appendix F of this report, subject to the following reservation: One delegate expressed a procedural reservation on the text, pending developments in the UN reform process in the economic and social sector.

33. The Committee recommended that the Council, at its next session, consider the proposed amendments to Rule XXXIII (GRO), together with the views of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) on the legal and constitutional aspects thereof. The proposed

---

<sup>1</sup> CFS:97/5 (Paragraphs 14 and 15); CFS:97/5 Sup.1; CFS:97/5 Sup.1, ADD.1; CFS:97/5 Sup.1, ADD.1, Corr. 1 (only English version); CFS:97/5 Sup.1, ADD.2.

amendments to Rule XXXIII (GRO) will then be referred to the Conference at its Twenty-ninth Session in November 1997 for consideration and adoption.

34. The Committee noted that the amendment of the Rules of Procedure lay within the authority of the Committee itself. It undertook a first reading of the proposed amendments. It decided to postpone their adoption until its next session in 1998, in order to take into account the amendments to Rule XXXIII (GRO) once adopted by the Conference.

**(c) Institutional Arrangements for Monitoring  
and Reporting on Implementation of the  
World Food Summit Plan of Action**

35. The Committee considered Item III(c) of its Agenda, Institutional Arrangements for Monitoring and Reporting on Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, as contained in document CFS:97/5. The Committee recalled that the World Food Summit had entrusted to it the critical role of monitoring the implementation of the Plan of Action and progress in reaching the minimum target of reducing the number of undernourished people to half their present level no later than 2015. It noted that an important task at this Session was to ensure that effective arrangements are made to enable it to fulfill that critical role.

36. The Committee reiterated that the primary responsibility in taking actions to implement the Plan rests with individual governments. A number of delegates reported the steps taken by their governments to develop national action plans to follow-up on the Summit commitments. The Deputy Director-General of FAO also commented that many countries had welcomed the initiative taken by the Director-General of FAO in preparing country papers on food security and agricultural strategies towards 2010. However, in this connection, some delegates stated that country briefs on food security and agricultural strategies should be developed in the context of a country-driven implementation process under ownership of the respective Governments; they emphasized that FAO assistance in the formulation of such strategies should be provided only upon request. They also raised concerns with respect to the process and resources being utilized in the development of these briefs.

37. The Committee also underlined the importance of concerted action at sub-regional, regional and international levels to support national efforts for the earliest possible achievement of sustainable world food security. In this connection, the Committee appreciated the statements presented by the World Bank, International Food Policy Research Institute, International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the World Food Programme in the context of the follow-up to the World Food Summit, on their intentions with respect to food-security related actions in the areas of rural development, policy analysis, poverty alleviation and food assistance. The relevance of the Bank's new strategy for rural development, "Rural Development: From Vision to Action" to the Summit objectives, and the new spirit of partnership between FAO and the Bank were particularly welcomed.

38. The Committee recalled that arrangements for monitoring and reporting on implementation of the Summit's Plan of Action should be based on three streams of reports - reports from national governments, reports on UN agency follow-up and inter-agency coordination, and reports from other relevant international institutions. It further agreed that in addition to arranging for the regular flow of reports from these three sources to the CFS, arrangements also had to be made for monitoring implementation at the subregional and regional levels. It noted with appreciation that the FAO Regional Conferences would have a standing item on follow-up to the Summit. It was stressed that all reports prepared by FAO for the CFS in connection with monitoring of World Food Summit follow-up should be made widely available, including through Internet. It encouraged members and observers to also make their reports available.

39. The Committee felt that the draft reporting format should reflect the structure of the World Food Summit Plan of Action in its entirety, covering the seven commitments. A number of delegates pointed out that the aim should be to provide baseline information on actions being taken to implement each of the seven commitments. A number of delegates pointed out that the focus of national reports should be on quality rather than on quantity and that there should be a right balance in qualitative and quantitative reporting. It was emphasized that the information to be provided should include some analysis on how national policies and actions are geared towards, and effective in, achieving the food security objective of reducing the number of undernourished. The Committee recommended that the reporting form should be simple and straightforward, should build upon existing information flows without duplication, and should allow a certain degree of flexibility to reflect specific country food security situations and circumstances.

40. The Committee agreed on a provisional reporting procedure to be used in 1997, based on the following proposal presented to it by the Bureau:

- the three reporting streams as mentioned in Para. 17 of Doc. CFS:97/5 will report on actions taken towards achieving the specific objectives under each of the Seven Commitments;
- the reporting should follow the structure of the Commitments and Objectives of the Plan of Action. Such reporting should cover actions, the actors and, where available, results, including quantitative assessments, under each of the Objectives. Where appropriate, this could also be done against individual Actions of the Plan of Action;
- the streams of reports should reach the Secretariat by the end of January 1998. They should cover the period up to end 1997;

At its 1998 Session, the CFS will consider a standard reporting format for successive periods. An open-ended working group of the CFS will be held immediately before the 1998 Session to examine proposals for this purpose, taking into account the experience of this first reporting cycle as well as progress with FIVIMS. The Secretariat will also provide information on experiences with reporting mechanisms and formats in follow-up to other conferences and conventions. The Bureau would work closely with the Secretariat in taking these arrangements forward.

41. As regards the timetable for submission of reports from 1998 and beyond from each reporting stream, some delegates felt the deadline should be extended to February or March. Some other delegates, stressing on the one hand the cost and effort required, and on the other, the time required for policies to have impact and for observing statistical trends, suggested that national reports should be submitted every two years. The Committee decided to consider these suggestions at its next session.

42. The Committee considered that in the organization of its future work beyond the 1998 Session, the proposal to cover three main items under the general subject of the follow-up to the World Food Summit, namely, "Assessment of the World Food Security Situation", "Report on Progress in Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action", and "Thematic Issues", represented a useful starting point. However, it agreed that it would be premature to decide this issue until more experience had been gained with the various procedures to be developed and used on a trial basis during 1997. With regard to the coverage of thematic issues, it was proposed that a planning be done at the next session on themes linked to Summit implementation which might be considered by the Committee in future sessions. Some delegates noted that the issue of providing reports to ECOSOSC would need to be covered in the CFS agenda.

43. The Committee was informed of the outcome of the examination by ACC of the follow-up to the Summit. It was also informed that ACC had endorsed the arrangements proposed by FAO and

IFAD, comprising thematic groups at country level within the framework of the Resident Coordinator system and an informal Headquarters and field-based network on rural development and food security, whereby flexible and cost-effective inter-agency information sharing and coordination would take place. The Committee requested that the relevant section of the report of the ACC's first regular session of 1997 be made available to the Council. ACC endorsement of this arrangement provided the basis for the two organizations to open consultations with other UN partners on detailed arrangements for establishing the mechanism and elaborating an initial workplan. Among the first tasks to be tackled would be arrangements for allocation and sharing of responsibilities for support to the implementation of the Plan of Action, taking into account also the follow-up processes to other international conferences.

44. The Committee recognized the important role played by civil society organisations in the preparation process of the Summit, and encouraged them to continue to participate in the work of the CFS. Some delegates suggested that such organizations could hold a separate meeting prior to future CFS meetings, in order to facilitate their input in the work of the Committee. Other delegates stressed that the inclusion of civil society in the work programmes of the CFS remained a priority, and practical measures to widen access for NGOs and other actors of civil society should be promoted. They urged that the CFS build on experiences of the World Food Summit and of other UN fora, in order to permit national and international civil society organizations which meet the criteria of relevance and competence to contribute as observers more actively to its deliberations. The need to ensure geographic balance, including through assistance for the participation of civil society organizations from the developing world, was noted, as was the possibility for governments to include such organizations in their national delegations. It requested the Secretariat to take interim measures to broaden NGO participation at the next session of the CFS, at which time the Committee would examine the matter in more detail.

45. A number of delegates referred to CFS:97/Inf.7, which provided information on the implementation of objective 7.4, relating to "... the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of every one to be free from hunger...". They welcomed that a Memorandum of Understanding was being worked out with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Centre on Human Rights, providing for future cooperation in implementing Commitment 7.4, and requested that it be circulated as soon as available, together with the FAO Statement to the UN Commission for Human Rights in March.

**(d) Workplan for Developing Targets and Indicators of  
National and Global Food Security and Establishing a  
Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information  
and Mapping System**

46. The Committee was informed of the outcome of the Technical Consultation on Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System (FIVIMS) convened by FAO in March 1997. The Committee's attention was drawn, in particular, to the recommended workplan for developing and establishing FIVIMS at national and international levels as contained in document CFS:97/INF.8. The Committee supported the process of establishing FIVIMS as a tool for the monitoring of chronic and transitory food insecurity in the follow-up to the Summit. It welcomed FAO's early initiative to convene the Consultation and noted with satisfaction the expression of support and collaboration in this effort by all participating agencies.

47. The Committee discussed the workplan proposed by the Secretariat to develop and establish FIVIMS at national and international levels. It welcomed the readiness of major UN agencies to contribute actively to the development of FIVIMS and the proposed constitution of an inter-agency mechanism to provide oversight of the process. It indicated the need to include in such a mechanism representatives of organizations and institutions actively involved in this type of work. It stressed the need for the process to be country-driven and for governments and their respective societies and

stakeholders to be intimately involved in the development of FIVIMS. It agreed that FIVIMS should include indicators (i) that are simple and reliable, (ii) that are already available, and (iii) which are of a social and anthropometric nature, and (iv) which are at different levels, down to and including the household level. It further recognised the need to give added emphasis to access to food in the selection of these indicators. The Committee emphasized that in refining FIVIMS, the additional cost should be weighed against the added benefits.

48. The Committee generally approved the workplan contained in document CFS:97/INF.8 and the proposed gradual, step-by-step process to develop FIVIMS. It recommended the strengthening of references in the workplan to the full involvement of national governments in the development of FIVIMS guidelines, the early appointment and activation of country focal points and the inclusion, under "the medium and longer term action" of an additional action on "improving the quality of data and analysis". The Committee noted that in order for national FIVIMS to be realistic and useful, there was a need to improve the quality of statistical data in many developing countries, particularly in Africa. The Committee recognized that these countries may need assistance to achieve this goal.

#### IV. OTHER MATTERS

49. Based on the proposals put forward by the Bureau, the Committee recommended that its agenda for its 24th Session in 1998 comprise four substantive items namely, Report on Progress in the Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, Development of FIVIMS, Future Reporting Format and Arrangements, and Rules of Procedure. An assessment of the world food security situation would be considered as part of the Progress Report on Implementation of the Summit Plan of Action. Some delegates suggested the inclusion of a thematic issue in the Agenda but it was felt that the Agenda was already heavy and demanding. It was however agreed that the question on how to handle thematic issues in future Sessions of the Committee should be considered at the next Session.

50. The Committee agreed to hold its Twenty-fourth Session at FAO Headquarters in Rome during the spring of 1998, the exact time to be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairman.

---

**APPENDIX A  
AGENDA**

---

**I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

- a) Adoption of Agenda and Timetable
- b) Statement by the Director-General or his Representative
- c) Membership of the Committee

**II. WORLD FOOD SECURITY SITUATION**

- a) Nutrition
- b) Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS)
- c) Assessment of the Current World Food Security Situation

**III. FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT**

- a) World Food Summit: Preparation Process and Outcome
- b) Proposals for Amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization and the Committee's Rules of Procedure
- c) Institutional Arrangements for Monitoring and Reporting on Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action
- d) Workplan for Developing Targets and Indicators of National and Global Food Security and Establishing a Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System

**IV. OTHER MATTERS**

- a) Arrangements for the Twenty-fourth Session
- b) Any Other Business
- c) Report of the Session

---

APPENDIX B  
COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED AT THE SESSION

---

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Afghanistan	Indonesia	United States of America
Algeria	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Uruguay
Angola	Iraq	Venezuela
Argentina	Ireland	Vietnam
Australia	Italy	Zaire
Austria	Japan	Zimbabwe
Bangladesh	Kenya	
Belgium	Korea, Republic of	
Benin	Kuwait	
Bolivia	Lebanon	
Brazil	Lesotho	
Burkina Faso	Libya	
Burundi	Lithuania	
Cameroon	Madagascar	
Canada	Malaysia	
Cape Verde	Malta	
Chad	Mauritania	
Chile	Mauritius	
China	Mexico	
Colombia	Morocco	
Congo	Myanmar	
Costa Rica	Netherlands	
Côte d'Ivoire	New Zealand	
Croatia	Nigeria	
Cuba	Norway	
Cyprus	Pakistan	
Czech Republic	Panama	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Paraguay	
Denmark	Peru	
Dominica	Philippines	
Dominican Republic	Poland	
Egypt	Portugal	
El Salvador	Qatar	
Equatorial Guinea	Romania	
Eritrea	Russian Federation	
Estonia	Saudia Arabia, Kingdom of	
Ethiopia	Senegal	
European Community (Member Organization)	Slovakia	
Finland	South Africa	
France	Spain	
Gabon	Sri Lanka	
Georgia	Sudan	
Germany	Sweden	
Ghana	Switzerland	
Greece	Syria	
Guatemala	Tanzania	
Guinea	Thailand	
Haiti	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	
Honduras	Tunisia	
Hungary	Turkey	
India	Uganda	
	United Kingdom	

**OBSERVERS FROM FAO MEMBER NATIONS NOT MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE**

MOZAMBIQUE

**OBSERVERS FROM UNITED NATIONS MEMBER STATES**

KAZAKHSTAN

**PERMANENT OBSERVER TO FAO**

HOLY SEE

**OTHER**

SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

**UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES**

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)  
 WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP)  
 INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE (ILO)  
 WORLD BANK  
 INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)  
 WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)  
 INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)  
 ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA)  
 HIGH COMMISSIONER/CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

**OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT  
 ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)  
 ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

**OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

ASIAN NGO COALITION FOR AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ANGOC)  
 ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD (ACWW)  
 CONSEIL NATIONAL DE CONCERTATION ET DE COOPERATION DES RURAUX (CNCR)  
 COUNCIL OF EUROPE (CE)  
 DEVELOPMENT INNOVATIONS AND NETWORKS  
 EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY TOWARDS EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE (EUROSTEP)  
 FOOD FIRST INFORMATION AND ACTION NETWORK (FIAN)  
 GLOBAL NETWORK ON FOOD SECURITY  
 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS (IAAE)  
 INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC RURAL ASSOCIATION (ICRA)  
 INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS (ICSF)  
 INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU)  
 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE (ICA)  
 INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN (ICW)  
 INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS (IFAP)  
 INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HOME ECONOMICS (IFHE)  
 INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS (IFOAM)  
 INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES  
 INTERNATIONAL FERTILIZER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (IFA)  
 INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT ATD FOURTH WORLD  
 INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FAMILY ORGANIZATIONS (IUFO)  
 LIAISON COMMITTEE OF DEVELOPMENT NGOs TO THE EUROPEAN UNION



---

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM (WILPF)  
WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS (WAGGGS)  
WORLD FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD WORKERS (WFAFW)  
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU)  
WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS (WFUNA)  
WORLD UNION OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS (WUCWO)

---

**APPENDIX C  
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

---

Document No.	Title	Provisional Agenda Item No.
CFS:97/1/Rev.	Provisional Agenda and Agenda Notes	I
CFS:97/2	Improving Nutrition and Food Security: Opportunities and Challenges Posed by Street Foods	II
CFS:97/3	Status Report on the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS)	II
CFS:97/3 Corr.1	Status Report on the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS)	
CFS:97/4	Assessment of the Current World Food Security Situation and Short-Term Outlook	II
CFS:97/4 Sup.1	Assessment of the Household Food Security Situation, Based on the Aggregate Household Food Security Index and the Sixth World Food Survey	II
CFS:97/4 Supp.1	World Food Security Assessment - Presentation of Slides	
CFS:97/5	Follow-up to the World Food Summit	III
CFS:97/5 Sup.1	Draft Revisions to the Basic Texts for the Committee on World Food Security	III
CFS:97/5 Sup.1,Add.1	Explanatory Notes on Proposed Amendments to the General Rules of the Organization and the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on World Food Security	
CFS:97/5 Sup.1, Add.2	Possible Modifications to Proposed Amendments to the General Rules of the Organization and the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on World Food Security	
CFS:97/Inf.1	Proposed Timetable	
CFS:97/Inf.2	List of Documents	
CFS:97/Inf.3	List of Members of CFS	
CFS:97/Inf.4	List of Delegates	

- 
- CFS:97/Inf.5      European Community - Declaration of Competence  
and Voting Rights
- CFS:97/Inf.6      Outcome of ACC Consideration of World Food Summit  
Follow-up
- CFS:97/Inf.7      Progress Report on the Implementation of Objective 7.4  
of the World Food Summit Plan of Action
- CFS:97/Inf.8      Report on Technical Consultation and Workplan for Establishing  
a Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System
- CFS:97/Inf.9      Excerpt from the Report of the Twenty-seventh Session of the  
Intergovernmental Group on Grains, February 1997
- CFS:97/Inf.10     Information Note on the WFS Preparation Process and Outcome,  
Including Costs
- CFS:97/Inf.10-Corr.1     Information Note on the WFS Preparation Process and Outcome,  
(English only)             Including Costs

---

APPENDIX D  
OPENING STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
DELIBERED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

---

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates and Observers  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to welcome you, on behalf of the Director-General, Mr. Jacques Diouf, to the Twenty-third Session of the Committee on World Food Security, and to deliver the following statement on his behalf.

This Session is the first meeting of the Committee after the World Food Summit. I wish first to acknowledge the important role played by the Committee in the preparations for the Summit and in making the Summit a success. I also wish to express my gratitude to H.E. Pedro Medrano Rojas, the current Chairman of the Committee, for his dedication and diligence in guiding the work of the Committee.

The long hours of hard work and the arduous negotiations by the Inter-Sessional Working Group and the Committee were taxing and tiresome. The fruits of such hard work were however rewarding.

Your hard work has greatly contributed to laying down the foundation for tackling one of the pressing problems of mankind - hunger and malnutrition - which afflicts a great number of men and women the world over. This foundation is reflected in the Rome Declaration and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, which were unanimously approved by the Heads of State and Governments, or their representatives, of the 186 countries which participated in the Summit.

The Heads of State and Government have taken a common stand that the prevalence of hunger and malnutrition in its present scale in our world is intolerable and unacceptable. They have pledged their political will and their common and national commitment to achieving food security for all and to an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries.

The common and individual commitments by world leaders no doubt represent a major step forward for tackling the problem of hunger and undernutrition and for advancing world food security. What is important now is to see that the strategies and measures set out by the Summit in the Plan of Action are translated into practical actions, so that the number of the hungry and undernourished are progressively reduced in line with - or faster than - the goal agreed at the Summit.

This Committee is given the responsibility by the Summit to monitor the implementation of the Plan of Action. The Committee had worked hard in designing the Rome Declaration and the Plan of Action. It will now have to work even harder and more resolutely to fulfill the role assigned to it in the follow-up process. That role is to serve Governments as the forum through which they will monitor efforts involving their own actions, those of their partners of civil society, and those of international institutions, working in a coordinated manner, to achieve the Summit objectives.

Under Item II of the Agenda, you will be briefed on the world food security situation, and discuss a paper on improving nutrition and food security: opportunities and challenges posed by street foods. In addition you will review a status report on the Special Programme for Food Security. Although these Items will be introduced later, I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many expressions of satisfaction from the countries where the Special Programme is in operation, and to inform that requests for the Programme have been received from a number of additional countries.

I also wish to express sincere appreciation to the countries and multilateral organizations who have agreed to support the Special Programme, and to encourage others to become partners. Support for South-South cooperation in connection with the Special Programme is also gratifying.

The major item of your Agenda in this Session is Item III, Follow-up to the World Food Summit. This of course is not the time to review progress towards the Summit goal and objectives; instead, the task before you is to agree on the procedures to be followed so as to be able to monitor the follow-up to the Summit.

The Summit has set the objective of reducing the number of the undernourished people to half their present level no later than 2015, and agreed to a mid-term review to ascertain whether this target can be anticipated. Eight years from now we hope that each country can look back and say that the number of its citizens affected by hunger and malnutrition have been reduced substantially from their numbers today, and that the now distant target of the Summit is within close reach.

As the Plan of Action recognises, the multidimensional nature of food security calls for action beyond the mission of this Organization. It is in this context that under Commitment 7, the world leaders present at the Summit have pledged to implement, monitor, and follow-up the Plan of Action at all levels in co-operation with the international community. The Summit has stressed that ".....the effective implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action requires strong international co-operation and a monitoring process at the national, regional and global levels, using existing mechanisms and fora for its operation." Your role in monitoring implementation of the Summit Plan of Action, in identifying where efforts are successful and where results are not sufficient, will be an essential contribution to keeping momentum in the individual and collective efforts of all partners.

In conformity with the specific lines of action recommended under objective 7.3, the Committee under Item III of the Agenda will consider proposals for the timetable, reporting procedures and reporting formats for its monitoring of the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, taking into account the required coordination within the UN System.

In this connection, I wish to inform the Committee that World Food Summit follow-up was on the agenda of the ACC meeting held in Geneva last Thursday and Friday, and that the ACC has endorsed the proposed arrangements for inter-agency follow-up suggested jointly by FAO and IFAD which will take place at the country level within the Resident Coordinator system, as well as through an informal network at the headquarters level.

Under this agenda item the Committee will also consider the workplan for initiating the process for developing targets and verifiable indicators of national and global food security and for establishing a food insecurity and vulnerability information and mapping system. Such monitorable and verifiable indicators are to be used for measuring the progress in the achievement of the Summit major objectives.

The commitment of governments to establish a food insecurity and vulnerability information and mapping system is mentioned in several places in the Plan of Action. In line with objective 7.2 sub-para (b) FAO has initiated a process of consultation on the further elaboration and definition

of a food insecurity and vulnerability information and mapping system, and organized an initial technical consultation to refine the methodology for defining targets and indicators of food insecurity and vulnerability. The report on the technical consultation is contained in document CFS:97/Inf.8.

While the monitoring role assigned to the CFS is consistent with the mandate and functions already given to it, it should be noted that the Committee's existing mandate also assigns it responsibilities for monitoring previous undertakings that are now superseded by the World Food Summit Plan of Action. In order to update and modernize the description of the Committee's functions in the General Rules of Procedure of the Organization, as well as to take account of the UN General Assembly Resolution of July 1996, which transferred the functions of the former World Food Council to FAO and WFP, some adjustments in the mandate of the CFS have been proposed for the Committee's consideration as contained in Document CFS 97/5. Sup.1. Finally, as a basis for the report on the World Food Summit Preparation Process and Outcome to be presented to the next FAO Conference, a brief note, CFS:97/INF 10, has been prepared and tabled for the Committee's information.

I once again wish to thank you all for the untiring and self-less efforts you have made to make the World Food Summit a success. I have no doubt that you will equally devote your unreserved efforts to the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Plan of Action so that the pressing problem of hunger and malnutrition can be solved in as short time as possible.

I wish you a successful meeting.

---

## APPENDIX E

### WORLD FOOD SUMMIT: PREPARATION PROCESS AND OUTCOME

---

#### 1. Introduction

1. The World Food Summit was convened in Rome from 13 to 17 November at the level of Heads of State and Government. The objective of the Summit was to renew global commitment at the highest political level to the task of eliminating hunger and malnutrition and to the achievement of sustainable food security for all people.
2. FAO called the Summit in response to widespread undernutrition and growing concern about the capacity of agriculture to meet future food needs. At the 27th Session of the FAO Conference in November 1993, Member Nations expressed "deep concern" at the present situation and the future prospects, and stressed that "the world's major problems in food, nutrition and sustainability require immediate action at national and international levels".
3. After consultations with a large number of Heads of State and Government from all regions of the world, the FAO Director-General invited the FAO Conference to consider convening a World Food Summit in Rome in November 1996. The proposal, which was approved by the Conference at its 28th Session in October 1995, was subsequently endorsed unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1995. Throughout the period preceding the Summit, growing support for the Summit was expressed during discussions at the 106th, 107th and 108th Sessions of the FAO Council and at the FAO Regional Conferences; resolutions and recommendations in support of the Summit were also adopted at numerous other inter-governmental meetings.

#### 2. Preparation of the Summit Documents

4. Preparation for the Summit involved broad-based consultations among governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, and the private sector. Fourteen technical background documents plus a technical atlas formed the analytical underpinning for the political decisions and actions approved at the Summit. These were prepared by FAO secretariat staff, often in collaboration with other UN agencies, and with other intergovernmental organisations, academic institutions, NGOs and civil society at large. The documents were distributed in provisional form, starting in early 1995, and comments were invited and received through an extensive review process involving experts from governments, sister UN agencies, development banks, selected centres of excellence, NGOs, the private sector, and eminent persons, among others. In their revised final form, the background documents and the technical atlas were published by FAO in three volumes shortly before the Summit. The titles of the documents are shown in the Box.
5. In its resolution 95/2 adopted at its 28th Session, the Conference entrusted the role of focal point for World Food Summit preparation to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which is open not only to members of FAO, but also to all members of the United Nations who have expressed interest in participating in the work of the Committee. Through a special Inter-sessional Working Group of the CFS, substantial progress was made in preparing a draft for the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action.
6. Discussions at the FAO Regional Conferences provided a major input into the preparation of the Summit documents. These included the 23rd FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, Rabat, Morocco, 26-30 March 1996; the 19th FAO Regional Conference for Africa, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 16-20 April 1996; the 20th FAO Regional Conference for Europe, Tel Aviv, Israel,

29 April - 3 May 1996; the 23rd FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Apia, Samoa, 14-18 May 1996; and the 24th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, Asuncion, Paraguay, 2-6 July 1996; as well as a regional consultation for North America organised by the United States of America and Canada. Each Regional Conference elaborated a contribution to the drafting of the World Food Summit documents, on the basis of a document on the food security situation and issues in the region, together with progress reports on the work of the Inter-Sessional Working Group of the CFS.

**Technical background documents prepared for the World Food Summit**

1. Food, agriculture and food security: developments since the World Food Conference and prospects
2. Success stories in food security
3. Socio-political and economic environment for food security
4. Food requirements and population growth
5. Food security and nutrition
6. Lessons from the green revolution: towards a new green revolution
7. Food production: the critical role of water
8. Food for consumers: marketing, processing and distribution
9. Role of research in global food security and agricultural development
10. Investment in agriculture: evolution and prospects
11. Food production and environmental impact
12. Food and international trade
13. Food security and food assistance
14. Assessment of feasible progress in food security
15. Technical atlas

7. In addition to this statutory process, numerous other fora contributed to raising awareness and formulating viewpoints and proposals to address the Summit's objectives, starting with the Global Assembly on Food Security, an International Symposium organised by the Federal Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec in October 1995 in Quebec and the Ministerial Meeting on World Food Security convened in Quebec on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of FAO.

8. Countries and organisations were encouraged to use other meetings already scheduled to discuss specific aspects of food security. National position papers on food security were elaborated by a large number of countries as part of their own preparations for the Summit debate. NGOs and the private sector, in addition to participating in national-level activities and in consultations organised by FAO prior to each Regional Conference and the 22nd session of the Committee on World Food Security, also held their own meetings to discuss the Summit. Several important NGO Declarations for the World Food Summit were submitted to the Summit Secretariat. Parallel to the Summit proper, an NGO Forum for the World Food Summit was held in Rome from 11 to 17 November 1996.

9. Taking all inputs into account, the negotiation of the documents was completed during the 22nd Session of the CFS meeting from 27-30 September, 8-9 October and 28-31 October 1996. The texts for the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action were thus approved two weeks in advance of the Summit for consideration by the Heads of State and Government or their representatives. The Committee also endorsed arrangements for the organization of work for the World Food Summit and invited the Chairman of the CFS to present to



the Summit the texts of the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action for adoption.

### 3. Outcome

10. One hundred eighty-five countries and the European Community were accredited to the Summit. Heads of delegations included 41 Heads of State, 15 Vice Presidents, 41 Prime Ministers, 15 Vice Prime Ministers, and 74 other Heads of delegations. Some 450 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and 80 United Nations System (UN) and Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGOs) were represented.

11. The documents (the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action) were adopted by the 186 Heads of delegations attending the Summit at the opening of its proceedings, following the inaugural ceremony. Fifteen countries filed "reservations or interpretative statements" on specific aspects of the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action.

12. The Rome Declaration sets forth seven commitments which lay the basis for achieving sustainable food security for all and the Plan of Action spells out the objectives and actions relevant for practical implementation of these seven commitments.

13. The World Food Summit was very successful in increasing public awareness of the extent of hunger and malnutrition world-wide, and of the causes and prospects. Most importantly, it resulted in strong political commitment necessary to promote effective strategies and activities to reach its targets of reducing the number of undernourished people to half their present level no later than 2015 and eventually achieving food security for all and eradicating hunger in all countries.

---

**APPENDIX F**  
**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**  
**TO THE GENERAL RULES OF THE ORGANIZATION (GRO)**

---

**Rule XXXIII**  
**Committee on World Food Security**

1. The Committee on World Food Security provided for in paragraph 6 of Article V of the Constitution shall be open to all Member Nations of the Organization and all Member States of the United Nations. It shall 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 the work of the Committee.
2. The notifications referred to in paragraph 1 may be made at any time, and membership acquired on the basis thereof shall be for a biennium. The Director-General shall circulate, at the beginning of each session of the Committee, a document listing the Members of the Committee.
3. The Committee shall normally hold two sessions during each biennium. Sessions shall be convened by the Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, taking into account any proposals made by the Committee.
4. If required, the Committee may hold additional sessions on the call of the Director-General in consultation with its Chairman, or on request submitted in writing to the Director-General by the majority of Members of the Committee.
5. The Committee shall contribute to promoting the objective of world food security with the aim of ensuring that all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.
6. The Committee shall serve as a forum in the United Nations system for review and follow-up of policies concerning world food security, including food production, sustainable use of the natural resource base for food security, nutrition, physical and economic access to food and other food security related aspects of poverty eradication, the implications of food trade for world food security and other related matters and shall in particular:
  - (a) examine major problems and issues affecting the world food situation and the steps being proposed or taken to resolve them by Governments and relevant international organizations, bearing in mind the need for the adoption of an integrated approach towards their solution;
  - (b) examine the implications for world food security of other relevant factors, including the situation relating to the supply and demand of basic food stuffs and food aid requirements and trends, the state of stocks in exporting and importing countries and issues relating to physical and economic access to food and other food security related aspects of poverty eradication; and
  - (c) recommend such action as may be appropriate to promote the goal of world food security.

7. The Committee shall serve as the forum in the UN system for the monitoring of the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Food Summit in accordance with the relevant commitment of the Summit.<sup>1</sup>

8. The Committee shall report to the Council of the Organization and tender advice to the Director-General, and relevant international organizations as appropriate, on any matter considered by the Committee, it being understood that copies of its reports, including any conclusions, will be transmitted without delay to interested governments and international organizations.

9. The Committee shall provide regular reports to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), through the Council of the Organization.

10. Any recommendation adopted by the Committee affecting the programme or finance of the Organization or concerning legal or constitutional matters shall be reported to the Council with the comments of the appropriate subsidiary committees of the Council. The reports of the Committee, or relevant extracts therefrom, shall also be placed before the Conference.

11. The Committee shall draw on the advice, as necessary, of the Committee on Commodity Problems and its subsidiary bodies, the Committee on Agriculture and other technical committees of the Council as appropriate, and the Executive Board of the World Food Programme. In particular,

---

<sup>1</sup> The relevant provisions of the World Food Summit Plan of Action are set out in Commitment 7, Objective 7.3, which reads as follows:

*To monitor actively the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.*

*To this end, Governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society, in coordination with relevant international institutions and, in conformity with ECOSOC Resolution 1996/36 on the follow-up to the major international UN conferences and summits as appropriate, will:*

- (a) Establish through the CFS a timetable, procedures and standardized reporting formats, which do not duplicate similar reports to the UN, FAO and other agencies, on the national, sub-regional and regional implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action;*
- (b) Set out in the CFS a process for developing targets and verifiable indicators of national and global food security where they do not exist;*
- (c) Report to the CFS on national, sub-regional and regional implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, drawing on a food insecurity and vulnerability information and mapping system, once established, as an analytical aid;*
- (d) Invite the Secretary-General of the UN to request the ACC to report to ECOSOC in accordance with established procedures progress on the follow-up by UN agencies to the World Food Summit;*
- (e) Monitor through the CFS the national, sub-regional, regional and international implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, using reports from national governments, reports on UN agency follow-up and inter-agency coordination, and information from other relevant international institutions;*
- (f) Provide regular reports on implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action through the CFS via the FAO Council to the ECOSOC;*
- (g) Encourage the effective participation of relevant actors of civil society in the CFS monitoring process, recognizing their critical role in enhancing food security;*
- (h) By 2006, undertake in the CFS and within available resources a major broad-based progress assessment of the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and a mid-term review of achieving the target of reducing the number of undernourished people to half their present level no later than 2015. This progress assessment and review should be in the context of a special forum of a regular session of the CFS and involve active participation from governments, relevant international organizations and actors of civil society.*

it shall take full account of the responsibilities and activities of these and other intergovernmental bodies responsible for aspects of food security, in order to avoid overlapping and unnecessary duplication of work.

12. The Committee shall invite relevant international organizations to participate in the work of the Committee and the preparation of meeting documents on matters within their respective mandates in collaboration with the secretariat of the Committee.

13. In order to ensure the effective discharge of its functions, the Committee may request the Members to furnish all information required for its work, it being understood that where so requested by the governments concerned, the information supplied shall be kept on a restricted basis.

14. The Director-General or his representative shall participate in all meetings of the Committee and may be accompanied by such officers of the staff of the Organization as he may designate.

15. The Committee shall elect, from among its Members, its Chairman and the other officers. It may adopt and amend its rules of procedure, which shall be consistent with the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization.

16. The Committee may decide to establish subsidiary or ad hoc bodies where it considers that such action would expedite its own work, without duplicating the work of existing bodies. A decision to this effect may be taken only after the Committee has examined a report by the Director-General on the administrative and financial implications.

17. When establishing subsidiary or *ad hoc* bodies, the Committee shall define their terms of reference, composition, and, as far as possible, the duration of their mandate. Subsidiary bodies may adopt their own rules of procedure, which shall be consistent with those of the Committee.