

The World Food Conference passed a resolution calling upon the U.N. General Assembly to establish a World Food Council to coordinate follow-up action of the Conference. The Second Committee of the General Assembly resolved on December 11, 1974 that the Council shall be established at the ministerial or plenipotentiary level to function as an organ of the U.N., reporting to the General Assembly through the ECOSOC. The General Assembly voted (on December 17, '74) to establish the Council as recommended. The Council would have 36 members, nominated by the ECOSOC and elected by the General Assembly. The geographical distribution of members is set as follows: Asia - 8, Africa - 9, Latin America - 7, Western Europe and other countries - 8, and Eastern European Socialist Countries - 4. The General Assembly elected the following 36 countries as members of the Council for the first three year term:- Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Cuba, Australia, Egypt, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan, Rumania, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Venezuela, Yugoslavia, and Zambia.

The first meeting of the Council is expected to take place before July 1975. The Council is to serve as a coordinating mechanism to provide over-all, integrated and continuing attention for the successful co-ordination and follow-up of policies concerning food production, nutrition, food security, food trade and food aid, as well as other related matters, by all the agencies of the U.N. system. The Secretariat of the Council will be located in Rome. Dr. John Hannah, who was one of the Deputy Secretaries - General of the World Food Conference, is the acting-Director of the Secretariat. The following agencies are requested to report to the World Food Council on matters relating to food and agricultural situations. Each of the agencies is requested to take heed of the actions and advice of the Council in formulating their programmes of action. However, the World Food Council has not been given direct control over any of the agencies.

The World Food Conference recommended in its resolution on follow-up action, and the General Assembly approved, that

- (i) FAO establish a committee on World Food Security as a standing committee of the FAO Council. The Committee should submit periodic and special reports to the World Food Council
- (ii) The Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme be reconstituted, should be called, and function as, The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. The Committee should submit periodical and special reports to the World Food Council
- (iii) The Governing Board of the proposed International Fund for Agricultural Development should submit information periodically to the World Food Council on the programmes approved by the Board. The Board should take into consideration the advice and recommendations of the Council
- (iv) The World Food Council should receive periodic reports from UNCTAD, through the ECOSOC, on the world food trade situation, as well as on the effective progress to increase trade liberalization and access to international markets for food products exported by developing countries
- (v) FAO Commission on Fertilizers should submit periodic reports to the World Food Council, and should be guided by the advice and recommendations of the Council
- (vi) FAO should submit periodic reports to the World Food Council on progress achieved in regard to the Global Information and Early Warning Systems
- (vii) The IBRD, FAO and UNDP are requested to organize a Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in Developing Countries (CGFPI), to be composed of bilateral and multilateral donors and representatives of developing countries. The Consultative Group is invited to keep the World Food Council informed of its activities (to increase, coordinate, and improve the efficiency of financial and technical assistance to agricultural production in developing countries).

