



Resolution 1/79

WORLD FOOD DAY

THE CONFERENCE,

Considering that food is a requisite of human survival and well-being and a fundamental human right,

Remembering that the Member Nations of FAO, in accepting its Constitution, have undertaken to promote separate and collective action for the purpose inter alia of raising levels of agricultural production, nutrition and standards of living, bettering the condition of rural populations, and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger,

Recalling the declaration of the World Food Conference in 1974 that by 1984 "no child, woman or man should go to bed hungry and no human being's physical or mental potential should be stunted by malnutrition",

Being concerned that the problem of providing a balanced and adequate diet for the world's population is greater than ever and that on the basis of most criteria the world food situation has deteriorated,

Appreciating the ready response by Member Governments, non-governmental organizations and of the public to providing assistance to Member Nations afflicted with food emergencies,

Recalling Resolutions 3201 and 3202 as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly referring to the establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action as adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development,

Believing in the necessity to mobilize and sustain interest and support for the necessary long-term effort to overcome widespread malnutrition,

Further **believing** that a material stimulus and incentive in this regard would be the establishment of a World Food Day,

1. **Decides** to establish a World Food Day to be observed annually on 16 October, the anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with the following objectives:
 - (a) to heighten public awareness of the nature and dimensions of the long-term world food problem, and to develop further the sense of national and international solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty;
 - (b) to encourage greater attention to agricultural production in all countries and to stimulate greater national, bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental effort to this end;
 - (c) to promote the transfer of science and technology to developing countries, particularly for the benefit of the small farmer and landless labourer, and with attention to the possibilities of bringing about a new agricultural revolution through the development of new biological approaches;
 - (d) to draw attention to successes achieved in food and agricultural development as well as to emergency and other serious needs;
 - (e) to promote participation by the rural masses in decisions and measures affecting their development with a view to closing the gap between actual and potential yields, to promoting greater self-reliance, and to improving living standards for the rural poor;
 - (f) to encourage economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, nutrition and rural development;
2. **Recommends** that the activities centred on World Food Day should be held at local, provincial, national, regional and international levels, and should include events and activities appropriate at each of these levels, including ceremonies, displays, competitions, issue of prizes and medals, special television and radio broadcasts, seminars, and other educational activities, and that such activities should be organized or assisted by rural groups, governmental authorities, non-governmental institutions, international organizations and agencies, and in particular by the Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations;

3. Further **recommends** that such activities should, as far as possible, be self-financed by national, regional, bilateral, non-governmental and international authorities, organizations, agencies, and institutions, but that, particularly in the early years, they should be assisted as necessary by FAO ;
4. **Approves** the use, in accordance with the Financial Regulations, of savings within the level of the Programme of Work and Budget 1980-81 for such modest expenditure and assistance by FAO that might be required in 1980-81;
5. **Authorizes** the Director-General to collect information on the intentions of Member Governments, institutions, and organizations, to provide advice and assistance as requested
6. **Requests** the Director-General to submit a progress report on preparations, through the Programme and Finance Committees, to the Council, at their sessions in the autumn of 1980, and to make the necessary preparations to enable the successful organization of the first World Food Day on 16 October 1981.

(Adopted 28 November 1979)