

IICA



REPORT OF THE NINTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE

Ottawa, Canada

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WHAT IS IICA?

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the specialized agency for agriculture of the Inter-American system. The Institute was founded on October 7, 1942 when the Council of Directors of the Pan American Union approved the creation of the Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Sciences.

IICA was founded as an institution for agricultural research and graduate training in tropical agriculture. In response to changing needs in the hemisphere, the Institute gradually evolved into an agency for technical cooperation and institutional strengthening in the field of agriculture. These changes were officially recognized through the ratification of a new Convention on December 8, 1980. The Institute's purposes under the new Convention are to encourage, promote and support cooperation among the 31 Member States, to bring about agricultural development and rural well-being.

With its broader and more flexible mandate and a new structure to facilitate direct participation by the Member States in activities of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the Executive Committee, the Institute now has a geographic reach that allows it to respond to needs for technical cooperation in all of its Member States.

The contributions provided by the Member States and the ties IICA maintains with its twelve observer countries and numerous international organizations provide the Institute with channels to direct its human and financial resources in support of agricultural development throughout the Americas.

The 1987-1991 Medium Term Plan, the policy document that sets IICA's priorities, stresses the reactivation of the agricultural sector as the key to economic growth. In support of this policy, the Institute is placing special emphasis on the support and promotion of actions to modernize agricultural technology and strengthen the processes of regional and subregional integration.

In order to attain these goals, the Institute is concentrating its actions on the following five programs: Agrarian Policy Analysis and Planning; Technology Generation and Transfer; Organization and Management for Rural Development; Marketing and Agroindustry; and Animal Health and Plant Protection.

These fields of action reflect the needs and priorities established by the Member States and delimit the areas in which IICA concentrates its efforts and technical capacity. They are the focus of IICA's human and financial resource allocations and shape its relationship with other international organizations.

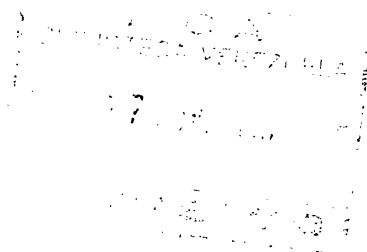
The Member States of IICA are: Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The Observer Countries of IICA are: Austria, Belgium, Egypt, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

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I. INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, jointly convoked by the OAS and IICA, was held in Ottawa, the capital of Canada, from August 31 to September 2, 1987. The meeting was attended by 22 Ministers of Agriculture and a total of 31 country delegations from the Americas; in view of this high level of attendance, the meeting can be viewed as a true hemispheric agricultural summit.

The results of the discussions were summarized in the Ottawa Declaration and ten recommendations which are included in this informational document. Because they were approved unanimously, they can be construed as the mandate of the countries of the Americas concerning the future of agriculture.

The Ottawa Declaration reveals consensus with respect to the central role the revitalization and modernization of agriculture must play in the economic reactivation and development of Latin America and the Caribbean, which are key elements for ensuring political stability and peace in the region.

These documents also evidence general agreement as to the changes required to consolidate the leading role of agriculture, which include the improvement and adjustment of external and internal conditions in the countries. Also, there is a need to expand joint actions for solving specific problems and to strengthen the renewed regional and subregional integration process.

The recommendations of the Ninth ICMA set forth important guidelines for approaching the problems of agriculture in the countries of the region themselves, and for the international funding and technical cooperation agencies. The modernization of the public agricultural sector, sectoral adjustment programs, technology, regional integration, and agricultural trade negotiations are some of the specific issues addressed by the recommendations.

Of particular interest to IICA is a recommendation that reflects the desire to ensure that the consensus underlying the Declaration might be translated into concrete action within a shared framework. This recommendation charges IICA with developing, "in collaboration with member countries and the other specialized agencies, a strategic plan of joint action in support of agricultural revitalization and economic development

in Latin America and the Caribbean," which should be submitted to the consideration of IICA's Executive Committee at its Regular Meeting in August 1988, as a preliminary step before its implementation.

II. INAUGURAL SESSION ADDRESSES

ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE
JOHN WISE, P.C., M.P.
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OF CANADA

It is my great pleasure as Canada's Minister of Agriculture - and as the Chairman of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture - to extend a very warm welcome to all those gathered here today.

I wish to recognize the distinguished presence of Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada, Madame Jeanne Sauvé.

I also want to recognize the presence of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Mr. Baena Soares.

I extend greetings to all ministers and ambassadors from member countries of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). I also extend a warm welcome to the Institute's Director General, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, as well as to heads of other international agencies.

I want to recognize the presence of members of the Canadian Parliament, as well as representatives from provincial governments.

There are also many delegates here from member countries, as well as from observer countries. I welcome all of them.

In addition, I want to recognize the presence of many members of the Diplomatic Corps, international organizations, and Canadian non-governmental organizations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This is, indeed, a distinguished gathering. Canada regards it as a great honor to host this Conference.

Two other families of nations will also be meeting in Canada this year.

In just two days' time in Quebec City, we will host the second Francophone Summit - that is, the Heads of State and Heads of Government of countries using French as a common language.

Moreover, in October, the Commonwealth Heads of Government gather in Vancouver for their biennial summit.

At these summits, Canada will continue to play a key role in such areas as the campaign against apartheid, cooperation in

economic development, international economic stability, and cultural and technological exchanges.

Today, another important gathering of nations and peoples begins here - the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

For Canada, this is an opportunity to reinforce our commitment to IICA and to the issues on the Institute's agenda.

Canada's strong record of development assistance allows us to play a trusted intermediary role between developed and developing nations. It is a role we value, and one that we want to build upon.

For more than four decades, IICA has been promoting and supporting agricultural development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Through IICA, Member States can accomplish much that, as individual countries, we could not accomplish.

The Institute helps us to concentrate our efforts on challenges and problems common to many or all Member States. It helps us to

assess our collective interests and to promote complementary actions to pursue them.

Canada's participation as an IICA member began in 1972. Over the years, various departments of our federal government have been involved in IICA-related projects.

Many Member States have benefited from the consistent involvement of the International Development Research Centre, which is funded by the Canadian government.

Our Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has funded projects. And in some cases my department has played a role in the projects - as we will continue to do in the future.

My department has also made its expertise available throughout Latin America. Our scientists have collaborated with several Member States in the area of plant and animal breeding.

Today, Canada hosts this Conference with a commitment to the Institute that has never been stronger. We believe deeply in IICA's ability to work toward our collective objectives for agricultural development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We all come to this conference recognizing the tremendous challenges faced by the economies and the agricultural sectors of the region.

It has become clear that the roots of the problems in agriculture are not entirely sectoral. Indeed, the most basic problems in agriculture are a reflection of what is happening in the international economy.

In the 1980's we have seen profound technological and structural changes - international economic recession, depressed commodity markets, and shifts in domestic policies - and all of these factors have combined to place incredible strain on the economies of the region.

These developments have had an enormous impact on Latin American and Caribbean countries: a massive outward transfer of resources, a slump in trade, falling investment, inflation, a downturn in employment, balance of payments deficits, and higher fiscal deficits.

Macroeconomic policies, interest rates, fiscal, monetary and trade policies all too often override policies within the agriculture sector.

So, on the one hand, agriculture is dependent on these policies because they largely determine production and export incentives. On the other hand, in most member countries, agriculture is so vital that policies directed toward the sector influence the overall economy.

Economically, agriculture is important to foreign exchange. It also represents 18 percent of Gross Domestic Product in the region, 38 percent of all employment, and 32 percent of exports.

In addition, as the agricultural sector grows, it can have a "multiplier" effect on the rest of the economy.

Socially, a vibrant agricultural sector can have a tremendous stabilizing influence.

For all these reasons, policy decision-making must reflect the interdependence between agriculture and other sectors.

Agriculture can, should, and must be the driving force behind economic growth. It must power the revitalization of economies in Latin America and the Caribbean. We must see agriculture as a solution to broader economic troubles in the region.

At this Conference, we will focus on activities that emphasize the integration of agriculture with other sectors. These efforts will stimulate growth in the broader economy. That is why comprehensive economic policies in member countries must be designed with active participation of agricultural sector representatives.

The success of such an approach is dependent on us, as Ministers of Agriculture, focusing our efforts through IICA on modernization, on greater efficiency, on diversification, and on national efforts to strengthen the economic links between agriculture and the other sectors of the economy.

In this regard, the objectives of IICA's Medium Term Plan (MTP) are right on target.

The Plan is the instrument through which IICA helps Member States to solve the central problems that are holding back agricultural development in the region.

These problems and challenges are well documented in the four working papers of this Conference. The papers examine agriculture's outlook and potential, incentives needed for modernization, technological innovation, and the international trade crisis.

On this last subject, I appreciate that every member country is in some way affected by the current state of international agricultural trade. There is little doubt that trade issues are central to the challenges facing agriculture in all our countries.

At this Conference, it will be useful for us to share information and ideas on these issues. We must bear in mind, however, that solutions will not be found at this Conference, nor should that be our purpose.

The Uruguay Round of negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is, in my judgement, the best forum for addressing the need for reform of domestic agricultural policies in relation to international commodity markets. That is why Canada is sparing no effort in working to make the Uruguay Round an effective, meaningful and successful process.

Aside from that process, I believe cooperation among member countries is absolutely essential to solving the problems in agriculture that we all share. Only by working together - combining our efforts - can we achieve the goal of agricultural modernization and development.

Therefore, as your Chairman, I hope that we will work toward a common vision of how countries in the region can develop new national economic strategies that incorporate agriculture.

This will require the commitment of individual countries, and commitments among countries, to strong intersectoral relations. This is the only way agriculture will become an engine of overall economic recovery in the region.

One of the most vital means of supporting agricultural development in research and technology. Therefore, it should be a priority at this Conference to emphasize cooperation in this important field. Only by strengthening ties among member countries can we ensure the efficient use of resources in agricultural research.

In my mind, these are chief among our many collective objectives for this Conference. I am confident that we will make progress on these and on the other issues at hand.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to assure you of Canada's continuing support for IICA. You will shortly be told

about a very tangible expression of this support.

For now, I will just say that Canada firmly believes IICA is the best instrument for necessary change and development in agriculture in Latin America and Caribbean Member States.

We look forward to a continuing and productive role in this organization, and I am looking forward to the work that lies ahead of us at this Conference.

To all member country representatives and other government representatives and observers, my very best wishes for a fruitful and informative Conference.

ADDRESS BY HER EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT
HONOURABLE MRS. JEANNE SAUVÉ,
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA

On behalf of the people of Canada, it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture.

This Conference was convened by the Sixteenth General Assembly of the Organization of American States, which met last November in Guatemala. We are honored here today by the distinguished presence of the Secretary General of that organization, Mr. Baena Soares.

The Organization of American States, as we know it, was inspired by the ideal of hemispheric unity as first conceived by the Liberator Simón Bolívar and was established in 1890 as the International Union of American States, making it the oldest international regional organization in the world. Canada respects the traditions and ideals of this great organization and we applaud its convening of this Conference as a tangible manifestation of its determination to improve by cooperative effort the economic welfare of the peoples of the region.

This is the ninth conference of its kind. The first one was held in 1930, which gives a sense of the foresight of the governments of the day and of the enduring nature of agriculture as a major theme to be addressed on an intra-regional basis. That first conference predates the establishment in 1942 of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

Canada, since we joined in 1972, has been a keen, even an ardent supporter of the Institute, recognizing the vital role the organization plays in encouraging and supporting the efforts of Member States to pursue agricultural development and to enhance the well-being of their rural populations. It is as a result of the importance that we attach to the work of this Institute and the confidence we have in its staff under the able leadership of its Director General, Dr. Martín Piñeiro, that we are proud to be hosting this Conference.

Canada takes seriously its role and responsibility as an agricultural nation, and the impact and influence of this sector on the economic welfare of virtually every one of our ten provinces. Throughout my career in public life, I have been acutely aware of the hard realities which confront our farmers, particularly as Federal Environment

Minister, when it became clearly evident to me that agriculture involves resource management in the broadest sense and that national policies for soil and water conservation are imperative if the long term viability of this industry is to be protected.

Now as I travel throughout Canada, I see evidence that agriculture influences every facet of our society from the manufacture of agricultural equipment, the production of fertilizers, the processing and transportation of agricultural products, economic and technical studies in universities, the activities of research institutes and the very substantial supportive role of the federal and provincial governments.

There is no doubt that Canada has been fortunate in its natural resources endowment, but we have worked hard to develop our considerable strengths in these areas. Agriculture is, of course, an essential feature on the Canadian agenda. This Conference will provide individuals and institutions in Canada exposure to the challenges facing agriculture in other member countries and offer us guidance as to how our resources might be better harnessed to benefit the Canadian region.

Today, the problems facing agriculture appear to have assumed mammoth proportions. Record high world stocks contrast with continuing hunger and malnutrition, reflecting the failure of existing policy to enable agriculture to make its full contribution to development. International agricultural commodity trade is in disarray as a result of protectionist forces and structural surpluses rooted in excessive support policies. For many developing countries which export agricultural products, declining export earnings exacerbate the debt service burden and further undermine the resources for development. A universal population drift from rural to urban areas is a seemingly inexorable reality. Attention to agricultural policy formulation has never been more vital. A regional conference such as this, which focuses on trade, producer incentives, technology policy, regional integration and technical cooperation, is therefore most relevant and timely.

Agriculture today is of universal concern. It is not a problem just for the poorest countries. It is not a question of "them" and "us." Is there a country, rich or poor, in this hemisphere which does not face major problems in this sector? Perhaps the great strength of a conference like this is that we are joined by this common interest,

that we are open to reform and that our mere presence here demonstrates our commitment to international cooperation in the agricultural sector. I assure you that you can count on Canada to continue to play a vital role in this process.

I want to say something about Canada's relations with the member countries which you represent. First, I do not think I have to dwell on the preeminent importance of the United States to our national life. Neighbors are always vital and when, as in this case, one's only neighbor has an economy ten times bigger than one's own, there can be no surprise at the great importance which Canada attaches to dialogue and cooperation with the United States in the context of our very comprehensive and valued relationship.

By the same token, the sheer dimension of the United States' presence may, to some extent, obscure our view of Latin America and the Caribbean and perhaps similarly, in the other direction, the perceptions which countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have of us. As a result, we in Canada often do not adequately appreciate the economies and cultures of your countries and our trade flows with and investments in this region which are, in reality, quite substantial. It may also reduce the awareness of the extent

to which we share common ideals such as democracy and peace and common problems such as debt and narcotics. This Conference will not rectify the problem but it will surely contribute something to the improvement of our mutual understanding.

The building we are meeting in was originally a railway station. For over fifty years it witnessed the start of many voyages, the first of many steps towards the attainment of countless dreams and aspirations. They symbolism is perhaps appropriate for the task before you this week.

The original function of this building should also remind you that Ottawa is not Canada. I am very pleased to note that the Conference organizers have seen first to make arrangements for you to travel beyond Ottawa and, however briefly, to sample something of our countryside. I know that you will be warmly received wherever you go and that Canadians too will benefit from the new links which are forged.

Ladies and gentlemen, in declaring this Conference open I leave you with the hope that your deliberations will be crowned by substantial agreement and progress on the many vital issues before you and that on its completion each one of you, through your

efforts and contributions, will have found it to have been a most memorable and rewarding experience.

ADDRESS BY MR. ROGER CLINCH,
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF CANADA

It is an honor to address the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture. The central topic of discussion - "Agricultural modernization, international trade and price policy in the framework of regional integration and present international conditions" - is very timely and gives a good basis for exchanging ideas and proposals leading to meaningful recommendations and priorities for the region.

I welcome this opportunity to meet with ministers from throughout the western hemisphere, for two reasons.

The first is simply that agriculture is the basic industry that all our countries share. It is this basic industry we all need to develop if we want to have a healthy population and a prosperous economy. However sophisticated we become with our high tech and our manufacturing industries, we neglect agriculture at our peril.

The founders of this organization showed great perception and foresight in laying a groundwork for cooperation among western hemisphere nations in agricultural research

and development. Farmers learned long ago the importance of cooperation to improve their production and marketing. They have been the backbone of the cooperative movement around the world. It is equally important that nations understand the importance of cooperation in dealing with problems at the international level.

We are not the whole international community here, but we are 29 nations and our voice will be listened to if we come up with positive creative recommendations.

There is a second reason I welcome this change to address you. As Parliamentary Secretary to the Honorable Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations, I am particularly pleased to be able to announce today that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will contribute \$4.5 million to help provide the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture with the financial and technical resources to carry out key development projects. The Canadian contribution is a concrete demonstration of our support to IICA as an institution and more specifically, to its Medium Term Plan.

The CIDA funds, to be allocated over four years, will help to meet the costs of five different programs.

Agriculture Canada is the leading agency in Canada's relations with IICA. CIDA looks forward to Agriculture Canada's cooperation in the development of this project.

I would like to add just a few words about the work Canada is doing through its development assistance program to help the poorer countries of the Third World improve agricultural production, food security and rural development. Canada will spend about \$2.7 billion on official development assistance this year. That represents just about 0.5 percent of our Gross National Product. More important than how much money we spend on development, is how that money is spent.

Agriculture, rural development and food security are among our top priorities. Projects funded by the Canadian International Development Agency range all the way from showing sugar plantation workers in the Philippines how to grow fruits and vegetables for their own families, to demonstrating prairie grain production technology in the drylands of the Sudan, India and Pakistan. These projects can be as simple as designing improved ox-drawn implements for small farmers in Tanzania or as sophisticated as artificial insemination and embryo transplants to improve dairy herds in Brazil.

CIDA's programs give priority to the need for sustainable crop production, the requirement for conservation, and the demand for improved services to producers. Perhaps the most important of those services is agricultural extension - on-site, grassroots information about research results, plant pathology, tillage practices and other factors that the farmer can apply immediately.

Many of you are familiar with the support being provided by CIDA to your own countries. This ranges from research in Andean farming system in Peru, agricultural development and diversification in Honduras, and organization of indigenous groups in Colombia, to a program of advanced technology transfer in Brazil. Fertilizer for Jamaica, emergency food aid for Haiti, a veterinary diagnostic laboratory in Guyana, road construction in Dominica and coconut rehabilitation in Grenada are just a few of the projects under way. These programs represent Canada's interests and capabilities in agriculture and they also represent many of the themes that will be covered by this Conference.

CIDA works at many levels: with governments, international institutions, and with the regional institutions, both governmental and non-governmental. At present CIDA is

funding 50 bilateral projects in more than 20 countries in the Americas valued at US\$180 million. In addition, there are dozens of non-governmental organizations, supported by CIDA funds, undertaking a wide variety of development projects.

Canada is the third-largest contributor to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which has done such vital and effective work - a good part of it through the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in Mexico (CIMMYT) and the International Center of Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Colombia - and, of course, Canada contributes its share to the budget of IICA through Agriculture Canada, CIDA and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Provincial agricultural departments have made valuable contributions. So have the agriculture faculties of many Canadian universities. In recent years we have also seen the growth of a number of private-sector agriculture consulting firms, which has broadened the base of expertise available for CIDA to draw on for the management of projects.

Africa has been the focus of much of the international community's aid effort in

recent years, as prolonged drought and famine have cut deeply into the ability of African farmers to produce food. I believe that the results of your discussions here this week can play a part in helping Africa's farmers become more productive, and helping Africa move more quickly towards food security.

In closing, let me emphasize Canada's commitment to a total effort to bring about a dramatic revolution in agricultural production and food security in the Third World. Strengthening the agricultural economies of the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture is an integral part of that larger commitment.

We are delighted you chose Canada for your meetings this year, and I wish you great success in your deliberations.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY MR. EDUARDO PESQUEIRA, SECRETARY
OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES OF MEXICO,
PRESIDENT OF THE THIRD SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND
PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

Less than a year ago, Mexico had the honor of serving as host country for the Third Special Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), during which the 1987-1991 Medium Term Plan was approved.

At that time the need was expressed to transform the agricultural sector into an engine for regional economic growth by promoting a process aimed at achieving modernization and greater efficiency for progress towards integration of the Americas.

Historically the agricultural sector has played an essential role in the western hemisphere as a stimulus for development of the countries of the region. For this reason, the joint sitting of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) represents an effort of crucial importance for development of the agricultural sector in the Americas.

Accordingly, this most hospitable city of Ottawa has again become the site of discussions concerning the future of our peoples.

This is a forum which demands the greatest willingness to tackle the problems - both chronic difficulties and current circumstances - which confront a large number of our economies.

All of us attending these events as delegates and members of the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture have expressed our interest in achieving broader international cooperation and greater regional integration.

It is necessary to enhance relationships among the countries of Latin America, for more dynamic international trade may lead to greater Latin American integration.

To this end, the meeting of eight Heads of State, to be held in Mexico City in November, will be a most useful event.

There, Raúl Alfonsín of Argentina, José Sarney of Brazil, Virgilio Barco of Colombia, Eric del Valle of Panama, Alán García of

Peru, Jaime Lusinchi of Venezuela, Julio María Sanguinetti of Uruguay, and Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico will discuss common problems.

The outcome of this meeting will have far-reaching effects.

The world has undergone profound change in the last 40 years. We have evolved from the bipolar East-West confrontation that arose at the end of World War II, into a multilateral scenario in which the powerful economies of Asia and Europe are emerging to form new international configurations, the main characteristic of which is enhanced interdependence.

There is, for example, the Pacific Basin which will have significant influence in the next century.

Today, the financial and economic adjustments and trade measures which each country is trying to implement unilaterally are leading inexorably to confrontation and widening the gap between industrialized and developing nations.

In the midst of the crisis faced by the international community, economic and trade systems have been called into question.

Their fundamental principles and their effectiveness in achieving the ends for which they were designed are no longer accepted blindly. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen and increase our participation in multilateral forums at which we may analyze the various positions and undertake broader and more efficient discussion in order to arrive at permanent agreements based on group consensus.

We must make very effort to seek joint solutions and to eliminate the practices that arise from unilateral interpretations. We must work towards a time when international cooperation will predominate.

The enormous differences which exist among our respective agricultural development processes must serve to deepen our understanding.

In the Americas we are faced with a painful reality. Among the industrialized nations, the agricultural sector has been highly protected and promoted to a point where it has become thoroughly integrated and has achieved progress in technology and production. This has enabled such countries to make tremendous inroads as exporters on the international market.

In Latin America, this sector has for a long time been subject to an anti-agriculture policy which, in the past, sustained a model of urban-industrial growth and import substitution, and played a subordinate and subservient role of providing cheap food and raw materials for the domestic market, while generating foreign exchange in an international market with relatively little competition at the time.

The international economic crisis appears to be casting a giant shadow over the future of the Americas, presenting a discouraging and uncertain panorama.

For the developed countries to the north, economic imbalances have resulted in lower growth rates, higher levels of unemployment and larger fiscal and foreign trade deficits, causing them to increase protectionism.

Using capital-intensive methods and technology, these nations have risen to the challenge of increasing food production to meet the needs of a continually expanding world population.

Despite this notable success, and while food stocks are mounting in the producing nations, which have nowhere to trade their

surplus, hunger is on the increase in many nations with food shortages.

The problem facing the developed and producing nations is one of marketing their food products at a time of crisis in which demand has been artificially depressed. Thus the huge agricultural surpluses are, because of market conditions, contributing to confrontations between the powers.

For the developing economies of the Latin American region, the effects of this crisis have been even more severe:

- Injustices in the terms of trade have increased.
- Inflation is growing wildly and is no longer under control.
- Gross per capita income has fallen for the first time in 40 years.
- Revenue has dropped significantly owing to the fall in prices for raw materials and basic commodities, and the fact that resources must be allocated to service crushing debt loads.

This situation has paradoxically transformed Latin America, with its cash shortages, into a net exporter of capital.

The moderate progress being made in the international economy is too weak to spur a recovery.

The threat of inflation and high interest rates, the growing cost of production and resulting reduction in demand - these are factors which affect the powerful countries as well as those that are struggling to maintain their rates of development.

In summary, it appears that negative trends far outnumber the promising indicators within the international context. The much-discussed protectionism, far from being alleviated, is actually on the rise, as it shrinks markets and causes them to become arenas for world confrontation. In this way, the developing countries are unable to achieve greater participation in world trade and, accordingly, cannot obtain the resources to meet their financial obligations and maintain development.

At the same time, the freeing of world agricultural markets over the next 10 years, as recently proposed by the United States, appears not to be viable, given the great discrepancy in levels of development and the large differences in specific characteristics within the corresponding agricultural sectors.

Therefore, the application of free trade principles solely as a stimulus to production or trade would, without doubt, encounter substantial obstacles and result in the failure to meet mutual obligations, by some, uninterested in doing so, and others, unable to.

As proof we need only point out an historical and cultural fact of the Latin American nations, namely that certain basic commodities such as corn are not only viewed as food, but actually represent a way of life for many rural inhabitants, not unlike the rice culture of the east.

In Mexico, cassava and prickly pear form part of the daily diet. For this reason, we say that the eating habits of much of the population differ from those of the majority of industrialized countries.

If we add that in the nations of Latin America, the agricultural sector is of fundamental importance to our economies and societies, we will then understand the reticence to adopting free trade practices.

One option would be to introduce a "controlled free-trade system" which would include a gradual and selective opening-up of the least vulnerable aspects of trade.

One important view has already been discussed: the need to bring greater stability and predictability to international trade in agriculture, and above all, to ensure fairness in the terms of trade, if the sector is to continue expanding over the long term.

It is for this reason that the commitment undertaken at the beginning of the GATT talks in Uruguay remain valid inasmuch as foreign trade in agricultural products is one of the pillars for development of many non-industrialized countries.

The modernization of agriculture, international trade in agricultural products, and price policies are issues which may be tackled within the framework of strengthening integration in the Americas, particularly when international conditions are unfavorable. Hence, the selection of these items as the central theme of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture is most appropriate and in consonance with the objectives of this body.

Modernization of agriculture implies consideration of opportunities for the generation and transfer of technology in a manner that not only contributes to increasing the production capacity of the land, but also

offers a real possibility of extending the new technology to all types of producers with the hope that these, in turn, can assimilate the technology through a process which strengthens their organization and training - within the framework of close and efficient international cooperation.

With regard to price policy, the analysis must take into account both domestic and foreign factors, as well as the imbalance between these two levels.

In the Latin American nations we will have to make greater efforts to infuse capital into our rural labor force, ensuring that workers once again receive a reasonable return on their production activities, as an essential condition for them to resume dynamic levels of growth and development, in order that they might contribute actively to their own progress.

The problem in Latin America is one of justice and development, not ideologies.

As regards international prices, it is necessary to eliminate the subsidies that give rise to unfair competition and create trade imbalances. We must thoroughly overhaul current trading arrangements under the impetus of the changes that are taking place

on the international scene, seeking a method for elevating trade once again to its central role in the revitalization and development of all nations, not just the chosen few.

There can be no doubt that national efforts to achieve these goals are important, yet they will be still more effective if they take place within the framework of real integration.

In this respect, international and regional organizations play a central role in the stimulation and intensive promotion of agricultural development. This is particularly so in regard to aspects such as technical and scientific cooperation which are capable of multiplying and extending the benefits of a nation's experience, and which represent a suitable means by which resources can be transferred from the industrialized countries to the poorer developing nations.

I welcome the presence at this meeting of representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Inter-American Bank for Reconstruction and Development, financial institutions which support development.

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, through its Medium Term Plan and under the aegis of its Director

General, Dr. Martín Piñeiro, is hard at work and is becoming the most important organization specializing in agriculture. This is so not only in terms of its technical leadership, but also by virtue of the impact that its cooperation is having to the benefit of member countries.

This is of essential importance for reactivating development with the agricultural sector and achieving an adequate share of the international market, given the significant advances achieved in world technology during recent years.

The Institute's Medium Term Plan, approved at the special meeting hosted in Mexico, is completely consistent with the fundamental goal of encouraging, promoting and supporting the efforts of Member States to achieve their agricultural development and the well-being of their rural populations.

As Chairman of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, a position with which you honored me at the aforementioned meeting in Mexico, I have been able to observe the progress achieved in implementing the Medium Term Plan, which concentrates its efforts in the following well-defined areas:

- Agricultural policy analysis and planning
- Technology generation and transfer
- Organization and management for rural development
- Marketing and agroindustry
- Animal health and plant protection

I would like to draw attention to the problem of insufficient resources for offsetting the increase in IICA's operating costs.

Regardless of how we go about solving this problem here, I should like to call upon the IICA Directorate to redouble efforts in seeking new formulas for the efficient use of resources, and in the search for new sources of funding for IICA's activities, which are so essential. At the same time, I also call upon the member countries, particularly the wealthier ones, to meet their commitment as defined once the budget has been determined.

As I defer to my Canadian colleague and friend, Mr. John Wise, I am confident that the Institute is consolidating its position as the Americans' agency for support of the agricultural sector.

I also feel certain that the responsibility for directing the activities of the

Board toward the highest values of the western hemisphere rests in good hands - those of John Wise.

I take the opportunity to thank this forum for the support received in my election as President of the World Food Council, and honor which I am sure reflects acknowledgment by the international community of my country's efforts on behalf of international cooperation for development and in support of the principles of self-determination, non-intervention and the peaceful settlement of disputes - in short, our work in promoting peace and the well-being of humankind.

As President of the World Food Council, I wish to share in the expressions of jubilation over the enormous progress towards a solution to the Central American conflict, since this confrontation has been hindering rural development in the region.

The ministers of agriculture, meeting in Beijing, China, have agreed that the formulation of a new system of international relations is a sine qua non for overcoming the problems that confront us at present.

We also agreed to make public the views of our Council, and I should therefore like to highlight certain of our recommendations:

- Hunger is due in many cases not to a lack of food, but to unjust or imbalanced distribution.
- Third World countries have been unable to modernize and invest in their agricultural sectors because they have been occupied in struggling against economic difficulties, carrying out stabilization and adjustment programs.
- Protectionism, low prices for basic commodities, worsening of the terms of trade and limited access to markets are blocking the efforts of developing countries to achieve food self-sufficiency and agricultural prosperity.

For these reasons we have requested the international financial institutions to increase the number of their programs providing support for modernizing the agricultural and livestock sectors of the developing countries.

Fellow ministers, I feel that any forum dealing with the problems of the agricultural sector must, necessarily, draw attention to

the problem of hunger throughout the worldand, in particular, in Latin America.

In a world which has achieved significant advances in increasing food production and productivity, it is unjust when the products of this sector are not distributed among the regions most in need because of self-interest and problems stemming from an unfair and inefficient system of international trade.

It is irrational and immoral that hunger should be on the increase in a world of abundance.

We know that food shortages throughout the world do not stem from production problems, but have much to do with modernization of the agricultural sector, more equitable international trade, and a price policy which will make all this possible.

I am convinced that the solutions to problems such as those that the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture will discuss must have as their final objective that of guaranteeing the right of every person to enjoy lifelong access to food.

I hope that the results of our analysis will produce new alternatives for the solution of our problems and fortify the hope we have placed in international coordination and cooperation as a means of benefiting humankind - the ultimate aim of all development programs in every nation of the world.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY DR. MARTIN E. PIÑEIRO,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA

I would like to begin by welcoming all the participants to the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture. Thank you for joining us in these events, thus giving us, once again, a clear sign of your interest in the Institute.

I would also like to extend a special welcome to the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. During the month of August, both of these countries deposited their instruments of ratification of the IICA Convention and have thereby become full-fledged Member States of the Institute.

The Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture are being held jointly for the first time in history. The Ninth Conference is one of the specialized conferences of the inter-American system. These events are generally held every four years to discuss matters of special interest and importance, and they provide an opportunity for the inter-American system to

seek points of consensus and agree to shared actions. The Fourth Regular Meeting of the Board is being held in accordance with regulations of this governing body of the Institute, which is responsible for establishing IICA working policies, approving the biennial program budget and setting the annual quotas of the Member States. It is of special significance to us for these two events to be taking place simultaneously, converting our deliberations into a true hemisphere-wide summit on agriculture, the resulting general mandate of which could be transformed into specific requests for the agencies of the inter-American system, especially IICA.

This event is unique for reasons that transcend the simple fact of combining certain sessions of two broad forums for discussion and decision-making. Its singular nature is also the product of much more important factors, which I would like to discuss briefly.

Rarely in the history of Latin America and the Caribbean have the countries from this part of the world found themselves facing a situation so replete with uncertainties, difficulties and challenges. The pace of growth and economic and social development that had been maintained for nearly three decades came to an abrupt halt in the 1980s,

beginning a period of economic and social decline. The results can be found in most of our countries, although the specific features vary for each case. At the same time, a technological revolution now under way is quickly generating profound transformations in social and productive organization, and will affect the countries in ways that are difficult to foresee.

It is generally understood that the problem is more than economic in nature, and that the situation must be turned around in order to ensure peace and political stability in our countries. Imaginative, determined efforts will be needed in the search for alternative responses to the present crisis, and we must press for decisions to be made on implementing new solutions.

Agriculture does not operate in isolation from this general context. Drastic declines in the prices of many agricultural products have reduced farmers' incomes in all countries of the Americas, including the most developed nations, and rural poverty is on the rise. Similarly, the crushing external debt accumulated by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean imposes macroeconomic constraints that affect agricultural production and prevent the sector from developing its full production potential.

Economic reactivation and the consolidation of peace and democracy in the countries of the region depend on our ability to solve these external problems affecting the performance of agriculture. It is therefore vitally important to shape an international commitment for eliminating the restrictions and distortions that characterize international agricultural trade, allowing our countries to benefit from their greater comparative advantages for agricultural production.

However, we must not be tempted by this difficult milieu into feeling skeptical about the possibilities open to agriculture as a factor of economic growth and development. We are convinced that, despite present difficulties, the agricultural sector is called upon to play a central role in revitalizing the economy. It holds this promise because of its present share in the overall product of the region, its ability to generate employment, its export potential and its interrelationships with other sectors of the economy, such as input supply and the industries that process agricultural raw materials. For all these reasons, there is no doubt that agriculture is capable of revitalizing and priming the economy over the short term.

Over the long term, agriculture can play an important role in revitalizing the economy only if it becomes more technically advanced and increasingly diversified and efficient, and if the multiplier effects generated by greater intersectoral interdependence can be stepped up. Therefore, it is important to think about new development strategies that will attach high priority to agriculture and encourage new types of linkages with the industrial sector, thus allowing the increased productivity and efficiency of the agricultural sector to serve as an engine for agroindustrial development that is both stable and competitive.

This process can be set in motion by assigning a key role to public policies designed to offer incentives, correct structural flaws and establish a suitable macroeconomic environment for modernization of the agricultural sector. It is also necessary to realign mechanisms for research and technology transfer in the countries of the region, so as to ensure that new technology is developed and adopted. We are standing at the threshold of a new technological revolution that opens grand vistas for increasing production. At the same time, it poses a threat for those countries that do not make the needed effort to join this current.

Such a monumental task cannot be undertaken without broad multinational cooperation and joint efforts on the part of all the countries in the region. This type of cooperation is of fundamental importance in three essential areas: international trade, capitalization of the rural sector and the technification of agriculture. In these areas, the international community and the technical and financial agencies must play a central role to support the region's development. By renewing their commitment to regional integration and joining together to seek common solutions to their problems, the governments of Latin America and the Caribbe an are creating an effective means to expand the scope of economic activity, strengthen negotiating capacity with third countries, and coordinate national production development policies by making full use of economic and ecological differences among our countries.

This recent upsurge of integration in the region goes hand in hand with the increasingly international nature of agriculture and of technological know-how. Together, these factors confront us with the need to design a new style of international technical cooperation that will propel joint actions by the countries of the region. They should begin coordinating their requests and

their needs, keeping them consistent with financial and scientific resources available in the developed countries. Thus, the essential tasks for which we must now prepare ourselves are to help the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean organize for working together to promote agriculture, and to procure contributions and support from the more developed countries towards this same end. The agreement with the government of Canada, which was just announced by Mr. Clinch, is clearly a first step in this direction, involving as it does financial and scientific resources from a developed country that will be applied to activities coordinated by IICA in the region, using a flexible mechanism in support of the Institute's Medium Term Plan.

This, briefly, is the backdrop against which we are holding the two important meetings being inaugurated today in Ottawa, Canada's hospitable capital city. Our host country has been a Member State of IICA since 1972 and boasts a proud record of effective participation as a leader in technical and economic cooperation programs with the countries of the Third World. This country also stands out for its vigorous agricultural sector, which today is facing problems of international origin similar to those affecting the countries of Latin America and the

Caribbean. In order to help solve these problems, it is conducting joint actions with the countries of the developing world, through the Cairns group. This is why no venue other than Canada could be so conducive to the success of the deliberations we are beginning today.

The resolutions adopted in the broad context of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture will undoubtedly serve as a mandate for the inter-American system as a whole. Dr. Baena Soares has already let us know of his interest and willingness to disseminate and support the conclusions of the Conference, and to continue developing closer ties and coordination with us. The decision to hold the conference concurrently with the Board meeting will pave the way for the Inter-American Board of Agriculture to transform the recommendations of the Conference, reshaping them to fit the narrower confines of IICA's sphere of action by immediately incorporating them into concrete resolutions designed to guide and govern Institute action. Through the resulting resolutions, IICA's activities for coming years will benefit from the deliberations and recommendations of the Conference and will thus reveal greater conceptual depth and reflect more closely the characteristics of the complex situation in which we live today.

I would like to close by thanking the government and people of Canada, especially in the persons of the Governor General, Her Excellency The Right Honourable Jeanne Sauvé, and the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable John Wise, for their kind invitation to hold these meetings in Ottawa, and for bringing us together today to enjoy Canada's warm hospitality. The presence of all of you at this two-fold event of such importance for the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean augurs well for the success of the deliberations we begin today. Thank you very much.

ADDRESS BY AMBASSADOR JOAO CLEMENTE
BAENA SOARES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The preeminent nature of this meeting, as demonstrated by the presence of the honourable ministers of agriculture and their representatives, together with observers from a number of countries and multilateral agencies, assures us of a most successful outcome.

First of all, I should like to commend the superb work being done by the Director General of IICA, my friend Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, and his colleagues, to ensure the success of this meeting.

I wish to express our deepest appreciation to the government of Canada for its generous offer to host this Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and Fourth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

This is eloquent proof, once again, of the traditional hospitality of the Canadian people. Canada's rich, extensive and varied geography, which sustains agriculture and technological development, to enable it to contribute significantly to overcoming the

challenges currently facing the countries of the Americas. I know this country will do everything possible to ensure the success of the Conference.

This specialized conference of the inter-American system affords a very special opportunity to discuss topics of high priority and to generate recommendations of fundamental importance to the work of the governments and international agencies operating in the region. The opportunity is special, because this Conference represents the convergence of numerous forces of strategic importance for the future of Latin America and the Caribbean.

I should like to make particular mention of some of these converging forces and their importance as I perceive it in my capacity as Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

I shall refer to some areas of consideration prompted by this meeting. Specifically, I believe it timely to stress that our discussions here will be shaped by a coming together of countries, bringing with them topics of great importance at the present economic juncture in the region, and armed

with the political maturity needed to confidently face the challenges of the present and the future.

This coming together of member countries of the OAS and of IICA, symbolized by the very fact that our meeting is being held in Canada, leads us to reaffirm a hemisphere-wide commitment to shared ideals and to solidarity in the quest for integrated development. We are all aware that there can be no effective and lasting democracy until we can achieve self-sustained economic growth, with the full participation of all our peoples.

Every country of Latin America and the Caribbean is confronted with the need to produce far-reaching domestic policy adjustments, a task which can be achieved only if the needed resolve is present in each. This internal effort will have greater chances of success if it is supported by joint action within the region and a more favorable extraregional framework of fiscal, monetary, trade and financial support policies than has prevailed since the start of the decade. Thus, it is incumbent upon the industrialized countries to reconsider their priorities in light of the impact of their actions on the real possibility of strengthening democracy

in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is a matter of concern to us all.

There is a pressing need both to reshape the climate in the hemisphere, to enable each country to reap the benefits of its own domestic efforts, and to make use of every available option for regional integration. This Conference, coinciding as it does with a meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, brings together a sufficient number of countries that can contribute to the task of building a new framework of solidarity consistent with the new realities of the hemisphere.

A number of vital concerns also converge in this Conference. In this regard, I should like to highlight technology and trade as two vital aspects of the situation that we must address. In discussing them, the Conference must examine the role of both the public and private sectors in the new policies.

Ever since I had the honour to assume the post of OAS Secretary General, I have endeavored to stress at every opportunity that the rapid technological changes taking place are the key to our future. This region

is still seeking solutions to its long-standing problems of integrated development and is held back by the need to give high priority attention to the problem of foreign indebtedness and, in general, to the shortage of financing.

This Conference is devoted to the subject of agriculture, which has in the past and will continue in future to be a sector of crucial importance for the region. But it has not escaped your notice that technological advances worldwide are profoundly altering the production patterns of all countries, and accordingly, the composition and direction of world trade. It is hard to conceive of an integrated development process for Latin America and the Caribbean that does not seek new forms of regional participation in the world economy, which is becoming increasingly interdependent and oriented toward production of and trade in high-technology goods and services.

Any discussion of new forms of participation in the world economy should be approached with a spirit of realism, which is attuned to the overall situation of the region and the particular conditions of each country. This is one of the areas where the need for concerted efforts within the region and support from industrialized countries is

greatest. In addition, the search for a suitable strategy and policies for addressing these problems demands a timetable consistent with the predominantly agricultural economy of most of the countries, and agriculture will therefore play a vital role in the search. It can only play this role effectively--and this bears repeating--only if two basic requirements are met: internal effort and the cooperation of industrialized countries, which have been erecting serious barriers to the region's agricultural exports.

As we move forward, however, we must abandon the heterogeneous agricultural sector we have known so long, a sector characterized by large pockets of technological deficiency and rural poverty and by very limited integration with the other sectors of our economies. On the contrary, our agriculture must become increasingly modern, increasingly integrated with the other sectors of the economy, and increasingly capable of creating systems of gainful employment for the population. Although this challenge has existed in Latin America and the Caribbean for many years, the internal and external pressures now being brought to bear on our societies make it more imperative than ever to address the challenge without delay. Joint reflection on these topics, which are central to

any new development strategy, must be a top priority for the agencies and forums of the inter-American system. Most particularly, both IICA and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture will undoubtedly be directly addressed in the recommendations emanating from this Conference.

I expect also that the Conference will address the issue of the modernization of the government apparatus and will examine the relationship between the public and private sectors. These topics are today the focus of particular concern and debate in our countries and require an innovative approach. Agriculture, as one of the driving forces of the economy, unquestionably has a contribution to make here.

The governments of the region have traditionally played a key role in agricultural research and dissemination of the resulting advances. Today, conditions are changing in at least three basic areas.

First of all, the contribution of the private sector is now unequalled. It reaches far beyond mere efforts to improve crop yields, the target to which private technological contributions were limited in the past. Today the region has numerous centers engaged in the creation, adaptation and

transfer of agricultural technology. These centers should come together with the public sector, to form an integrated efficient system. Secondly, public sector structures for the creation and dissemination of technology in the region have been weakened with the decline in governments' overall financial capacity. Thus, the new internal effort requires a precise definition of functions and modernization of the state apparatus both in policy making and as regards technology, and this must occur immediately. Lastly, with the advance of technology in agriculture and in other producing sectors, the time lag between the creation of knowledge and its application has been shortened. Accordingly, it is urgent to examine the most effective organizational approach for attaining the requisite technological level. All three of these are crucial factors in the new internal effort, and all of them can benefit from regional integration of certain tasks, from an exchange of experiences within the region, and from the support of industrialized countries.

Ladies and gentlemen, the General Secretariat of the OAS and, indeed, all multilateral organizations operating in the region, as well as the governments, will stand to benefit from the outcome of your deliberations and recommendations. Most

particularly, it will be incumbent on IICA, as the specialized agency of the system, to carry out many of your recommendations and to ensure that the results of this meeting are fully felt by all its target groups.

For my part, I will await most anxiously the outcome of this Conference, which in itself is an important body of the system and which is presently at the center of this convergence of forces which are essential to the future of the entire hemisphere.

Thank you very much.

III. MINUTES OF THE NINTH INTER-AMERICAN
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE

PREPARATORY TECHNICAL SESSION

- 0.1 The preparatory technical session of the Conference was held on August 29, 1987, at 10:00 a.m., in the Sussex Room of the Convention Centre. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. IICA was represented by the Director General, the General Coordinator of the Conference and the Technical Secretary of the Conference and the Board.
- 0.2 The participants designated the representative of Uruguay, Mr. Pedro Olmos, as Moderator. The Director General briefly described the proposed structure of the meeting. The General Coordinator expanded on the contents of the document "Ideas for the Ottawa Declaration." The representatives expressed their satisfaction with this base document and gave suggestions for additional topics. Several uncertainties with regard to the

work of the Committee for the Declaration and Recommendations were also clarified. The session was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

PREPARATORY SESSION

- 0.3 The preparatory session of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture was called to order on August 30, 1987 at 5:00 p.m. in the Main Hall of the Canadian Government Conference Centre in Ottawa, and was chaired by the representative of Mexico, Mr. Eduardo Pesqueira, in his capacity as Chair of the Third Special Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.
- 0.4 It was a closed session attended by the heads of delegation, at which agreements were reached on the following:
- Adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference
 - Election of the Chair
 - Provisional Agenda
 - Membership of the Credentials Committee

- Membership of the Style Committee
- Membership of the Committee on the Declaration and Recommendations
- Deadline for submitting proposals
- Duration of the Conference
- Drawing of lots for the order of precedence of the Member States
- Other business

0.5 The session was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 The first plenary session of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 30, 1987 in the Main Hall of the Canadian Government Conference Centre in Ottawa, and was chaired by the representative of Canada, Mr. John Wise, who has been elected by acclamation to chair the Conference at the first plenary session of the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

- 1.2 The Chair reported to the meeting on the preparatory session held previously, the agreements of which were immediately submitted for approval by the plenary session:
- The Rules of Procedure for the Conference, appearing in document OAS/Ser.K/11.9.1, IICA/Doc.3/87, were approved.
 - The Provisional agenda presented in document OAS/Ser.K/11.9.1.rev., IICA/Doc.1/87, was adopted.
 - The Credentials Committee was set up, with representatives of the following countries: Ecuador, Brazil, Jamaica, the United States of America and St. Kitts and Nevis.
 - The Style Committee was set up as follows: Guatemala, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil and the Bahamas.
 - The plenary agreed that the Committee on the Declaration and Recommendations would include members of each delegation interested in participating in the work of said Committee.

- Tuesday, September 1 at 8:00 a.m. was approved as the deadline for the presentation of proposals, with the proviso that this would not apply to draft recommendations emanating from working groups.
- The order of precedence was established as follows:
 1. Haiti
 2. Dominica
 3. The United States of America
 4. Honduras
 5. Bolivia
 6. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
 7. Venezuela
 8. Argentina
 9. Peru
 10. Uruguay
 11. El Salvador
 12. Paraguay
 13. St. Kitts and Nevis
 14. Chile
 15. Dominican Republic
 16. Costa Rica
 17. Barbados
 18. Ecuador
 19. Bahamas
 20. Saint Lucia
 21. Mexico
 22. Panama
 23. Jamaica
 24. Grenada
 25. Guatemala
 26. Antigua and Barbuda
 27. Suriname
 28. Trinidad and Tobago
 29. Brazil
 30. Colombia
 31. Nicaragua
 32. Guyana

- The provisional work schedule given in document OAS/Ser.K/11.9.1, IICA/Doc.2/87 was approved, and it was pointed out that the closing session of the Conference would be held Wednesday, September 2 at 6:00 p.m.

It was agreed that the proposal relating to the topic of peace as a factor in agriculture would be considered for discussion during the Conference.

- 1.3 The Chair thanked the delegates and observers present and invited them to meet at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 31 in the same room, when the Inaugural Session of the Conference would be held.
- 1.4 The first plenary session was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

INAUGURAL SESSION

- 0.6 The inaugural session of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was held in the Main Hall of the Canadian Government

Conference Centre on Monday, August 31, 1987 at 9:00 a.m. It was presided over by the Governor General of Canada, Her Excellency Jeanne Sauvé, who was greeted by the Band of the Governor-General's Foot Guards.

- 0.7 The Right Honourable John Wise, as Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Chair of the meetings, was the first to extend a warm welcome to the participants, and thanked Her Excellency the Governor General, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Ambassador João Baena Soares, members of the Canadian Parliament, and representatives of the provincial governments for attending the Conference. He welcomed Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, the ministers, heads of delegation of the Member States of the Institute, observers, ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps, and representatives of international and regional agencies and government and non-governmental organizations.
- 0.8 He mentioned that in two days' time, Canada would be hosting the Second Francophone Summit, in Quebec City, and that the Biennial Summit of heads of

state of the British Commonwealth would be held in Vancouver in October. At all these meetings, including this Conference, Canada would continue to play an important role in cooperation for economic development, in international economic stability, in technological and cultural exchanges, and in the campaign against apartheid.

- 0.9 He pointed out that Canada's record in the area of development aid had permitted the country to act as a reliable bridge between the developed countries and the developing countries, and he reinforced the commitment Canada had made to IICA in 1972, while recognizing the Institute's capabilities in promoting agricultural development and rural well-being. He mentioned that IICA's Medium Term Plan was a suitable instrument to assist the member countries in resolving the main problems hindering their agricultural growth, and he stressed that the working documents of the Conference gave an accurate picture of the prospects and potential for agriculture, the incentives needed for modernization, technological innovation and the international trade crisis.

- 0.10 After commenting on the profound changes which had occurred in the 1980s in the international economy, and their effects on the agricultural sector, the Chair of the meeting urged his colleagues, the ministers of agriculture, to concentrate their efforts, through IICA, on technological modernization and on regional integration to strengthen economic links between agriculture and the other sectors of the economy.
- 0.11 The Chair then announced that Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada, Mrs. Jeanne Sauvé, would take the floor. Mrs. Sauvé welcomed the representatives, and then went on to discuss the role that the Organization of American States and IICA, as an agency specializing in agriculture, must assume towards Latin America and the Caribbean and the importance Canada attributed to these institutions.
- 0.12 She referred to the problems of hunger, malnutrition and difficulties related to international protectionist measures and product surpluses, all of which hindered exports. She spoke of some of the consequences of these problems, such as the exodus of the rural population to urban areas. She indicated that it was

necessary to prepare agricultural policies which would take the new requirements of the sector into account, and she added that Canada would continue striving to cooperate actively in resolving these problems.

0.13 She also referred to the importance Canada attached to dialogue with the United States regarding contributions to Latin American and Caribbean countries for strengthening democratic systems and peace in the region. Thereupon she officially called to order the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and stated her hope that the Conference would achieve its goals.

0.14 The Chair escorted Her Excellency, the Governor General, as she left the hall, and then introduced the Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico, Mr. Eduardo Pesqueira, who took the floor as Chair of the Third Special Meeting of the IABA and President of the World Food Council. Mr. Pesqueira first requested Minister Wise to extend the plenary's gratitude to Mrs. Sauvé for having honored the meeting with her presence.

- 0.15 Mr. Pesqueira indicated that he considered these meetings an ideal forum for discussing the basic problems afflicting the countries' economies, as well for improving relations with an aim to achieving more dynamic international trade. He made note of an upcoming meeting of heads of state, to be held in November in Mexico to discuss matters of regional integration, and to be attended by Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as by the President of Mexico.
- 0.16 Mr. Pesqueira then gave a brief analysis of the profound changes occurring over the past 40 years and of the crisis that faced developing countries in the international marketplace, as well as the need to strengthen their participation in multilateral forums and to strive to find joint solutions with the support of international aid organizations. He stated that while removal of all restrictions on world trade in agriculture did not seem viable, a "controlled liberalism" should be considered through a gradual and selective opening of markets in future years.

- 0.17 He also added that, as President of the World Food Council, he wished to emphasize some of the Council's recommendations with regard to the following areas: (1) hunger, which in many cases was not related to food shortages, but rather to an uneven distribution of food; (2) the need to modernize the agricultural sector which, to a large extent, could not be done due to difficulties in economic stabilization and adjustment programs; and (3) protectionism, which often obstructed the lesser developed countries from achieving prosperity in the agricultural field.
- 0.18 He added that he felt IICA was accomplishing excellent work through the programs included in the Medium Term Plan approved at the meeting in Mexico. Furthermore, he appealed to IICA to take additional steps to locate resources and new sources of financing, and appealed to the individual countries to fulfill their financial commitments so as to enable IICA to carry out its tasks in accordance with the working documents.
- 0.19 He concluded by thanking the Canadian government and people once again for their hospitality, and expressed his

hope that the ideas and solutions of this forum would benefit the final target of all development programs: the individual.

0.20 The Chair then introduced Mr. Roger Clinch, Parliamentary Secretary, who stated that the theme of the Conference was a very timely one at the present historical juncture and said that he took great pleasure at meeting with ministers from countries of the western hemisphere, for two reasons: (1) because agriculture was the basic industry shared by all the countries, and the Conference was an excellent opportunity to make creative and viable recommendations; and (2) because, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Relations, he was particularly pleased to announce that on that day, the Canadian International Development Agency had approved aid of CAD\$4.5 million to cooperate with IICA in the implementation of high-priority projects, which clearly demonstrated Canadian support for IICA and for its Medium Term Plan.

0.21 He gave a brief rundown of the work which Canada was doing through its development aid program to improve agricultural production, food security

and rural development in the poorer countries of the Third World. He also mentioned the support given by CIDA to several countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, specifying the areas in which aid was provided and naming the beneficiary countries.

- 0.22 He went on to state that Canada was the third largest contributor to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) through international centers such as CIMMYT and CIAT. He mentioned the special situation of the African continent which, in recent years, had experienced problems of prolonged drought and the resulting famine, and which had been receiving increasing amounts of aid from the international community. He expressed the hope that the results of this Conference might help African farmers to achieve food security more rapidly through greater productivity.
- 0.23 He concluded by offering assurances that Canada was willing to make every effort to help bring about a revolution in agricultural production and food security in the Third World, stating that he hoped the deliberations would be crowned with success.

- 0.24 The Chair then recognized the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, who, after greeting the delegates to the Ninth ICMA and Fourth IABA, extended a special welcome to the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, countries which had become full-fledged members of the Institute in August. He indicated that this was the first time the two meetings had been held jointly.
- 0.25 He then offered a summary analysis of the difficulties and challenges facing the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and underlined the urgent need to reverse the present situation to ensure peace and political stability in the countries. He mentioned the internal and external problems affecting the performance of agriculture, stating that despite these difficulties, there was no doubt as to the essential role of the agricultural sector in the revitalization of the economy.
- 0.26 He pointed out the need to find new development strategies that would give due priority to agriculture within an

overall economic process, in which key emphasis would be placed on public policies able to bring about a modernization of the agricultural sector, adapt research and technology transfer mechanisms to changing conditions and create suitable incentives to correct structural imbalances.

0.27 He pointed out that the monumental task that lay ahead could not be accomplished without broad multinational cooperation and without a real effort by all countries. He advocated regional integration as an approach to solving the problems and as a way to make optimum use of available resources. He said that the agreement with the government of Canada announced by Mr. Clinch was an example of a step taken in this direction. He praised Canada as a country which distinguished itself through its cooperation and whose vigorous agricultural sector was confronting problems on the international level similar to those of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

0.28 He added that the recommendations emanating from the Conference would serve as a mandate for the entire inter-American system, with the support already

pledged by the Secretary General of the OAS, and would also permit the IABA, within the narrower context of IICA, to adopt concrete resolutions for activities designed to bring about solutions to the present complex situation. He ended by thanking the government and people of Canada for their hospitality in hosting these meetings.

0.29 The Chair then offered the floor to the Secretary General of the OAS, Ambassador João Baena Soares, who thanked the ministers, heads of delegation and others for their presence at this forum. He offered congratulations to the Director General of IICA and thanked the government of Canada for its hospitality. He pointed out that this Conference of the inter-American system provided a very special opportunity to debate high-priority issues and to make recommendations for action by governments and international agencies operating in the region.

0.30 He expressed his belief that the importance of the meeting lay in the fact that it represented a convergence of key elements of the development strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean. The three major factors which he emphasized

were: the countries, the issues and the political maturity to confront the challenges of the future with vigor.

- 0.31 In his discussion of issues, he underlined the importance of domestic efforts, which could be frustrated if not given support by the industrialized countries; the need to exploit integration options; the crucial role of technology in defining the production and commercial patterns of the future; the role of an agricultural sector able to contribute effectively to overall development; and the need to modernize the government apparatus and to redefine its relations with the private sector.
- 0.32 In closing, he expressed confidence that the General Secretariat of the OAS, multilateral organizations and the governments would reap the benefits of the Conference and that IICA would see to implementing some of the recommendations and would guarantee follow-up of other actions.
- 0.33 The complete texts of the addresses given at the inaugural session are included in this report.
- 0.34 The session was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

PARTICIPANTS

- 0.35 The following member countries of the OAS and IICA were represented at the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.
- 0.36 Representatives of the governments of the following countries were present as observers: Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea and Spain.
- 0.37 The following agencies of the inter-American system sent observers to the Conference: the Inter-American Commission of Women (IACW), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO);

organs of the United Nations system were: the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the World Food Council (WFC); other organizations present included: the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the Regional Center for Adult Education and Functional Literacy in Latin America (CREFAL), the Ibero-American Rural Youth Advisory Council (CAIJR), the Ibero-American Cooperation Institute (ICI), the International Development and Cooperation Institute, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Office of Epizootics (OIE), the Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA), the Agricultural Institute of Canada, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Secretariat for Economic Integration in Central America (SIECA), the University

of Guelph, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, the World Development Corporation, the Canadian Seed Trade Association, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the World Food Day Association of Canada, the National Farmers Union, the Guelph International Development Consultants, the Agricultural International Development Associations of Canada (AICDAC) and the Cooperative Union of Canada.

- 0.38 IICA Directors Emeritus Armando Samper and José Emilio G. Araujo also participated in the Conference.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

- 2.1 The second plenary session of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, chaired by the Minister of Agriculture of Canada, Mr. John Wise, was called to order at 11:10 a.m. on August 31, 1987.
- 2.2 The Chair introduced the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, who discussed the key topics dealt within the four Conference working documents. He underlined the role of agriculture as

a fulcrum for economic growth in the countries of the region, and said that this would be possible only through increased modernization, improved efficiency, diversification, and guaranteed equity in the distribution of the benefits derived from this transformation. Agriculture, he noted, must play a key role in development strategies for the economies of the countries of the region.

2.3 Subsequently, Dr. Piñeiro gave a summary outline of the changes which had taken place in the economies of the region, at the same time listing a series of factors, external and internal, which restricted economic growth in the countries, and which must also be taken into account in the new development strategies for the sector. The slowdown in real growth of the economy, protectionist agricultural policies, the effects of the foreign debt, and declining prices for raw materials are some of the factors mentioned by the Director General of IICA.

2.4 Dr. Piñeiro then referred to the need for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to bring about internal adjustments in their overall and sectoral policies with a view to greater efficiency, in such a way as to give priority to agriculture and its intersectoral linkages. A revision of

public investment, programs of structural and sectoral adjustment, and modernization of the government apparatus, in its dual role as economic agent and operator of the incentive system, was described as a key element in the transformation of the region's agriculture.

- 2.5 Lastly, the Director General of IICA referred to the growing importance of technological innovation, which was becoming more and more a determining factor in the comparative advantages of the countries of the hemisphere. He further pointed out the potential contribution to the modernization and revitalization of agriculture that international cooperation and regional integration could make, and that instruments of North-South cooperation and international trade negotiations (UNCTAD and GATT) represented an excellent alternative offered by developed countries for normalizing conditions of international trade in agricultural products. In ending his presentation, Dr. Piñeiro reiterated the need for new forms of cooperation among countries, and pointed out that present problems could be resolved only through joint action, which could take the form of multinational projects, regional and subregional programs, and other forms of unified work.

- 2.6 The Chair thanked the Director General for his wide-ranging discussion of the Conference topics and then offered the floor to the delegations for their comments.
- 2.7 The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador gave a brief rundown of the situation of the farm and livestock industry in his country since the 1970s, then pointed to the need for radical changes in sector policies. Specifically, Minister Marcos Espinel Martinez made reference to proper alignment of the real rate of exchange and macrosectoral congruence, as well as better institutional coordination. He also alluded to the need for a definitive change in attitude on the part of developed countries vis-a-vis the foreign debt and the growing protectionism in international trade, stating that this latter should be governed by principles of competitiveness and the comparative advantages of each country.
- 2.8 Lastly, the Minister of Ecuador reemphasized that the region should set about reviewing tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, at the same time voicing his support for the multilateral trade agreements signed in Punta del Este in September of 1986. In closing, he pointed out the need to strengthen regional bodies, such as IICA, and appealed to the countries of the region to adopt a common front to establish new rules of the game in international trade.

- 2.9 The representative from the USA, Secretary of Agriculture, Richard E. Lyng, began his remarks by noting the desire of the USA to support modernization and diversification of agriculture in the countries of the region and expressed a commitment to sound international trade policies - an effort exemplified by the present GATT negotiations.
- 2.10 The USA has proposed a global elimination of all direct and indirect subsidies affecting agricultural trade and import barriers, in a phasing-out process that would last 10 years. Also proposed was a multilateral approach to the development and application of health and sanitary regulations, so they would not function as trade restrictions.
- 2.11 Mr. Lyng recognized that the elimination of subsidies would drastically affect farmers everywhere, and he stressed that all governments must begin to anticipate the changes in agricultural dynamics.
- 2.12 The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala, Mr. Rodolfo Estrada Hurtarte, outlined the importance of agriculture in the region's economies, and he particularly emphasized peace as a central factor in

agricultural production, while adding that it could not be achieved while hunger existed. In his capacity as President of the Council of Ministers of the countries belonging to CORECA, he informed the plenary that three documents had been submitted, in an attempt to strengthen initiatives for peace. He then listed a number of causes for frustration, as well as several sources of inspiration, which were often overlooked as factors having a bearing on the present situation in the agricultural sector. In concluding, the Minister of Agriculture of Guatemala emphasized the role of the individual as a dynamic influence through such concepts as attitude, awareness, responsibility and ethics, and he urged all the representatives to become true factors of development.

- 2.13 The Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Canada, Mr. Jean-Jacques Noreau, as acting Chair, invited Mr. Carlos Vidali, of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico, to take the floor.
- 2.14 The representative of Mexico expressed his admiration for the documentation prepared by IICA, due to its integrated

focus which transcended traditional and sectoral analyses and gave a macroeconomic and international dimension to the agricultural problems of Latin America and the Caribbean. However, the representative of Mexico found that the diagnosis given in Item 1 was overly biased towards foreign trade. He stated that while production reforms required in developing countries should involve a greater outward orientation in the economy, excessive emphasis on this point would lead to incomplete and even erroneous conclusions. He reminded the plenary that under the socioeconomic conditions present in developing countries, peasant farm production was crucial for basic consumption, employment and income for the population, and therefore, exports should not be overrated as the only available mechanism for developing agriculture.

- 2.15 The representative of Mexico made two final points to clarify his preceding observations. First, in pointing out the bias towards exports in the focus of the documents, his aim was to emphasize the ever-present need for self-sufficiency in food production in the countries of the hemisphere. His second point involved the marginal discussion

of social considerations and the campesino sector in the working documents. He concluded by stating that any attempt to speak of an economic policy for export production and a separate social policy for the campesino sector was based on the assumption of an unacceptable dualism between traditional and modern producers.

2.16 The session was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 The third plenary session was called to order at 2:15 p.m. on Monday, August 31, and was chaired by Mr. Jean-Jacques Noreau, the Canadian Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

3.2 The Chair recognized the Brazilian Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Iris Resende Machado, who underscored problems of a fiscal, monetary and financial nature which had led to various types of protectionism hindering international economic relations, with deeply negative consequences for the growth of the countries in the hemisphere.

3.3 After presenting a summary view of the

economic situation of the countries of the region in the 1980s, the Minister of Agriculture of Brazil urged the countries to join forces to achieve a new world economic order that would be more just and equitable. He further mentioned the efforts undertaken within UNCTAD, with the Generalized System of Preferences; and the success of the Uruguay round for the liberalization of world trade, whose goal would be achieved through strict compliance with the "freezing" and "dismantling" of protectionist measures. He explained that only modest success had been achieved with political handling of the foreign debt, taking into account the needs for economic and social growth of the developing countries.

3.4 The Minister of Agriculture of Brazil praised the work of IICA, and in particular that of its Director, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, and informed the representatives of his country's offer to host the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Board. He concluded by urging the other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to join forces in the search for a new world economic order.

3.5 The Chair acknowledged with thanks the

offer by Brazil to host the next IABA meeting. He noted that the Board's decision, according to the agenda, would be made on Thursday, September 3.

- 3.6 The representative from Argentina, Mr. Ruy de Villalobos, Under Secretary of Agricultural Economics, opened his discourse by stating that protectionist policies in the developed countries constituted the single most important factor in the current crisis in the international agricultural market. He went on to say that 80 percent of Latin America and Caribbean exports consisted of basic, unprocessed goods, and that 65 percent of the sales of these goods were to developed nations.
- 3.7 The representative from Argentina noted that the adverse effects of declining prices for those goods since 1980 had been exacerbated in Argentina, as exemplified by a 40 percent reduction in the export prices of wheat and corn since 1979. Further, the income generated in 1985 by exports of grains and grain products had been US\$4.3 billion, instead of the projected US\$7.3 billion; this three billion dollar difference represented 50 percent of the annual service on the external debt, or two

thirds of Argentina's total annual imports. These examples, he said, illustrated the cause and effect relationship between protectionism in developed countries and the financial crisis in nations like Argentina, which itself played no role in the generation of the crisis.

- 3.8 The representative from Argentina went on to say that in addition to the catastrophic effects of falling prices, the loss of external markets to subsidized produce from other countries had severely affected Argentina. A recent example was the loss of substantial sales of corn and sorghum to Spain, as a result of that country's incorporation into the EEC. Another was the U.S. sale of subsidized wheat to several Latin American nations.
- 3.9 He emphasized that a coordinated and continuous effort by international agencies was urgently needed. The Cairns Group was pushing for observance of the Punta del Este agreements, the GATT rounds must continue, and the OECD had put out a declaration condemning the current world market situation; all of these actions were promising, he said.

Mr. de Villalobos concluded by expressing the sincere hope of Argentina that the Declaration of Ottawa would reflect an urgent concern to remedy the present state of global agricultural commerce.

- 3.10 The representative from Haiti, Mr. Gustave Menager, Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development, began his presentation by noting that Haiti was the poorest country in the region and was therefore even harder hit by the critical situation in agriculture in the hemisphere. Haiti was the only "Lesser Developed Country" (LDC) in the region. Mr. Menager said that although Haiti had begun to take its situation in hand, it needed moral and technical support to recover lost ground and achieve true economic recovery. The current problems absolutely must be solved so that they would not recur in the future. He added that eight months ago, at a conference on LDCs in Nepal, it had been observed that in less than ten years the number of LDCs had increased by more than 10 percent; now they accounted for more than 20 percent of the countries in the world, a percentage far from negligible.

3.11 The Minister continued by stressing that his country fully agreed with the choice of issues to be discussed at the Ninth ICMA, and that these topics reflected the objectives of the LAC countries. However, he pointed out that it was obvious that the more a country suffered from poverty, retarded development or regressing, the greater would be the magnitude of necessary expenditures by the public sector. Unless the needed resources were secured and applied in the areas experiencing difficulties, the gulf between the most capable countries and the least privileged ones might grow even more. Finally, Mr. Menager concluded that a sharing of markets was necessary to break out of the recurring cycle of increased production when there were no markets. By expanding its trade with the Latin American and Caribbean countries, Haiti could become more solvent and at the same time reduce its foreign debt.

3.12 Mr. Menager stressed that, if natural resources were not sufficiently available, the resulting agro-economic problems would increase, along with consequent public expenses. In fact, he said, capital expenditures in Haiti

could really be understood as agricultural expenditures, so closely tied was agriculture to the general national economy. He made it clear that Haiti had the necessary economic structure in place to receive outside financing and thus improve technology, but that the current international crisis effectively prevented this from happening. A sharing of resources would be necessary to avoid a vicious circle in which problems of literacy, hunger, social upheaval, war, and disease continued to proliferate. Through expanded trade within Latin America and the Caribbean, Haiti could become more solvent, at the same time reducing its external debt.

- 3.13 The representative from Nicaragua, Mr. Salvador Mayorga, First Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform, began his address by emphasizing the vulnerability of the relatively poorer Central American countries to the current crisis in the international agricultural context, especially as concerned falling export prices and ever-tighter macroeconomic restrictions.

- 3.14 He went on to stress that external infusions of monies for bellicose purposes had left tens of thousands of the rural population dead, destroyed agricultural equipment, and caused large reaches of land to be abandoned. External economic aggressions, he said, had severely affected the banana, sugar and beef industries and had limited the importation of needed equipment for agriculture. At the same time, Mr. Mayorga acknowledged the need for internal structural changes and technical modernization for rural population.
- 3.15 Nicaragua, he said, supported joint solutions for Central American peace - exemplified by the Esquipulas meeting - so necessary for economic development in the region.
- 3.16 The representation from Canada, headed by Mr. Charles Mayer, Minister of State of Agriculture Canada, was next to speak. He said that it was an honor for Canada to host the Ninth ICMA, and that its basic objectives were worthy, stressing that the ways and means must be found to achieve a broad economic recovery. Coordination and cooperation among all parties would be essential, and the first job would be to define

common objectives; he noted that stimulating the role of women in development was a Canadian priority.

- 3.17 He reiterated that Canada would give \$4.5 million to further the work of the Medium Term Plan and the basic five programs of IICA.
- 3.18 The Chair then gave the floor to Mr. Mario E. Jalil, Deputy Director General and Regional Representative of the FAO. Mr. Jalil brought a message from the Director General of the Organization, Mr. G. Edouard Saouma, who emphasized the current crisis was the worst in Latin America and the Caribbean in fifty years, owing to the rapid increased in the external debt and the net flow of financial resources out of the region. Because of inflationary factors, consumer prices had gone up, instead of the anticipated rise in export earnings, which had failed to materialize.
- 3.19 He pointed out that agricultural production since 1981 had not kept pace with population growth. To this should be added depressed farm wages, constant hikes in consumer prices, and a drop in food imports - all of which, he said,

had severely affected nutritional standards in several countries. He stated that farmers had had to deal with a lower demand for foodstuffs, higher production and credit costs, subsidy reductions or cutbacks and lessened government spending in agriculture. At the same time, the structural imbalances which had characterized regional agriculture had been exacerbated by the economic crisis and adjustments, and programs aimed at alleviating poverty, combatting malnutrition and preventing environmental destruction had suffered as a result of cutbacks in fiscal resources.

- 3.20 Mr. Jalil announced that the FAO, in response to a request from the governments of the region at the Nineteenth Regional Conference held in Barbados in August 1986, was conducting a major study of the opportunities and outlook for food production in the rural and agricultural sector of Latin America and the Caribbean. He stressed that this study was being prepared in close cooperation with other organizations, including IICA, and its purpose was to develop a plan of action. This plan could contain policy suggestions to aid the governments in organizing and designing their own strategies and programs for sectoral development.

3.21 The Deputy Director General stated that in order to carry out this study and comply with its recommendations, the FAO intended to obtain the assistance of leading agricultural specialists in the region and those responsible for the design and application of national agricultural policies. For this purpose, it intended to hold two meetings in the region: the first in October 1987 in Santiago, Chile, and the second in January 1988. Those attending these meetings would review the principal elements of the actions proposed and assess the feasibility of policies set forth in the study.

3.22 The representative from Chile, Mr. Emilio Madrid, Executive President of the Agricultural Research Institute in the Ministry of Agriculture, began his intervention by reiterating issues of concern previously touched upon by other country representatives: falling prices, salaries, external assistance, rising levels of indebtedness and increased protectionist subsidies. He went on to say that agriculture carried a great economic weight and could stimulate improvement with a strong multiplier effect through diversified exports.

- 3.23 There must be, said Mr. Madrid, a common front formed by First and Third World nations, and a broad consensus for market liberalization. Towards this end, he felt that the working and reference documents prepared for the Ninth ICMA were properly focused; the modern economy must of necessity be a mixed one (private/public), and social needs should not be segregated from economic ones.
- 3.24 After suggesting a series of needed global policies (free prices, open markets, fair tariffs, increased incentives, technological improvements, rural development, and marketing/consumerism studies, among others), Mr. Madrid stated that internal policies in Chile went hand in hand with external ones. He said that his country had experienced 18.5 percent growth in agriculture in the last five years, and that during the last 10 years, agricultural revenues had increased from US\$62 million to US\$1.1 billion. Still, he said, there was a great need for diversification and proper macroeconomic policies, as part of a concerted international effort to improve conditions.

- 3.25 The representative from Guyana, Mr. Patrick L. McKenzie, A.A., Senior Minister of Agriculture, began his remarks by lauding the documentation prepared for Topic No. 1, but pointed out two areas where expansion might be indicated. First, he said, agriculture was still of primary importance in most of the countries present, yet its role was deteriorating, in great part due to the heavy investments of capital required. Both "haves" and "have-nots" knew this, he said, but was there not a risk of being taken for granted? Could familiarity with the problem breed a lessened consideration? This should not be permitted.
- 3.26 Second, Guyana, like many other nations, was lagging in modern agricultural technology, noted Mr. McKenzie, and it would seem appropriate to increase support to research institutions, among them IICA, CIAT, CARDI, and others. The training received in these institutions would result in less long-term poverty, and stimulate new products for increased trade.
- 3.27 The Senior Minister concluded his discourse by emphasizing that simple hand-outs were not sought; rather, infusions of improved technology would stimulate

more and better production, the income from which would allow countries like Guyana to purchase new inputs and become viable members of a new hemispheric economy.

- 3.28 The Chair closed the session by congratulating the representatives on the quality and sincerity of the presentations.
- 3.29 The session was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

- 4.1 The fourth plenary session of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture was called to order on Tuesday, September 1 at 8:30 a.m. The Chair, following the order in which speakers had requested the floor, recognized the representative of Trinidad and Tobago. Minister Lincoln Myers, after thanking the Canadians for their hospitality, told the meeting that the previous day, August 31, had been the 25th anniversary of his country's independence and that he wished to share this with his friends here. He thanked Canada for its support and in particular for the recent agreements within CARIBCAN, which would give Caribbean products preferential access to the Canadian market.

- 4.2 He indicated that his country was finalizing a five-year development plan and strategy for the agricultural sector (1988-1992) and that the findings of the studies conducted coincided with the interpretations appearing in the discussion documents prepared by IICA and with comments already made at the meeting concerning the nature of the problems.
- 4.3 He emphasized his country's determination to optimize the performance of the agricultural sector and listed the obstacles to be overcome in the process. He noted that his country planned to implement more just fiscal, financial and import policies, combined with distribution of lands, certain infrastructure, educational services and training, and incorporating pertinent material into national educational programs.
- 4.4 He made special mention of the problems of international trade, the protectionism reigning in developed countries, the growing foreign debt and, in general, the process of economic decline in small countries and the need to find common solutions to reverse these negative trends.
- 4.5 He further stated that it was of fundamental importance to defend our position in international forums such as UNCTAD and the GATT Round in Uruguay.

- 4.6 He concluded by saying that his delegation supported the study being conducted by the FAO on the impact of agricultural production in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and that in this context, he felt that the efforts and resources of FAO and IICA should be combined for carrying out this work, and that these agencies should cooperate in the work of CARICOM.
- 4.7 The Chair congratulated the representative of Trinidad and Tobago on its anniversary and the delegations joined in offering best wishes. He then gave the floor to the representative of Venezuela.
- 4.8 Minister Felipe Gómez Alvarez, after expressing his heartfelt thanks to the government and people of Canada, stated that the documents prepared by IICA and the outline presented by the Director General accurately reflected the problems of the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 4.9 He then stated that even taking into account an overwhelming foreign debt, it was agriculture which could guarantee a better future for the countries. He emphasized sectoral policies as a means of stimulating agricultural growth, describing those that were being applied in his country and noting the internal and external factors which limited their

impact. Specifically, he mentioned participatory policies such as the creation of bodies in which the public sector, middle-sized producers, livestock breeders and campesino farmers were broadly represented; policies to improve productivity being implemented by the National Institute for Agricultural Research; producer incentive policies (fair prices, credit); agrarian policy with reforms consisting of land titlement and technological improvements on campesino farm units; and marketing policies, all of which had yielded very good results.

- 4.10 He also mentioned the exogenous factors which affected the sector, such as international measures for the marketing of agricultural products, the huge subsidies granted by some developed countries to promote their exports and the problems which this created. He stated that the peoples of the LAC countries expected support from developed countries and added that he saw this forum as a means for the region to keep up its faith in its own destiny in a country like Canada, whose national emblem was a symbol of the plant kingdom: the maple leaf.

- 4.11 The Chair recognized the representative of Dominica, Mr. Charles Maynard, Minister of Agriculture, Trade, Industry and Tourism, who gave a brief presentation and asked that the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean be given a more prominent place, both in the documents and in actions. He also mentioned that within CARICOM, major importance is attached to products such as bananas, coffee and agroproducts as exports. He underlined the need to review the terms of commercial exchange and to secure more favorable treatment for agricultural products and see to the removal of subsidies on this type of product in developed countries.
- 4.12 He also mentioned the need to offer farmers favorable terms of credit and to improve infrastructure services. He stressed the importance for small countries that agriculture grow at a steady rate, that markets open up for their products, that they receive support to strengthen the sector, that the rural population participate in consultations and that there be joint cooperation in all forums. He added that this meeting had provided an excellent opportunity to reflect on the specific needs and concerns of the countries of the Caribbean.

- 4.13 The Chair gave the floor to the Mexican delegation, whose representative indicated that, as regarded the day's topic of "Incentive Policies in Agricultural Modernization," and Item 1 of the previous day, it was necessary to adopt a vision that was macroeconomic and internationalist. He indicated that the series of interrelations established was correct; however, no precise conclusion was reached on the social orientation of economic development, a goal to which all aspired. He said he felt that rationalization of price and public investment policies was an action to be given top priority. He further pointed out that, while the proposals included in the document were valid, no new model of economic development was defined because of the ambiguity implied in the suggestion that adjustment programs be modified.
- 4.14 Concerning the final remarks in the document on the organization of the public sector and the formulation of incentive policies, he stressed that in the majority of the countries, these policies were carried out independently and sometimes conflicted with measures in other sectors or other agencies of

the public agricultural sector. He stressed the need to create mechanisms of institutional coordination and to conduct studies on the impact of macro-economic variables on agriculture, as suggested in the document.

4.15 Subsequently, the Chair recognized the representative of Colombia, Mr. Luis Guillermo Parra, Minister of Agriculture of that country, who said he was convinced that the present development model in many Latin American countries failed to generate stable, sustained growth. He offered a rundown of the social economic model that the Government of Colombia had begun to implement with an ultimate view to eradicating dire poverty. As this model was set in motion, weak points that needed to be corrected were being detected; it had been essential to continue modifying distribution policies so that income could be generated for the poorest sectors.

4.16 Among the instruments being used to eradicate absolute poverty without sacrificing economic growth, in addition to land titlement, basic equipment and essential improvements, public investment was being rechanneled, social

expenditures were being made, and policies were being designed to provide incentives for the poorest groups of producers. A plan for political and administrative decentralization was being encouraged, within a context of gradual substitution of imports, physical investments were being supported with capital and technology for the campesino sector, as were institutions for integrated technological development.

4.17 He added that the developing countries felt justified in their repeated demands for international agreements to stabilize prices of staple products and to do away with protectionist barriers, and for monetary agreements and a review of the terms of payment of the foreign debt.

4.18 He asked that the option suggested by his government be supported in the international context as an alternative course because, if the present pattern of development continued, the future would be even bleaker. On behalf of President Barco and the government of Colombia, he extended an invitation to the participants in this forum to attend the continent-wide meeting on the topic

"Absolute Poverty," to be held in Bogota in the middle of February of 1988.

- 4.19 The Chair gave the floor to Mr. Marcus de Freitas, Minister of Trade, Industry and Agriculture of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who offered words of thanks to the government of Canada for his hospitality. He then indicated that he shared the concern expressed by his colleague from Dominica regarding the participation of Caribbean countries in this forum. He also indicated that he had listened with keen interest to the discussions of poverty and the problems of trade that affected his country's ability to provide services and opportunities for rural populations.
- 4.20 He lauded the intervention of the representative of Guatemala and stated that the present terms of international trade must change, that the countries should become more involved in this very important area, as this would enable them, with some improvements, to invest resources for their own development, as many countries of the Far East had done. He indicated that it was necessary to keep up to date with what was happening in the markets and put forth solutions

to potential external problems to prevent the system from being manipulated. This, he added, would make it possible to develop strategies to penetrate markets for agricultural products, something which was currently very difficult for small countries.

4.21 He ended with an anecdote about a missionary in China, which served to illustrate that many problems, whether of a material or of a spiritual nature, could be solved by the people themselves. He added that he trusted the developed countries would offer their collaboration and solidarity to enable the LAC countries to improve their infrastructure and communications, providing technical assistance and in general assisting in the search for a solution to problems.

4.22 The representative of Grenada described the role of the agricultural sector in the economy of his country of only 1,000,000 inhabitants. He pointed out that agriculture accounted for 25 percent of GDP, occupied 33 percent of the labor force, and represented 90 percent of foreign exchange earnings; the three main products were cacao, bananas, and nutmeg. He also drew special attention

to specific problems confronting a small, dependent and developing nation such as Grenada, listing among other problems in agricultural marketing and plant protection, high rates of unemployment, scarce resources and low levels of productivity. He called upon the international community to provide greater assistance through multilateral organizations and through bilateral relations between friendly nations.

4.23 In his appeal for special treatment for the smaller island economies of the Caribbean, the representative of Grenada said that per capita income was a false and inappropriate criterion for international financing organizations to use in determining the level of their assistance to developing countries. He also indicated that the working documents of the ICMA had failed to make reference to the special nature of the smaller countries in the region. Finally, in endorsing the remarks of the delegation of Guyana, he expressed the desire that the CARDI (Caribbean Agricultural and Development Institute) become an international research center.

4.24 The representative of Honduras, Mr. José Montenegro, Deputy Minister of Natural

Resources, stated that according to studies of Honduran agriculture, it was necessary to introduce fundamental changes in agricultural policies. He went on to state that it was essential for the developed nations to make sweeping decisions with regard to their agricultural policies which, with their protectionist measures, are the decisive factor for dealing with the critical situation of international markets.

4.25 The representative of Honduras next repeated the need for the developed countries to help create a suitable framework for agricultural/rural development in the countries of the region, in order that the latter might take a realistic approach to solving their external debt problems and improving the well-being of their people. He ended his remarks by urging those present to voice their support for the Peace Plan proposed by the delegation of Guatemala.

4.26 The Chair gave the floor to the representative of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), Mr. Avishai Braveman, who, on behalf of Mr. Conable, President of the World Bank, reaffirmed that his Bank would continue providing cooperation for

agricultural development in general, and for that of Latin America and Caribbean in particular. He went on to emphasize four requirements: the need to awaken interest among the international community in fully developing agriculture and eliminating trade barriers, including those set in place by the developed nations; the need to devise appropriate sectoral and macroeconomic policies as the key to gaining insight into suitable agricultural development; the elimination of the "urban bias" towards investments and price and exchange rate policies; and, lastly, the need for improved adjustments in order to alleviate poverty, as well as for more assistance projects aimed at the rural poor.

- 4.27 After observing that closer cooperation and better communications among participants in the development process was essential for agricultural development, the IBRD representative called upon those in attendance to join with the staff of the Bank in making a more vigorous effort in this direction. In speaking for the IBRD, Mr. Braveman also promised to improve the quality of the Bank's policies and analysis.

- 4.28 The representative of Bolivia, Mr. José Guillermo Justiniano, Minister of Agriculture, after listing the essential external and domestic elements required for the future development of agriculture in the countries of the region, noted that agricultural modernization must proceed at a deliberate pace inasmuch as many countries were not prepared to launch a massive mechanization program. He went on to describe briefly the critical economic situation in his country, which was undergoing a severe structural adjustment process as a result of falling prices for minerals and hydrocarbons.
- 4.29 Finally, the representative of Bolivia stressed the primary role of agriculture in generating employment within the production sector and preventing massive rural-to-urban migration. He concluded his remarks by observing that the future of agricultural exports from Bolivia and other developing countries would depend in large measure on liberalizing world food markets presently beset by protectionist policies and direct and indirect subsidies.
- 4.30 The representative of Barbados, Mr. Clifton E. Maynard, Minister of

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, stated that the world economy had reached a crossroads in which the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean were increasingly at the mercy of external factors over which they had virtually no control. He emphasized the widening gap between rich and poor nations and indicated that efforts to achieve peace in one part of his region could not be postponed.

4.31 On the subject of trade liberalization, the representative of Barbados applauded the efforts of GATT, at the same time criticizing "dumping" practices carried out in developing countries as a disincentive for agricultural production. He also criticized the criterion of per capita income used by the lending agencies as a means of assessing access to financial resources, while exhorting these international institutions to gain a clearer understanding of Third World problems, in particular those of small island economies and other disadvantaged states in the region.

4.32 Finally, the Minister referred to the need for modern technology in order to make agriculture competitive, pointing to areas where regional and sub-regional

research agencies could play a central role in the transfer of know-how. He reminded his listeners that human resources constituted the most important factor, and urged the members of the family of nations to adhere to the principles of equality, regardless of the capacity of each nation to contribute.

- 4.33 The representative of El Salvador, Mr. Carlos Aquilino Duarte Funes, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, reviewed the status of his nation's economy since 1979, noting that in the difficult democratization process, initiated in El Salvador in that same year, agrarian reform had been an essential requirement for an agricultural exporting country such as his own. He went on to list the three principal reforms carried out by his government, namely nationalization of the financial system, nationalization of foreign trade and the aforementioned agrarian reform, at the same time underlining the urgent need for rational utilization of natural resources.
- 4.34 Minister Duarte Funes went on to describe the most urgent strategies for international cooperation: training and education as a factor in development,

technical and financial assistance to upgrade administrative capacity in the public agricultural sector, and areas relating to agroindustry and irrigation systems. He emphasized the creation of a new model of productive organization in the agricultural sector, as well as the need for structural changes in the international community.

4.35 Finally, the representative of El Salvador alluded to the problem of the war and pointed out that the solution to the Salvadoran crisis was essentially a political one, tied to the regional solution, which also entailed pacification, introduction of democracy and economic development. As a member of CORECA, he requested all present to support the draft resolution on the Peace Plan submitted already by the delegation of Guatemala.

4.36 The representative from St. Lucia, The Honourable Ferdinand Henry, Minister of Agriculture, began his remarks by stating that the topics brought by IICA to the Conference were uniformly pertinent and well-chosen. However, he continued, the small island nations of the Caribbean required a more focused effort on the part of the international agencies if

the current critical situation were to be reversed. Noting that one export crop - bananas - accounted for 80 percent of St. Lucia's export income, he went on to enumerate serious internal problems of rising food imports, dwindling numbers of farmers and less land under cultivation, and the fragmentation of agriculture, among others.

4.37 Minister Henry assured the Conference that his country was intensifying efforts to implement a vigorous new policy of diversification, supported by a large number of international agencies. Among the specific areas earmarked as priorities were: modern management and information systems, decentralizing institutional structures, technology generation and transfer (especially biotechnology), training for technicians and rural women, and the stimulation of extra- and intraregional trade. He concluded by highlighting the pivotal role of IICA in all of these efforts, and stressed that a political union of the eastern Caribbean states was in the offing, a union that should be guided by the Declaration and recommendations of the Ninth ICMA.

4.38 The session was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

- 5.1 The fifth plenary session was called to order at 2:25 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, with Canadian Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Jean-Jacques Noreau, occupying the Chair.
- 5.2 The representative of St. Kitts and Nevis, Mr. Hugh C. Heyliger, Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and Development, stressed the role of the small farmer as the basis for agricultural policies, with special mention of the integration of women into the development process. He added that the new approaches ought to aim for achieving economic and social development of the population.
- 5.3 With regard to structural adjustment, Minister Heyliger pointed out that agricultural production in his country was based on a single crop, sugar, which provided 60 percent of its exports and accounted for 20 percent of GDP and 30 percent of employment. This called for a realistic approach, particularly given his country's heavy dependence on this product, which was severely affected by

international conditions. He called for the creation of specific programs for the small countries of the Caribbean, at the same time questioning the practice adopted by the developed countries of basing the amount of aid given to smaller countries such as his own per capita income. He stated that the ultimate goal should be to bring development to the people, not simply to serve economic interests.

5.4 The representative of St. Kitts and Nevis then made reference to various problems confronting his country, including difficulty in gaining access to international markets, coupled with the burden of making structural adjustments and the high rates of interest on loans. The Minister concluded his remarks by informing those present of his country's intention of joining IICA.

5.5 The representative from Canada, Dr. John E. McGowan, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister at Agriculture Canada, addressed the question of incentives, noting that complementary actions (macroeconomic as well as sectoral policies; public and private sector actions) were required. This complementarity must be

carefully designed to avoid redundancy or excessive competition, he said, but at the same time, producers and their self-help organizations must have adequate access to government services. Dr. McGowan concluded by emphasizing the need to incorporate women into the development process, and to devise a market orientation for commodity-based incentive policies in both developed and developing countries.

5.6 The representative of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Juan Francisco Grullón, Undersecretary for Agricultural Research, Training and Extension Services, listed the priorities of the agricultural sector in his country. Among other matters, he mentioned diversification of primary production and industry; traditional crops, whose sales on international markets were being severely hampered by protectionism among developed countries; suitable management of natural resources and the concentration of resources in rural settlements.

5.7 The representative of the Dominican Republic expressed the hope that the international cooperation organizations would make the necessary adjustments to assist with authentic efforts to promote

development in the countries of the region, focusing on the rural inhabitant, not just as the object, but also as the active subject of this effort.

- 5.8 The representative from Chile, Mr. Emilio Madrid, Executive President of the Institute of Agricultural Research, was the next to speak. In commenting on Item 3, he noted the relative lack of national systems for technology transfer, urging that funds be sought to form them; he praised the efforts of some developed countries and international agencies along these lines. Particularly, Mr. Madrid stressed the need to strengthen research in biotechnology, in response to growing internal demand. He therefore asked the Conference to include a recommendation to seek the necessary budgetary resources to support more biotechnological research in the international research centers, specifically asking the IDB and IICA to conduct a lobbying effort within the CGIAR.
- 5.9 The representative from Mexico, Mr. Carlos Vidali Carbajal, Director General of International Affairs in the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources, began his remarks on Item 3 by pointing out a common, but perhaps

faulty policy orientation: the generation and transfer of technology was most often used to improve the quality and quantity of exports, whereas its use to improve self-sufficiency among rural populations was frequently slighted.

- 5.10 Mr. Vidali continued by saying that the current deterioration in comparative advantages was due in great part to the generation of new technology in and among private, international firms, which then prevented access through patenting. He stressed that an equilibrium should be sought between internal (national) and external markets for improved technology, through, for example, usufruct rights for certain patented technology.
- 5.11 The representative from Mexico then stressed the importance of multilateral and bilateral negotiations like GATT in trying to solve the food supply problems; not just agroindustry should receive the new technology.
- 5.12 The representative from Argentina, Mr. Victor Eduardo Machinea, Director of the International Agrarian Service, was next to speak. He noted that the issue of technology generation and transfer had a

special importance for Argentina, which had experienced good growth in production rates, but had suffered from falling prices. Echoing the representative from Mexico, Mr. Machinea emphasized that all processes of technology generation and transfer should strive to diminish the drastic differences in the societies of the region, seeking to institutionalize equitable access to such benefits.

- 5.13 Citing the proverb that "we hold the land in trust for our children," he urged the Conference to include in its Declaration a statement on the importance of proper soil conservation policies. He concluded by indicating that some functions of the present international research centers should be passed to national centers, citing the experiences of INTA and PROCISUR.
- 5.14 The representative from Canada, Dr. John E. McGowan, highlighted the importance of technology in Latin America and the Caribbean, noting that smaller countries must join together and larger countries should utilize the international research centers. He also noted that the region was particularly weak in the essential biological sciences that

formed the base for modern biotechnological research; the latter, he said, must still be viewed in terms of its potential, not its concrete benefits. He concluded by indicating that the support of technology generation and transfer was a major part of the four-year program of support for IICA by the Canadian International Development Agency.

- 5.15 The representative from Paraguay, Mr. Luis Alberto Alvarez, Director of Research and Extension Services for Agriculture and Forestry, began his discourse by citing the numerous problems affecting the agricultural sector. He went on to say that Paraguay has made progress, nevertheless, in external markets through increased production of soybeans, cotton, cattle, and wheat, all of which had helped somewhat to alleviate internal imbalances and to help service the external debt. Mr. Alvarez stated that Paraguay had sought the help of international agencies on a large scale, and urged that research activities be given high priority in future IICA plans of action, as a path to improved rural well-being.

- 5.16 The representative from Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Lincoln Myers, M.P., Minister of Food Production, Marine Exploitation, Forestry and the Environment, began his remarks by expressing general agreement with the documentation prepared for Item 3, but noted that more attention should be given to the problem of scale. Appropriate or "intermediate" technology must be designed for application in the small Caribbean nations, he said, remarking that a new role for CARDI in the CGIAR system would go far towards accomplishing this task.
- 5.17 Mr. Myers also expressed concern that some current biotechnological research was focused on ways to grow tropical crops in temperate-zone countries; this could well endanger future markets for exports from Latin America and Caribbean countries, he said, and should possibly be reconsidered.
- 5.18 The representative from Jamaica, Mr. Clarence Franklin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, then took the floor to point out the problem of inadequate means of information transfer as concerned new technology. Cooperation between well-known research centers like CIMMYT, CATIE and Jamaica was frequently stymied, he said, by lack of communication services between data bases and by the language barrier.

- 5.19 The Chair then noted that the Sixth Plenary Session, scheduled for 8:30 a.m., September 2, must include discussion of Item 4 of the working documents, as well as consideration of the draft of Declaration of Ottawa.
- 5.20 The session was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

- 6.1 The sixth plenary session of the ICMA was called to order at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 1987. The Chair gave the floor to the representative of Costa Rica, Mr. Osvaldo Pandolfo, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, who after thanking the government of Canada for its hospitality and IICA for the excellent work done in preparing the background documents, read a letter from the Minister of Costa Rica, who had been unable to make the trip due to last-minute complications.
- 6.2 The representative offered a brief rundown on the negative factors which affected the growth of the agricultural sector in the countries of the region as a whole. He also noted those occurring in each country in particular, which showed much similarity, according to the various presentations. He expressed the concern that it was simpler to analyze the problems and identify their causes than to frame, propose and implement

viable solutions. He urged that consistent positions be adopted, in a joint effort to improve the situation of agriculture in the countries. He asked that international agencies adjust their approaches so that their actions might truly contribute to overcoming these problems.

6.3 He made special reference to the case of Central America and how the conflicts there affected economic and social development, and he underlined the initiative taken by his country's President in formulating and negotiating a peace plan for the area, which had been approved by the Presidents in Guatemala; he further asked that this forum give its support to the plan, and that the OAS and IICA take the initiative of setting up a task force composed of the agencies of the inter-American system to consolidate these efforts by providing financial resources and technical assistance.

6.4 The Chair recognized the representative of Guatemala, who gave a brief description of the actions taken by his government during its 20 months in office. Minister Rodolfo Estrada Hurtarte stated that the following had been achieved at the macroeconomic level: implementation of a plan for economic and social reorganization to improve the exchange rate of the quetzal in relation to the United

States dollar; a reduction in levels of inflation; and quotation of export prices in terms of quetzals. He stated that the most important achievements within the agricultural sector had been: a clear definition of tasks lying ahead, condensed in a 49-page document; identification of 30 projects classified as "emergency" actions, the progress of which was summarized in another document, and which concerned production of salt, regulation of fertilizer prices, transfer of technology, water resources, and others.

- 6.5 Finally, he indicated that, while medium- and long-term factors were also being taken into account in this planning effort, it was now time to act, if the 21st century was to see a more vigorous agricultural sector.
- 6.6 The Chair expressed pleasure at seeing the Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay in the room, and the plenary extended its welcome. Mr. Pedro Bonino then took the floor and congratulated his colleague, John Wise, thanked Canada for its hospitality and commended IICA on the quality of the documents prepared. He stated that IICA had done impressive work on the topic being dealt with that day.

- 6.7 He emphasized that Uruguay attached special importance to international economic negotiations such as those of the GATT Uruguay Round and said that he hoped the resolutions adopted for agricultural products would be implemented; he also mentioned the Cairns Group, made up of farm exporting countries which did not subsidize their exports; and the Declaration of the Seventh UNCTAD Conference, which pointed to better prospects for international trade in food and staple products.
- 6.8 In the area of regional and subregional cooperation on the continent, he mentioned the agreements with Brazil and Argentina within ALADI and other trade agreements with LAC countries. In the area of technical cooperation, he referred to agreements with Argentina for oilseeds; Uruguayan support to Argentina in sheep production and registering of existing stock; work with Argentina and Brazil, with the support of PAHO, for the control and eradication of hoof and mouth disease; agreements with the Canadian International Development Agency, which maintained programs of cooperation in agriculture, and more

specifically in wheat, fish products and processed meats; and scientific and technical cooperation and economic and trade cooperation with Mexico in agriculture, forestry and water resources.

- 6.9 He made reference to the role of the international agencies for technical cooperation and the manner in which Uruguay had approached the problem of agricultural modernization and generation and transfer of technology. He indicated that in the area of domestic research and with the support of IICA, a bill had been drafted which provided for the establishment of a National Institute for Agricultural Research.
- 6.10 He ended by saying that he expected the results of this meeting to be very rewarding in terms of improving the situation of agriculture in the region.
- 6.11 The Chair gave the floor to the representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who wished to add some comments to his presentation of the day before. Minister De Freitas then spoke about the problem of land tenure and the need to transfer plots of land to small agricultural producers in a country with irregular topography, in order to achieve

greater production and productivity. He asked for help in bringing about this transfer and also for crop diversification. He expressed his country's concern about the growing narcotics traffic afflicting it. He made reference to the two products, salt and a root crop, which were highly marketable but which were not available in a manner which was attractive for export. He ended by again asking for assistance from the developed countries and international agencies for the small countries in his region.

- 6.12 The Chair recognized the representative of Dominica, who indicated that the day's topic was well presented in the document; however he called attention specifically to certain paragraphs which referred to measures taken to improve the marketing process. He indicated that the mechanisms posited were not very effective for small countries, and that certain approaches were imposed from outside. He referred to assistance provided by Canada six or seven years earlier to produce coconut oil involving heavy investments; the problems of cholesterol had then emerged, thus discouraging the use and subsequent marketing of this product. He expressed his

support for the Caribbean Basin Initiative and the aid provided by the United States as regarded the mechanisms needed to comply with plant and animal health standards which governed exports of these products.

6.13 Minister Maynard added that the document did not place sufficient emphasis on CARICOM; he made reference to specific parts of the paper, namely those relating to diversification of agricultural production, noting that they could include other items such as flowers and legumes. He ended by again thanking Canada for its attention to the problems of Caribbean countries and indicated that IICA was on the right track, recommending that steps be taken to outline timetables and priorities for needed action.

6.14 The Chair intervened with a comment on the important standards which his government maintained for dairy cattle and which had been drawn up by a group of experts that included Dr. McGowan; he then asked him to take the floor to speak on behalf of the Canadian delegation. Dr. McGowan indicated that Canada attached key importance to reforms in

international trade, as did the other countries belonging to the Cairns group.

6.15 He made reference to the negotiations under way in the Uruguay Round, to OECD recommendations for the introduction of less protectionist policies, which had been endorsed at the Venice Summit, and to the acknowledgement of these positions in the World Food Council and in the Seventh Meeting of UNCTAD. He indicated that the United States had presented a plan for reform which Canada supported, and he hoped that all these meetings would lead to viable negotiations in coming months.

6.16 He further emphasized Canada's willingness to support the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in their integration efforts and that one example of this was CARIBCAN and another, that announced in the inaugural session in connection with the funds allocated by CIDA to enable IICA to support concrete projects. He felt that the discussions held at this Conference would help to establish new coordinating mechanisms.

6.17 Subsequently, the Chair gave the floor to the representative of Argentina, who indicated that throughout the plenaries

it had been evident that there was consensus on the need to define a new approach to agricultural sector development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and that his delegation supported intensification of intraregional trade as a means for achieving better international cooperation.

6.18 Subsequently, he offered a rundown of what had occurred in the 1970s in the area of intraregional food imports, which had been declining, and in recent years, the impact of the foreign debt and the growing use by some developed countries of subsidies on exports of agricultural products. He indicated that, given this scenario, it was necessary to look at the enormous potential of trade in agriculture for assisting the region. He supported an increase in intraregional trade as a means of revitalizing this sector and other areas of the economy, and referred to the agreements signed by Argentina with neighboring countries.

6.19 Lastly, he urged that stronger stands be taken in multilateral discussion forums such as ALADI, CARICOM and others, as the only alternative for confronting the crisis in international trade and, at

the same time, that strategies for economic cooperation be stepped up through the Generalized System of Preferences in the North-South and South-South contexts. He indicated that his delegation would present a draft recommendation supporting these positions.

6.20 The Chair gave the floor to the representative of Mexico, who made some comments on the topic under discussion and indicated that the document centered around two basic approaches: North-South cooperation and South-South cooperation. As regarded the former, he indicated that in practice, preferential treatment was used at the discretion of the countries which granted it and that Mexico had experienced this in several instances; he gave as examples the political use of the Caribbean Basin Initiative and EEC preferences. He also referred to the UNCTAD VII negotiations and the Uruguay Round, expressing his skepticism as to the real position of the developed countries vis-a-vis the appeals of developing ones.

6.21 He then said it was common knowledge that tariffs were not the main obstacles to world trade; therefore the argument that opening up trade would in itself

serve to improve the agricultural production structure was not well founded. He added that there must be alternatives for an overall marketing strategy that could bring about rural development in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the establishment of a trade mechanism based on "controlled" liberalism, with free trade in products within the area and gradual, selective opening up to outside countries.

6.22 The session was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

- 7.1 The seventh plenary session of the ICMA was called to order at 2:45 p.m., August 2, 1987, and was chaired by Canadian Minister of Agriculture John Wise.
- 7.2 The Chair asked Carlos Vidali Carbajal, Director General of International Affairs in the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico, and head of the drafting committee for the Ottawa Declaration, to read the prepared document, as well as the proposed recommendations. After thanking the

Secretariat of the ICMA, IICA, and his colleagues for their cooperation, Mr. Vidali read the Declaration.

- 7.3 At its conclusion, the Chair asked for comments from the floor. The representative from Jamaica noted that, in Paragraph 1, peace in the hemisphere should be considered as "one of" the conditions for meeting the legitimate aspirations of the countries, instead of "the " condition.
- 7.4 At this point, the representative from Paraguay asked for more time to consider the proposed Ottawa Declaration, as he had not had the opportunity to participate in the drafting committee that had elaborated the document.
- 7.5 The representative from the Dominican Republic then observed that, although he supported the general sense of the Declaration, a reference should be made, in Paragraph 13, to the role of rural youth in the development process, along with the role of women already mentioned. He went on to stress the importance of rural youth in his country, and that every effort should be made to help them develop roots in their rural homelands, as they, like women were key to

the integration and maintenance of rural families.

- 7.6 In other brief interventions, the representative from Guyana suggested that "campesino peasant" be changed to "subsistence farmers" in Paragraph 12 of the English version. The representative from Chile, referring to Paragraph 13, asked that role of women not be restricted to "rural" development, but rather should be expressed as their role in "overall" development. Also the representative from Bolivia noted that "implementation," in Paragraph 1, was not a recognized Spanish word.
- 7.7 The representative from El Salvador then suggested that a method be devised for the orderly incorporation of all suggestions, and the representative from the United States of America said that if the number of changes contemplated were large, a better procedure would be to adjourn and formulate them in committees.
- 7.8 At this point, the Chair asked to know the quantity of changes being considered. As few others were forthcoming, he suggested proceeding with a paragraph-by-paragraph review and approval

of the Ottawa Declaration. He also noted that the suggestions made so far seemed feasible for inclusion.

- 7.9 Paragraph 1 was then approved, with the slight change previously noted. Paragraphs 2-11 were approved without change, and Paragraph 12 was also approved with the small change suggested for the English version. Considerable discussion ensued as to how to change Paragraph 13, and it was finally decided to draft and insert a new Paragraph 14 on the role of rural youth in development, which was then approved along with a slightly revised Paragraph 13, following the suggestion of the Chilean representative. The remaining paragraphs, now numbering 18 in total, were also approved, with one slight revision.
- 7.10 The representative from Paraguay reiterated his request for more time to study the Declaration, but the Chair observed that all country representatives had had an equal chance to participate in the drafting committee and that the Conference should proceed to consider the recommendations.
- 7.11 After the revised Paragraphs 13 and 14 were reread by the Secretariat, the

Ottawa Declaration was unanimously approved by the Ninth ICMA. The representative from Peru expressed his gratitude to the drafting committee for its harmonious work on an arduous task, and the representative from Honduras seconded his remarks, also thanking IICA for an excellent job in preparing the ICMA documents, saying that in future conferences, the declarations should be studied well in advance.

- 7.12 The head of the drafting committee, Mr. Vidali, then began to read the recommendations at the behest of the Chair. Recommendations 1 (Modernization of the Public Agricultural Sector), 2 (Sectoral Adjustment Programs), and 4 (Horizontal Cooperation and International Transfer of Technology) were approved, with a slight semantic change in No. 1. Recommendation 5 (Activities of the CGIAR System and Other International Research Centers in Latin America and the Caribbean) was approved with slight modifications in points 1 and 3 (a reference to certain "sub-regions" was made more general) after comments made by the representatives from Chile, Uruguay, Peru, Mr. Vidali and the Coordinator of the ICMA.

- 7.13 Recommendation 6 (Development of Biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean) was approved after a slight change in the Spanish version suggested by the representative from Peru.
- 7.14 Recommendation 10 (Strategic Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Revitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean) was approved following a discussion of the formal, hierarchical relationships among the ICMA, the IABA and IICA, with remarks by the representatives from Peru and Bolivia and a clarification by the Director General of IICA.
- 7.15 Recommendation 7 (Technological Support for the Relatively Less-Developed Countries) was approved after a small modification suggested by the representatives from Guyana and Grenada concerning the ability to conduct research in such countries, and Recommendation 8 (Support for Regional Integration and Trade Negotiations) was approved without changes.
- 7.16 Recommendation 9 (Study on Agricultural Modernization Strategies) elicited a spicited discussion on point 1(a),

dealing with modernization. The representative from Venezuela found this paragraph somewhat unfocused, and noted that a statement on agrarian land reform, which he considered a key to successful rural development, was not included. Additionally, the representative from Grenada suggested that the phrase "land tenure," in the same paragraph, be changed to "land ownership." In the resulting discussion, the representatives from Jamaica, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic remarked that "tenure" was a broader term that encompassed ownership, but it was decided to utilize both terms. After the representatives from Venezuela and Peru read new versions of paragraph 1(a) that incorporated agrarian reform as part of the modernization process, Recommendation 9 was approved, as was Recommendation 3 (Support for National Systems of Research and Technology Transfer), after the inclusion of a missing paragraph in the Spanish version.

- 7.17 At this point, the representative from Venezuela indicated that, as he was unavoidably absent when it was read, he would like to re-open the discussion on the Ottawa Declaration, specifically for Paragraph 11 dealing with modernization

and ways to alleviate rural poverty; as in the case of Recommendation 9, he wished to add a section on the consolidation of agrarian land reform policies. The Chair observed that the Ottawa Declaration had already been approved, but asked if there were other delegations desirous of re-initiating a discussion; representatives from Ecuador, Mexico, the USA, and Trinidad and Tobago said they were.

- 7.18 The Chair opened the floor to comments, but clarified that the Ottawa Declaration itself was not yet re-opened for modification. A lengthy discussion followed in which the representative from the USA stated that the definition of agrarian land reform as put forth by Venezuela was open to question. Many other representatives, notably those from Panama, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Nicaragua, commented on the importance of agrarian land reform in their countries, noting that modernization should not be construed as simple "mechanization" for agroindustry, and should focus on the needs of the rural poor. The representatives from the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay, while also supportive in general of agrarian land

reform, emphasized that there was no generalized paradigm for such reform, and that conditions in each country were frequently quite different. The USA representative noted that she could not accept the present wording of Venezuela's proposal to modify Paragraph 11 of the Ottawa Declaration, although the suggestions of Argentina and others seemed feasible.

7.19 Noting the extended and polemical discussion, the Chair proposed a brief recess to prepare a written modification that might be accepted unanimously. When this was ready, he took great care to advise those in attendance that only in the case of unanimous approval of a text would he consider re-opening the Declaration for modification. Two proposed text changes for Paragraph 11 were read. As neither one received unanimous approval, the Chair did not re-open the Ottawa Declaration for modifications.

7.20 The session was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

CLOSING SESSION

- 8.1 The joint session of the Ninth ICMA and the Fourth IABA was held in the Conference Centre, on September 4, 1987 at 6:50 p.m., with the Canadian Minister of Agriculture presiding.
- 8.2 Speaking first, in the name of the delegations, was the Delegate from Trinidad and Tobago, Minister Lincoln Myers, who expressed his gratitude for the hospitality and friendliness of the people and government of Canada, and took the liberty to preside for a few seconds, in order to ask the Director General of IICA to express in the name of the participants his sincere appreciation to the Canadians for being such perfect hosts. He congratulated the Director General and his assistants for conducting the meeting with such efficiency.
- 8.3 He made a summary of the important points discussed during the meetings and noted that no other meeting of Ministers of Agriculture in the hemisphere is of such consequence. He added that the Declaration of Ottawa is our Magna Carta, and that all of us must work so

that the principles and strategies it espouses will not remain mere rhetoric but rather will be translated into concrete actions.

- 8.4 He congratulated the Ministers and Heads of Delegation for their leadership and mutual consideration during the deliberations. Finally, he congratulated the Chair of the meetings, Minister Wise, for his personality, skill and efficiency.
- 8.5 The Director General of IICA expressed his satisfaction that these meetings, so important for the Institute, had been a success. He emphasized that the Declaration and the approved recommendations define a consensus among the countries with regard to the role of agriculture in the present historical moment, the need to modernize it, and the potential for international cooperation.
- 8.6 He indicated that likewise, the resolutions of IABA are a clear mandate for the Institute because they complement and amplify the technical orientation of the Medium Term Plan, reinforcing it politically. He expressed his satisfaction that the Program Budget for 1988-1989 was approved with an increase in

contributions from the countries, renewing their commitment to administer these resources efficiently and responding to the needs of the Member States.

- 8.7 He stated that the decision of the Institute to prepare a strategic plan for recovery of the agricultural sector in the region represented a new challenge, unifying the countries' desires to transform the decisions resulting from the Ninth ICMA into actions. He added that in order for this initiative to succeed, it is necessary to achieve the greatest possible consensus with regards to the importance of agriculture in economic development and, consequently, in political stability and peace in the region.
- 8.8 Finally, he expressed gratitude to Brazil for its offer to host the next regular meeting of the IABA; to the people of Canada for their hospitality; to Minister Wise and his assistants for their support; to all the personnel who carried out their daily tasks efficiently, and to the participants whose contributions were fundamental to the meetings.

- 8.9 Dr. Piñeiro delivered certificates to Minister John Wise, Mrs. Annie Wise, and Mr. John McGowan in recognition of their hospitality. Then, in keeping with tradition, awarded the gavel to the Chair of the meetings.
- 8.10 For his part, the Chair of the Ninth ICMA and the Fourth IABA expressed his gratitude to the delegates for their active participation and the quality of their contributions; to IICA for quality of its role as Secretariat; to the observers who attended the meetings with interest; to all the people who helped with logistical and organizational tasks, and to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for its support during the conference.
- 8.11 He noted the high spirit of cooperation that characterized the meetings. In spite of the differences that always exist, the achievements attained were the product of consensus. He emphasized that during the meeting of IABA, IICA received support for the implementation of the Medium Term Plan and through the Declaration and the recommendations of the Ninth ICMA, mandates and norms were established for concrete action.

- 8.12 As a final observation, he emphasized that these meetings had served as an excellent opportunity for the smaller countries to share their anxieties and participate as full, active members in our organization. He added that for Canada, it was an honor to be the host country during these events and that he enthusiastically awaited the next meeting in Brazil.
- 8.13 At 7:25 p.m., the Chair closed the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

IV. OTTAWA DECLARATION

THE OTTAWA DECLARATION

1. Discussions during the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture have been carried out in the steadfast conviction that we must seek out new directions that will led to economic and social development for our peoples as a firm foundation for peace and democracy in our region, and firmly believing that dialogue and solidary action are the best tools at our disposal for accomplishing the common task to which we must all commit ourselves. Consequently, we support the efforts on behalf of peace throughout the hemisphere and the recent progress in this direction in Central America, as peace is one of the essential conditions for meeting the legitimate aspirations of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to socio-economic prosperity, which is a basic premise for agricultural production and development.

Inspired by these principles, we deem it timely to approve this declaration which sets forth our most pressing aspirations and concerns, as well as pointing out

the areas and priorities where action is most urgently needed.

The majority of our countries are presently facing a crisis, the magnitude and extent of which had not been seen in the last ninety years. To deal with this crisis, we have to make profound changes in the traditional concepts concerning economics and development that have prevailed in our countries for many years.

These changes touch upon medium- and long-term strategies, proximate economic policies, and the relative importance which the various sectors have in revitalizing our economies. The analysis of these topics, to which we have devoted a large part of our deliberations, represents without doubt, a significant step towards our taking those actions which will enable our countries to resume the path of growth and overcome poverty, malnutrition and resultant lack of development.

Agricultural Modernization: Key to a New Development Strategy

2. In the context in which our economies operate today and will continue to

operate in the future, agricultural modernization and diversification must constitute a key element of strategies for economic revitalization and development in our countries. The increase in productivity which such modernization entails, together with wide distribution of its benefits, lay the groundwork for an approach to economic development capable of exercising a strong multiplier effect on the rest of the economy, while immediately benefiting the great mass of our poor and indigent who live in these same rural areas.

The Need for Change in External Conditions

3. Improvements in the international milieu are critical to agricultural modernization and to the contribution of the sector to economic reactivation in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Furthermore, the agricultural sector must be given high priority in each country.
4. It is vitally important to develop new alternatives for solving the foreign debt problem and to achieve an international consensus that will substantially remove restrictions and distortions of

agricultural trade and allow our countries to reap the benefits of their greater comparative advantages in agricultural production. We applaud the outcome of the GATT Meeting of Ministers at Punta del Este for providing a sound foundation for agricultural trade negotiations in the Uruguay round and the recent declaration by the OECD countries in favor of reforms in agricultural policies and normalization of trade practices. However, we are concerned by the contradiction between this progress on the rhetorical plane and the persistence and likely intensification of protectionist practices. We hereby manifest the urgent need for stated political will to be translated into effective action, as the Cairns group has repeatedly urged, and we agree that the present GATT round provides an exceptional opportunity to attain this objective.

5. The international community can, by facilitating a more liberalized and transparent agricultural trade environment, contribute to economic development and, by extension, encourage social peace and political stability in the countries of the hemisphere.

Similarly, the reactivation of the region's economy would bring about an increase of imports, thus exerting a beneficial effect on developed economies and on the other developing countries and favoring the reestablishment of the world economy.

Needed Adjustments in Overall Domestic Policies

6. Most of our countries have been undertaking profound, often painful changes to stabilize their economies and respond to the difficult trade and financial environment. We, the ministers of agriculture, reassert our belief in the need to make these structural changes in the economies of our countries, as long as they allow for a suitable rate of growth and economic development and do not penalize the most vulnerable sectors.
7. Macroeconomic policies are affecting agriculture to an ever-increasing degree. It is necessary to ensure that these policies are compatible with the objectives of agricultural modernization, and that they enhance relationships among the different sectors by eliminating biases and favoring the

growth of agriculture and industry jointly. Thus we reconfirm the desirability of modifying the institutional mechanisms for formulating economic policy in many of our countries, in order to ensure that the public agricultural sector will play a suitable role in defining the overall economic policies that affect agriculture.

8. The modernization of the public sector is a necessary condition for agricultural modernization in many of our countries. Public services and government economic activity need to meet competitive standards, and the task of guiding agriculture must be performed efficiently. Among other activities we need to redefine areas of government action and improve ties of complementarity with the private sector. It is also important to revise legal standards that govern public sector activities, improve administrative and business skills for public management and encourage the decentralization of operations where this may be advisable. International technical and financial cooperation must grant high priority to cooperating with our countries in this important task.

Modification of National Sectoral Policies

9. For the majority of our countries, the incentive policies governing the operations of different economic agents must be readjusted to an overall economic context, characterized by increasingly competitive markets and the shortage of local resources. It is necessary to improve efficiency and competitiveness of agriculture, and for this purpose, sectoral policies on pricing, investment, and taxes should very clearly give priority to promotional activities, encourage mechanisms for healthy private competition, and favor an equitable distribution of earnings. The strengthening of local skills for analysis and evaluation of agricultural policies is a high-priority task which will require the support of international organizations.

10. It is essential for all countries of LAC to have the assurance of steady, growing access to technological innovations, as this will be an increasingly definitive factor in establishing competitiveness on external markets. The development of biotechnology, and other scientific and technological advances with an enormous

potential impact on agricultural production signal the need to educate ourselves to make optimum use of emerging technologies. Despite any present difficulties, we must guarantee a sufficient, stable flow of budgetary resources for the institutions in our countries responsible for generation and transfer of technology. At the same time, we must improve their organizational structures and administration, enabling them to make more efficient and effective use of their human and financial resources. Similarly, we must deepen horizontal cooperation among our countries and with the international technical cooperation agencies and financial institutions, and must revise and restructure our ties with the international technological system so as to ensure more efficient, coordinated use of available resources. Joint action among the countries of Latin American and the Caribbean is one of the best alternatives available to us for meeting this challenge which, because of its nature and magnitude, exceeds national capabilities.

11. Once again we wish to renew our commitment to do away with rural poverty. We are convinced that the poverty of a large part of the farmers in many of our

countries cannot be overcome using isolated or partial measures, but rather through integrated action which allows these groups to join the process of modernization and development. Our efforts should be directed towards training and organization of the rural poor so as to allow them suitable access to the know-how and production factors - particularly ownership of land, appropriate technology and credit - which, together with support for adequate infrastructure and marketing support, make up the list of elements which can ensure sustained development. The designed of specific strategies to facilitate this process is a central feature of the overall strategy for agricultural modernization, since increased earnings for small farmers will have a dynamic effect on the economy.

12. The elimination of poverty, especially in its most extreme forms, also requires specific measures aimed at increasing the food security of broad segments of the population, in the sense of ensuring continuous access to an adequate diet and proper nutrition. We know that one of the best ways of achieving this goal is through production programs which, while they increase the food supply,

also help to increase the level of capitalization and the demand capacity of the poorest families, especially those of subsistence farmers, through job creation, organization, training and the establishment of infrastructure.

13. Realizing the significant role played by women in the overall development process of our countries, as a driving force in production and consumption by family units and as key agents in improving health, welfare and education, we welcome their growing participation in rural development programs and in the war on poverty.
14. Recognizing that young people make up an extensive and important segment of the rural population, as well as a vital force for progress in our countries, we must redouble our efforts to promote training and participation of rural youth in agricultural programs and production, bolstering their commitment to the agricultural sector and thereby contributing to the integrated development of the rural family.
15. International financial organizations should be encouraged to strengthen their contribution to the development of

agriculture by increasing the flow of different types of financing. The sectoral adjustment programs being developed by some of these agencies can serve as a useful alternative for financing the changes required for agricultural modernization, provided they are made flexible and take into account the specific characteristics and needs of each country and the anticipated impact on different production groups. This is why it is essential for the public agricultural sector to be present in the design of sectoral adjustment programs. These programs must also include funds for technical assistance in policy preparation and implementation, as well as investment programs by which to implement the changes agreed upon.

The Role of International Cooperation and Regional Integration

16. International cooperation has the potential to make a substantial contribution to the development of agriculture in our countries, and this potential can be tapped if the numerous mechanisms already in existence today are reinforced by large contributions of technical, financial and other resources, and if

the use of these resources is improved. We believe that the reduction of agricultural protectionism, and increased international cooperation could make an immeasurable contribution towards greater equity and rationality in international economic relations.

17. We would like once again to stress that regional economic integration in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, whether it is brought about through existing institutional mechanisms or by other means designed for this same purpose, is a key to solving the problems we share. Agricultural modernization in our countries will advance more quickly if we work together, combining our efforts so as to achieve together what we cannot achieve working alone. The reactivation of intraregional trade, agreement in trade negotiations, and horizontal cooperation in the field of technology are only a few of the many lines of action we must pursue as soon as possible. The regional cooperation agencies can and must play a fundamental role by supporting our shared efforts for agricultural modernization and economic and social development.

18. The difficulties which the relatively less developed smaller countries of the region have in mobilizing the human and financial resources required for development of the agriculture sector is of particular concern to us. The small scale of the economies of many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean seriously limits their ability to gain suitable access to technology, manage the necessary investments to develop their productive and marketing infrastructure, and find solutions to a series of difficulties which prevent them from overcoming problems of rural poverty with which they are saddled.

Although each country is responsible for defining and implementing its own solutions to these problems, the introduction of joint undertakings in areas of common interest will assuredly become a key element in any strategy designed to make better use of the scarce resources available. Accordingly, we make a special appeal to the international financial and technical aid organizations, and to the other countries of the hemisphere, asking them to give special priority to supporting the smaller and relatively less developed countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and,

above all, to fostering joint activities among groups of such countries at the subregional level.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION No. I

MODERNIZATION OF THE
PUBLIC AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The NINTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

The documents prepared by IICA covering various aspects of agricultural modernization, international trade and price policy in the framework of regional integration and present international conditions,

CONSIDERING:

That the discussion of the ideas presented in these documents within the ICMA has been enlightening in terms of the basic role of the public agricultural sector of the countries in guiding the process of agricultural development;

That it is of special interest for the governments to modernize the public agricultural sector to make it more effective and more efficient; and

That international financing organizations have the means to support the countries' efforts to modernize the public sector,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That actions be taken to modernize the public agricultural sector.
2. To request that the international financing organizations and cooperation agencies reallocate funds for the modernization of the public agricultural sector, through the incorporation of modern methods of scientific research, administration, management and computer technology which can render the public agricultural sector more efficient and its relationship with the private sector more effective.
3. To urge the international cooperation agencies to provide innovative administrative mechanisms that will permit the countries to recruit highly qualified professionals to assist the public agricultural sector in its efforts at modernization.

RECOMMENDATION No. II

SECTORAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS

The NINTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

The working documents providing general background information on the Conference, particularly the one entitled "Incentive Policies for Agricultural Modernization,"

CONSIDERING:

That the discussion in the Conference of the ideas presented in said documents has increased awareness of the significant impact of macroeconomic policies (monetary, fiscal and public investment policies in international trade and finance) on agricultural performance;

That requirements for the overall management of the economy, primarily for meeting foreign commitments, have caused countries to implement adjustment programs in which insufficient consideration has been given to

questions of equity, and in particular, that the negative effects on poorer urban and rural groups have not been assessed; and

That a restructuring of the economies of the region is a necessity, but cannot be achieved without simultaneous adjustments in the economies of the developed countries, within a framework of equity,

RECOMMENDS:

1. To the governments, that they recognize the need to seek better coordination between macroeconomic policies - monetary, fiscal, and investment - and agricultural sectoral policies, in such a way as to ensure a revitalization of agriculture.
2. That, in this effort, they place particular emphasis on the definition, implementation and adjustment of investment policies for agriculture that encourage private investment and agroindustrial integration.
3. To international financing organizations and agencies for technical

and financial cooperation in the developed countries, that they design structural adjustment programs which can re-establish a positive flow of investment resources and which will not have a negative impact on agriculture, in accordance with the strategies of national programs.

4. To IICA, that it negotiate and allocate resources to work in cooperation with all member countries, international financial organizations and technical and financial cooperation agencies in the developed countries, to conduct research and training to strengthen the countries' ability to design, implement and modify investment policies and programs that will bring about the performance expected of the agricultural sector.
5. To the international technical cooperation organizations, that they assist the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean with preparatory studies for submission of loan applications for sectoral adjustment programs.

RECOMMENDATION No. III

SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL SYSTEMS
OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
TRANSFER

The NINTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

The working documents presented as general background information for the Conference, particularly the one concerning technological innovation and agricultural development,

CONSIDERING:

The important contributions to agricultural development and economic growth made in the past by national institutions for research and transfer of technology;

The ample evidence available that the existence of strong, effective, reliable national institutions constitutes a necessary

condition for the technological development of the agricultural sector;

The renewed importance of appropriate technology as a key element in the process of agricultural modernization needed in response to the economic crisis now faced by the countries in the region; and

The institutional changes which have taken place in recent times, in particular the growing interest and importance of the private sector as an active participant in the process of technology generation and transfer,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean improve and boost their support to the national research and technology transfer systems at the producer level, seeking to identify and implement innovative organizational, operational and financial mechanisms which can ensure effective channeling of all public and private resources available for this type of activity in an efficient and harmonious manner.

2. That the international financial organizations and the technical and financial cooperation agencies increase the resources available to finance investment projects for the generation and transfer of technology at the national level, including financing of the operating budget, which will ensure that these investments are utilized more efficiently.
3. That national and regional programs of the organizations responsible for research and transfer of technology give priority to ensuring that technical innovations take account of long-term conservation of the natural resources of agriculture: soil and water.
4. That IICA, alone or jointly with other international technical and financial cooperation agencies, support these national efforts by evaluating present policies, and propose alternative models and mechanisms that will bring the action of national institutions for generation and transfer of technology into harmony with the requirements of different producer

groups, and that it support the design and implementation of specific projects for strengthening said institutions.

RECOMMENDATION No. IV

HORIZONTAL COOPERATION AND
INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF
TECHNOLOGY

The NINTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

The working documents presented as general background information for the Conference, particularly the one relating to technological innovation and agricultural development,

CONSIDERING:

That in many cases the research requirements of a country go far beyond its economic capacity for investment in this type of activity;

That by their very nature, research activities lend themselves to joint efforts by countries sharing common problems;

That Latin America and the Caribbean have ample and successful experience with cooperative research efforts based on the comparative advantages of each participating country; and

That given the historical and cultural background and the agro-ecological characteristics of the countries of the region, it is possible to identify a broad range of opportunities for horizontal technical cooperation in the technological area,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That efforts aimed at utilizing opportunities for horizontal cooperation in the field of science and technology be continued and stepped up.
2. That international financing organizations, and the IDB in particular, continue to support efforts in the area of horizontal cooperation and international transfer of information and technology, establishing more flexible long-term financing mechanisms which can facilitate the institutionalization

of these efforts, so as to encourage countries to gradually assume financial responsibility for them.

3. That IICA, as the specialized agricultural agency of the inter-American system, continue its efforts in the area of horizontal technical cooperation and international transfer of information and technology, concluding agreements with funding agencies to ensure the long-term viability of said programs.
4. That these efforts emphasize actions aimed at better utilizing the comparative advantages of each country to solve problems common to several of them, and that priority be placed both on the development of new initiatives for the benefit of relatively less developed countries, and on the broadening and consolidation of efforts already under way.

RECOMMENDATION No. V

ACTIVITIES OF THE CGIAR SYSTEM
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH
CENTERS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN

The NINTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

The working documents presented as general background information for the Conference, particularly the one relating to technological innovation and agricultural development,

CONSIDERING:

The important contributions that the international centers for agricultural research of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and other international research centers of the region have made to the agricultural development of the region;

The continuing need for international support at the regional level, particularly in view of the budgetary constraints resulting from the financial crisis which confronts the majority of the countries;

The natural complementarity that exists between the activities of the international centers, and research and technology transfer efforts at the national level; and

The advisability of achieving greater integration of national and international activities and of better exploiting the comparative advantages of all the institutions involved,

RECOMMENDS:

1. To the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, that, recognizing the contributions of the international agricultural research system to the agricultural development of the region, they implement policies and actions aimed at making better use of this system for the benefit of their agricultural production.

2. To the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other international research centers of the region, that they endeavor to maintain budget support for research activities related to the problems confronting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. That the international research centers connected with the region review their working priorities, taking into account the technological requirements of the different subregions, in particular problems relating to the tropics, andean highland crops, rain-fed agriculture and the management of phytogenetic resources, as well as examining their future role in biotechnology and the feasibility of inviting certain national systems to assume responsibility for some of the activities presently being carried out by these centers.
4. That the organizations of the inter-American system, especially the IDB and IICA, through their participation in the CGIAR and their joint activities with the

international centers belonging to the system, promote greater and more effective participation by the region in guiding the activities of the Consultative Group.

RECOMMENDATION No. VI
DEVELOPMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN

The NINTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

The working documents presented as general background information for the Conference, particularly the one relating to technological innovation and agricultural development,

CONSIDERING:

The growing importance of biotechnological research as a source of the new technologies and products needed to give impetus to the agricultural modernization process;

The relative lack of development in basic scientific disciplines required to

conduct activities in the field of biotechnology;

The high cost of developing the human resources and physical infrastructure required for this type of research;

The difficulties facing even relatively large countries in bringing about more significant development in this field in an independent fashion;

The advisability and proven feasibility of establishing horizontal cooperation mechanisms in the scientific and technological area which can utilize the comparative advantages of each country to allow for specialization and to enhance the impact of available resources at the aggregate level; and

The need to establish clear policies which will encourage and normalize investments in these fields and regulate their basic features,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean recognize the importance of new scientific and technological developments

deriving from progress in the field of biotechnology, and implement policies and legal institutional mechanisms which will make it possible to reap the benefits of these advances in a fashion consistent with the development priorities of each country and in compliance with minimum requirements of safety for human health and environmental protection.

2. That the agencies of the inter-American system, and IICA in particular, carry out specific activities to assist the countries in developing and implementing policies aimed at incorporating the new advances in biotechnology into their existing technology, and targeting the needs for organizational and management changes which this requires.
3. That as part of these activities, efforts aimed at revitalizing training programs in agricultural sciences at the graduate level be stepped up, giving priority to efforts of a multilateral nature in disciplines related to the field of biotechnology and to the basic

sciences which serve as a foundation and as a support for it.

4. That in combination with the above and in cooperation with other international agencies involved in science and technology, IICA carry out activities aimed at achieving unity in terms of criteria and proposed policies for the development, protection and control of products and technologies deriving from advances in the field of biotechnology.
5. Given the importance of these problems in the economy of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, IICA should explore mechanisms which will allow the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to benefit from the advances which can be anticipated from biotechnology taken in its broadest sense.

RECOMMENDATION No. VII

TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR THE
RELATIVELY LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

The NINTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

The working documents presented as general background information for the Conference, particularly the one relating to technological innovation and agricultural development,

CONSIDERING:

That a large number of countries in the region, because of their small size, find it difficult individually to devote sufficient human and financial resources to the modernization of agriculture;

That the findings of the international research community will become less accessible to these relatively small countries due both to the protection of ownership rights to new technology where applicable,

and to limited research capabilities at the national level;

That the present economic crisis will result in a further weakening of already weak national agricultural research development systems in the smaller countries; and

That in the future, the international research centers and the more developed countries of the region will have a large inventory of technologies useful to these smaller countries,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the international research centers step up their efforts to bring about agricultural modernization in the smaller, less developed countries of the region.
2. That the international agricultural research community support and strengthen existing regional and subregional mechanisms to ensure that these smaller, less developed countries are able to conduct research and to receive, adapt and utilize the findings of the international research system.

RECOMMENDATION No. VIII

SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION
AND TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The NINTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

The working document on Item 4, "The Trade Crisis and Agricultural Development: Options for International Cooperation and Regional Integration,"

CONSIDERING:

That international trade in agricultural products and inputs is an important mechanism for promoting and modernizing the sector;

That development of international trade will require specific commitments for improving market access and gradually eliminating all forms of subsidy which hinder international trade;

That the efforts of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to encourage different approaches to regional and subregional integration also contribute to

achieving the aforementioned objectives and represent a new form of cooperation and renewed participation in interregional and intraregional trade;

That the success of these efforts depends in large measure on a spirit of fairness and cooperation between the developed and developing countries, and among the latter, the relatively less developed countries;

That in opening the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, the Ministerial Declaration of Punta del Este set forth the consensus of all participating countries concerning the terms of reference of said negotiations, particularly with respect to the agricultural sector;

That all of the above must be implemented through policies, programs and projects that permit, and are conducive to, coordinated action for economic integration and multilateral trade; and

That in order to play their part in the trade negotiations, the Latin American and Caribbean countries must strengthen their institutional structures in the public and private sectors, train technical cadres and have access to the needed analytical data,

RECOMMENDS:

1. To the governments and countries of Latin America and the Caribbean that they support the different approaches to regional and subregional integration and the efforts to improve and establish more equitable rules for international trade in general, and trade in agricultural products and inputs in particular.
2. To the international organizations, that in their respective spheres of competence, they step up their support to countries in the area of the initiatives described.
3. That IICA approach the international organizations for support and resources that will enable it to offer technical cooperation for such initiatives, through development of analytical data and teaching technical managers in these countries about the technical aspects of participation in GATT negotiations.

RECOMMENDATION No. IX

STUDY ON AGRICULTURAL MODERNIZATION
STRATEGIES

The NINTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

CONSIDERING:

That the present Conference has highlighted the importance of the macroeconomic and sectoral policies which must guide us in bringing about selective modernization of agriculture, adapting it to the difficult circumstances which prevail in the Latin American economies and in international trade;

That there is a need to link economic reforms in the areas of prices, credit and technology, with investment policies which call for greater participation by international agencies;

That these policies require joint action on the part of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;

That IICA has established and provided the necessary resources for the programs which make up the Medium Term Plan, one of the purposes of which is to study and exchange experiences concerning alternative strategies;

That the countries of the region require detailed studies in order to formulate and design policies which are consistent with the objectives of structural adjustment and agricultural development; and

That FAO is conducting a study of the problems referred to in the foregoing clauses in compliance with the resolution adopted at the Nineteenth Regional Conference of FAO, held in Barbados in August 1986,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That through the respective programs, IICA continue cooperating with FAO, and, together with the studies and recommendations that have been proposed, the following objectives be taken into account:

- a. strategies required for agricultural modernization in our countries must include, among others, consolidation of agrarian reform processes, increased profitability, prices, credit, land tenure and/or ownership, transfer and complementarity between sectoral policies, on the one hand, and fiscal, monetary and exchange-rate policies, on the other.
 - b. regional and international strategies for mobilizing financial resources for agricultural development by calling upon domestic savings and international financing agencies.
 - c. strategies which will enable the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to make the most appropriate decisions in international trade negotiations based on the diversity of their economies and the differences in their comparative advantages.
2. That the results serve as a framework within which IICA can set priorities and strengthen the

technical assistance which the countries require for agricultural modernization and promotion of international trade in their agricultural products.

RECOMMENDATION No. X

STRATEGIC PLAN OF JOINT ACTION
FOR AGRICULTURAL REVITALIZATION
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The NINTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

CONSIDERING:

That the declaration and recommendations developed in this, the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, cover a broad spectrum of issues and initiatives, and are addressed to various regions, subregions, organizations, as well as member countries;

That all the countries of the hemisphere agree on the need for reviving and modernizing agriculture, and that to this end, they have indicated their willingness to coordinate their work at the regional and subregional levels, and to increase North-South cooperation;

That increasingly, international technical and financial cooperation must be implemented on a multilateral rather than just a national basis, in order to ensure a greater

impact on the regional economy and greater efficiency and a broader multiplier effect of the resources committed;

That specialized technical agencies, national governments, and other institutions have conducted and continue to conduct technical studies on the problems of agriculture and rural development in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, providing an excellent basis for the design of joint action to revitalize the agricultural sector;

That there is an operational need for a framework that will provide consistency to existing and new initiatives to revitalize the agricultural sector in Latin America and Caribbean countries;

That such a framework would help to ensure that the translation of our recommendations into action is coordinated for maximum complementarity and synergy;

That there is a need to establish a framework that will give impetus to the further development of each of the program areas in IICA's Medium Term Plan; and

That the prioritization and coordination of actions under such a framework would facilitate the decisions of donor countries

and international financial institutions, and serve to attract and make better use of funding,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the IABA charge IICA with developing, in collaboration with member countries and the other specialized agencies, a strategic plan of joint action in support of agricultural revitalization and economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean based on the foregoing guidelines, and with a focus on:
 - a. joint actions among countries, at the regional and subregional level, to resolve concrete problems;
 - b. maximizing the complementarity and synergy of the diverse initiatives to revitalize the sector;
 - c. the required technical and financial support from donor countries and agencies;

- d. suggested mechanisms for inter-institutional coordination;
 - e. setting of priorities for all joint actions and initiatives so to use available resources to the greatest advantage.
2. That the draft Plan be submitted for the consideration of the Executive Committee at its regular meeting to be held in 1988 as a preliminary step to its implementation.
 3. That the IABA request IICA to procure the resources needed to fund the design of the Plan.

VI. RESOLUTION

IICA/CIMA/Res.1(IX/87)
3 September 1987
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 1

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT
AND PEOPLE OF CANADA

The NINTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

CONSIDERING:

That the hospitality extended by the government and people of Canada has been a determining factor enabling the deliberations of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture to be conducted in an orderly and cordial atmosphere,

RESOLVES:

To extend its deepest gratitude to the government and people of Canada through the ministers and officials of the departments of agriculture and external affairs; to the authorities of the city of Ottawa; and to the support staff,

whose efficient teamwork enabled us to bring the work at hand to a successful conclusion.

VII. SIGNING OF THE REPORT



SIGNING OF THE REPORT
OF THE NINTH INTER-
AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE

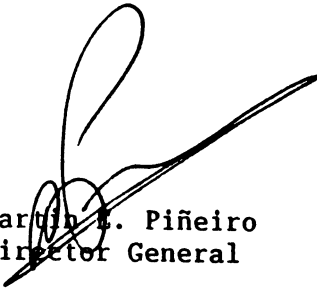
In compliance with the provisions of Article 37 of the Rules of Procedure of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, the Report of the Conference is hereby signed at 6:00 p.m. on the second day of September of the year nineteen hundred eighty-seven, in the Conference Centre of the Government of Canada.

This Final Report is submitted in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, with all versions being authentic and of equal validity.

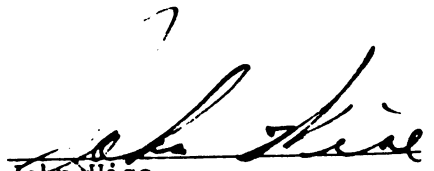
The Technical Secretary of the Conference shall file the original texts in the archives of the Organization of American States, and the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture shall send copies of the official

version of this report to the governments of the Member States, the Permanent Observers of the OAS and IICA, and other participants in the Conference.

Ottawa, Canada



Martin L. Piñeiro
Director General



John Wise
Chairman of the Ninth ICMA

VIII. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR DRAFTING OF THE DECLARATION
AND RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMITTEE FOR THE DRAFTING OF THE
DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1st Session

Monday, August 31

1. The first meeting of the Committee on the Declaration and Recommendations of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture was held in the Sussex Room of the Conference Centre in Ottawa. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.
2. Participating in the meeting were the delegations of Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, the United States of America and Venezuela.
3. The Technical Coordinator of the Conference, Mr. Félix Cirio, explained that the Committee would have as its task to prepare a draft of the Ottawa Declaration and of the recommendations to be submitted to the plenary for consideration.

Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur

4. Mr. Carlos Vidali Carbajal, member of the Mexican delegation, was appointed to chair the Committee. The Technical Coordinator invited Mr. Vidali to occupy the chair.
5. Mr. David Demacque, member of the Saint Lucia delegation, was appointed Vice-Chair.
6. Mr. Jaime Muñoz-Reyes, member of the Bolivian delegation, was appointed Committee Rapporteur.
7. The Committee Chair stated that the representatives had the option of either beginning discussions or attending the plenary session, which was then in progress. Answering a question from the Peruvian delegation, the Chair explained that all the representatives had copies of the document "Ideas for the Ottawa Declaration." He added that the Committee, acting as a drafting committee, would give it its final form, through a paragraph-by-paragraph discussion, incorporating additions which might arise from the plenary session. Finally, the Chair suggested that the meeting be adjourned and that the representatives meet again at 4:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE FOR THE DRAFTING OF THE
DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2nd Session

Monday, August 31, 1987

Discussion of the document "Ideas for
the Ottawa Declaration"

1. At 4:35 p.m., the meeting was called to order for discussion of the document "Ideas for the Ottawa Declaration," with the delegations of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela, in attendance.
2. The Committee Chair proposed that the representatives share their basic views, reserving comments on style or form for direct submission to the Rapporteur.
3. The meeting proceeded to discuss Paragraph 1 (new wording). The delegations of Saint Lucia, Ecuador and Mexico (this last country presenting a petition from the member states of CORECA) offered

comments which were formally submitted in writing to the Rapporteur.

4. Paragraph 2 (new wording) was approved without comment.
5. At the suggestion of the Canadian representative, it was decided that the wording of Paragraph 3 should be improved upon. The paragraph was approved.
6. Paragraph 4 was approved following several changes to clarify the text.
7. Paragraph 5 was approved without comment.
8. The Committee resumed discussion of Paragraph 1, with proposals from those representatives who had made comments. Since some delegations needed time to think over the text of this paragraph and even to consult their governments, it was decided that the matter would be taken up again the following day.
9. Paragraph 6 was approved with a few changes of style.
10. Paragraph 7 was approved with a few changes of style.

11. Paragraph 8 was approved with a few changes of style.
12. The Rapporteur was asked for a new draft of Paragraph 9, which would later undergo further revision.
13. The Rapporteur was asked for a new draft of Paragraph 10, which would later undergo further revision.
14. the Technical Coordinator asked the delegations to submit their ideas as soon as possible, in order to speed up the final drafting of the documents.
15. At 7:00 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned. He invited the delegations to continue their deliberations on the following day, at 9:30 a.m.

COMMITTEE FOR THE DRAFTING OF THE
DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3rd Session

Tuesday, September 1, 1987

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m. The following delegations were in attendance: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, the United States of America and Venezuela. Attention was drawn to the fact that the delegation of Grenada had attended the second meeting, although this fact had not been noted in the minutes.

Discussion of the document "Ideas for
the Ottawa Declaration"

2. Discussion resumed concerning the document "Ideas for the Ottawa Declaration."
3. The Technical Coordinator indicated that distribution of the following documents was under way: The text of Paragraphs 1

through 8, with the changes introduced the previous day; a proposal by the delegation of Brazil to be incorporated in Paragraph 1, and a new version of the text of Paragraphs 9 through 15 for discussion.

4. Paragraph 9 was approved without discussion.
5. Paragraph 10 was approved with minor changes in the wording.
6. The Chair suggested that a working group be formed consisting of the delegations of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and the United States of America, with a mandate to draft specific recommendations on items arising during the deliberations.
7. Paragraph 11 was approved with minor changes in the wording.
8. The new paragraph on the role of women in rural development was approved. It was decided that the Technical Coordinator should incorporate it into the Draft Declaration.
9. Paragraph 12 was approved with minor changes in the wording.

10. Paragraph 13 was approved with minor changes in the wording.
11. Paragraph 14 was approved with minor changes in the wording.
12. Paragraph 15 was left in abeyance awaiting new drafting by the Rapporteur.
13. The text submitted by Mexico on food security was read. It was approved with minor changes in the wording. It was decided that the Technical Coordinator should incorporate it into the Draft Declaration.
14. The text of Argentina's proposal concerning agroindustrial development was read. It was approved with minor changes in the wording. It was decided that the Technical Coordinator should incorporate it into the Draft Declaration.
15. The document concerning efforts toward peace proposed by the representative of Guatemala for inclusion in Paragraph 1 was read. It was approved with minor changes in the wording.

16. The Technical Coordinator requested the delegations to submit their draft recommendations by 3:00 p.m.
17. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The delegations were invited to resume their deliberations at 4:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE FOR THE DRAFTING OF
THE DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4th Session

Tuesday, September 1

1. The meeting began at 4:20 p.m. The following delegations were in attendance: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Discussion of proposed recommendations

2. At time the meeting was called to order, the Technical Coordinator had received nine proposed recommendations.
3. The Rapporteur proceeded to read the proposed recommendation submitted by the delegation of Uruguay on horizontal cooperation and international transfer of technology. This proposal was approved with certain changes.

4. The Rapporteur next read the proposed recommendation submitted by the delegation of Mexico concerning development of biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean. A discussion followed.
5. The Rapporteur then read the proposed recommendation submitted by the delegation of Argentina concerning sectorial adjustment programs. This proposal was approved with certain changes.
6. The Rapporteur then read the proposed recommendation submitted by the delegation of Grenada concerning the smaller and lesser developed countries in the region. This proposal was approved with certain changes.
7. It was decided that various proposed recommendations relating to technology would have to be referred to the Technical Coordinator to standardize their terminology.
8. The Rapporteur then read the proposed recommendation submitted by the delegation of Peru concerning modernization of the public agriculture sector. Following discussion of this document, the Chair asked the delegation of Peru to make the necessary changes in the text

in order that it might be presented for final discussion at the next meeting. The Chair also requested the Technical Coordinator to review other proposals to ensure consistency among them, consulting the relevant delegations as required.

9. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The delegations were invited to continue their deliberations on the following day at 8 a.m.

COMMITTEE FOR THE DRAFTING OF
THE DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5th Session

Wednesday, September 2, 1987

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. The following delegations participate: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, the United States of America and Venezuela.

Discussion of propose recommendations

2. The Rapporteur proceeded to read the new version of the draft recommendations presented by the delegation of Peru on modernization of the public agricultural sector. The draft was approved with slight modifications.
3. The Rapporteur proceeded to read the draft recommendation presented by the Canadian delegation on a strategic plan for joint action on agricultural revitalization in Latin America and the

Caribbean. The draft was approved with slight modifications

4. The Rapporteur proceeded to read the draft recommendation presented by the delegation of Chile on activities of the CGIAR system in Latin America and the Caribbean. The draft was approved with slight modifications.
5. At the request of the Committee, the Deputy Director General of FAO and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Mario Jalil, and the Director of the Joint Agricultural Division of ECLAC/FAO, Mr. Luis López-Cordovez, who were participating in the plenary sessions of the Conference, reported on the studies being carried out by FAO on problems similar to those addressed by the Ecuadorean draft recommendation on specific strategies for modernization of agriculture.
6. The Rapporteur then read the draft recommendation of Ecuador, and it was approved with slight modifications.

7. The Rapporteur proceeded to read the recommendation presented by the delegation of Argentina on support for regional integration and trade negotiations. The draft was approved with slight modifications.
8. The Rapporteur proceeded to read the recommendation presented by the delegation of Honduras on support for the development of an up-to-date legal framework of incentives for agricultural modernization.
9. A draft recommendation presented by the delegation of Mexico on development of biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean, which had been discussed in the fourth session, was then approved.
10. The Rapporteur then read the draft recommendation presented by the delegation of Ecuador on supporting systems for research and transfer of technology. The draft was approved with slight modifications.
11. The delegations reached consensus not to approve the draft recommendation presented by the delegation of Honduras, mentioned in number 8, since the same subject had already been partially dealt

with in the draft recommendation presented by the delegation of Argentina on programs for sectoral readjustment, approved in the fourth session, and also because another section of the draft involved a statement on internal problems of the countries.

12. The Technical Coordinator reminded the representatives that the draft declaration and recommendations prepared by the Committee would be dealt with during the plenary session to be held that same day, at 2:00 p.m.
13. The session was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

IX. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

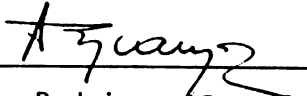
REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS
COMMITTEE OF THE NINTH
INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE
OF MINISTERS AGRICULTURE

The Credentials Committee of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture was set up in accordance with the provisions of Article 9 of Chapter II of the Rules of Procedures of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the agreements reached in the Preparatory Session of the meeting on the membership of the Credentials Committee. The members were representatives from Brazil, Ecuador, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and the United States of America.

The Committee examined the credentials of the representatives from the Member States of the OAS and IICA to the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture. It found the credentials in order for the following: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada

Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

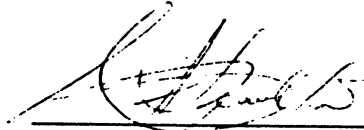
This record is signed in Ottawa, Canada, on September 1, 1987.




Roberto Rodrigues Correia de Araujo
Brazil



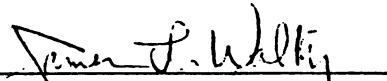
Carlos Rendon
Ecuador



Clarence Franklin
Jamaica



Eugène Pétty
St. Kitts and Nevis



James L. Walker
United States of America

X. CLOSING SESSION ADDRESSES

ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE LINCOLN MYERS,
MINISTER OF FOOD PRODUCTION,
MARINE EXPLOITATION, FORESTRY AND
THE ENVIRONMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

It is both an honor and a pleasure for me to be given the opportunity to address you at the closing session of the joint meetings of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture of IICA.

Mr. Chairman, I have no doubt that I speak on behalf of all the delegates when I say to you Minister and President, John Wise, that we the visitors to your country on this occasion, will always remember the very warm hospitality and friendliness of your people, at all levels, in respect of the arrangements for these meetings. The smooth flow of events, the level of security, the easy efficiency with which our well-being has been managed, are worthy of special commendation. I take the liberty, perhaps acting as President for a few seconds, to mandate the Director General to convey, on behalf of all of us, to the government and people of Canada our most sincere appreciation for being such perfect host.

To our Director General, Dr. Martín Piñero, we all wish to congratulate him for the program which he has been able to achieve with the Institute in keeping with the various mandates and resolutions which ministers and the Board have adopted at various times.

We must, of course, acknowledge the hard work, the alertness and the general operational efficiency of his team, including the Deputy Director General, the Technical Secretary and the various members of the support staff, who have travelled all the way from Costa Rica. In addition, we have, I am certain, admired the charming ladies with their red bows, moving continuously from one station to another, handling our various requests and keeping the Conference on the move. Mr. Chairman, I again ask my fellow ministers, delegates, all of us, to show, in the usual manner, our appreciation to this very supportive group of young ladies, and may I also include the few young men with their red ties.

Mr. Chairman, this historical joint meeting of the Conference of Ministers and the Board covered a wide range of issues, all of which are very significant to the major

thrust, the basic objectives, of this Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture. There is no other meeting of ministers of agriculture in this hemisphere which can be of greater importance. I say this not only because of the personalities who have been meeting here in Ottawa during the past week, but perhaps more so because of the truly prevailing circumstances at this time. We have been reminded that in almost every country of this inter-American family, global economic events have brought on, not only a halt, but a reversion of the social and economic gains which many of our people were beginning to experience over the past decade. What we have all heard, Mr. President, over the past few days from many speakers, is that there is no alternative to full acceptance of the fact that the turn around in our economic fortunes is dependent, in the first instance, on the modernization, the rehabilitation, the revitalization, indeed the transformation of our agricultural sectors.

Mr. Chairman, it is our sacred responsibility as ministers responsible for agriculture to convince our Prime Ministers, our presidents, our people, and permit me to make special mention of our ministers of finance, as the distinguished minister of Barbados so ably reminded us during this week, of the need to ensure that an adequacy of resources

is provided for agriculture and rural development.

We, as ministers of the inter-American family gave to the world, out of our deliberations over this last week, the Ottawa Declaration.

Mr., Chairman, this Declaration is our clarion call for the development and transformation of agriculture; for rural development in the developing countries of the Americas. It is, Mr. Chairman, our Magna Carta. We, the ministers, will never be forgiven by future generations if we fail by our deeds, by the actual achievements of our governments, to give meaning to the principles and strategies enunciated in the Declaration. We must never be accused of having determined that mere rhetoric is an acceptable end product. Put another way, Mr. Chairman, we must be clear in our understanding that the word is not the deed. Mr. Chairman, I say this, because if we fail to move beyond rhetoric, then all our lofty expressions of concern for those that hunger, the sick, the poor, the landless and dispossessed campesinos and small farmers will come to haunt us and be a serious indictment on our stewardship as ministers of agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to congratulate my fellow ministers and heads of delegations for the statesmanship, the understanding and mutual consideration for each other's particular circumstances which have been so ably demonstrated during our deliberations. IICA has been given clear directions on which to proceed in the struggle for the development of the agricultural sector, our rural environment, in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

As we proceed with appropriate strategies and numerous development projects, Mr. Chairman, I consider it sufficiently important to remind us all of what has been referred to as the new "International Environmental Agenda;" this agenda includes such domestic issues as soil erosion, mass extinction of species, mismanagement of soil and water resources, acid rain, depletion of tropical forest, etc. We must not forget that sustainable economic development demands rigid attention and adherence to environmental protection measures. We must satisfy the needs of this generation without diminishing the prospects of the next.

Lest it be felt by some of us that these statements are exaggerated. Let me simply remind you that satellite data has shown that India lost some 16 percent of its forest

cover over 8 years, between 1973 and 1981. Also, during 1982/83, some seven forest fires in Indonesia and Malaysia consumed an area equal to nearly half the average annual loss of moist tropical forests from all sources. Scientific data on the effects of industrial pollution has shown alarming effects on 34 percent of the nation's trees in West Germany, 20 percent in some parts of Sweden, 10 percent in Yugoslavia, in excess of 30 percent in some parts of France. Mr. Chairman, do we in the developing countries of Latin America and the Caribbean know how many, what percentage, of our trees may be affected? I am simply saying that we can never be too early.

Mr. Chairman, in essence, we have real concerns and a true responsibility for monitoring the developments and overall effects of new frontiers in the micro world of biotechnology and genetic engineering while at the same time taking such action as is necessary to preserve and improve the macro world of the broader physical environment in which we live from day to day.

Mr. President, as always, some of the best things are left for last. You, Mr. Minister, have simply been a tremendous personality. You have endeared yourself to

us, and above all, your skills and effectiveness as President of the Conference have been admired by each one of us. I ask my colleagues to indicate our feelings in this regard to you. We all wish you, and your family, well.

Mr. Chairman, to all of you, until we meet again: obrigado, merci beaucoup, muchas gracias, thank you.

ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE
JOHN WISE, P.C., M.P.,
PRESIDENT OF THE NINTH INTER-AMERICAN
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE
AND FOURTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

As we come to the close of both the Conference and Board Meeting, I want to take a few moments to thank the many people who have helped to make these events a success.

First of all, I thank all the delegates for their active participation. The quality of your written and verbal contributions resulted in very productive discussions and resolutions.

Speaking for all delegations, I thank IICA for its outstanding secretariat services - particularly for the behind-the-scenes translation and word processing. This work make our success possible.

I also thank the observers who have shown an interest in our deliberations.

In addition, I thank the team of people who worked on the organization and logistics of this meeting -- most of them behind the

scenes: the Intertask people, the interpreters, protocol officers, information officers, messengers. proof readers, the people in my department and other departments, and all the other support staff.

During this past week, I received many positive comments and compliments about the organization of this meeting, about my department, and about Canada as a host country.

I thank all of you who expressed those very kind sentiments.

On a personal note, the opportunity to meet and talk with many of you individually made this past week very memorable for me.

And finally, I would be remiss if I did not also recognize the support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for our Conference.

We have accomplished much during these past few days. Our achievements were the product of your knowledge, your experience, and your willingness to learn by dialogue.

Most of all, our achievements were the product of your cooperation.

As the Minister of Agriculture for Canada, I am a strong advocate of the cooperative approach. Geographically, Canada is an immense country. And we are a diverse one, too. Our regions are all unique. And so are the needs and concerns of the farm industries in each region.

But for all of our differences, there are common interests and shared goals. These form the base on which we build consensus.

So I understand very well the value of cooperation. And I know that it requires balance -- give and take.

It is that same spirit which enable IICA to be a worthwhile instrument for promoting agricultural development.

— Consider our achievements during the past week.

At the Board meeting, we expressed our confidence in the management and future plans of the Research and Training Center in Costa Rica (CATIE).

We also approved a budget that will give us the financial resources to move forward with programs over the next two years.

Through our Declaration and Resolutions at the Minister's Conference, we gave direction to IICA on how to implement the Medium Term Plan.

The Declaration itself deals specifically with issues central to a viable agriculture sector in the member countries. In turn, the recommendations helped to translate the Declaration into concrete and cooperative actions.

I thank all of you for your contributions to the Ottawa Declaration, and the associated recommendations. These can and will serve as our foundation for action in the short and medium term.

The Declaration came about through healthy discussions. But at all times, the spirit of cooperation prevailed.

I was impressed by that, and I congratulate all of you for it.

One last observation: This meeting has been an excellent opportunity for smaller countries to share their views, and to be full and active partners in our organization.

To all of the smaller nations, I say this: the larger countries have heard you.

We welcome your enthusiasm and your aspirations. And we have learned from the ideas you shared so eloquently and so skillfully.

For Canada, it has been a great honor to host the Minister's Conference, and this Board Meeting.

It has served to strengthen our faith in the Institute as the most effective means of focussing efforts on agricultural development in the region.

Canada is thoroughly committed to being an active participant in the organization. And we look forward to future joint efforts -- both within the organization and with individual member countries.

We also look forward with great enthusiasm to our next Board meeting in Brazil.

I have personally enjoyed the opportunity to share information and ideas with you.

I thank all of you again for travelling to Canada for this meeting. And I wish you a safe trip home.

ADDRESS OF DR. MARTIN E. PIÑEIRO,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA

We are now concluding the meeting, and I am sure it will be remembered as one of the most important events of the Institute. The simultaneous conferences of IABA and ICMA dealt with many themes, some of which are of great importance for IICA and, I believe, for the agriculture of the Continent.

Moreover, relevant issues such as those included in the Declaration of Ottawa were discussed; important resolutions were reached; and two new member countries were admitted.

The Declaration and the recommendations establish a consensus between the countries regarding important themes that include: the role of agriculture; the importance of modernizing agriculture in a way that is consistent with the idiosyncrasies of our farmers; the importance of modernizing the public sector; and the potential for international cooperation.

I believe we are in a historic moment for agriculture. Just as the decades of the 50s and 60s saw the development of industry, today a new optimism and a new will seem to be emerging for agriculture.

There is also a greater sense of clarity and consensus with regard to the principle problems and the possible solutions.

If these perceptions are correct, this will emerge as an important meeting for all of us and for those who depend on agriculture, because we will have entered into a new stage in agricultural development.

The Declaration of Ottawa, the recommendations and, most significantly, the resolutions of IABA are a clear mandate for the Institute. They clarify and strengthen the technical orientation of the Medium Term Plan, reinforcing it politically and allowing us to plan our activities according to the direction signaled by the Board a year ago in Mexico.

The decision to prepare a strategic plan for the recovery of the agricultural sector in the region represents without doubt a new challenge for IICA. It unifies the desires of the countries to transform the discussions and conclusions of the Ninth ICMA into a proposal of concrete actions. The guidelines

indicated for the preparation of the proposal clearly establish the need to suggest new mechanisms that ensure the success of joint actions between countries to resolve common problems. This implies the need for intense consultations, during the preparation of the plan, which will be most clearly defined when they are presented to the Executive Committee next year.

The breadth that this initiative assumes depends on all of us. By achieving a greater consensus regarding the role of agriculture, its importance in economic development, and consequently its contribution to political stability and peace in the region, we can be sure that this idea becomes the groundwork for a vigorous joint action. We accept the challenge this goal represents.

I cannot fail to mention here the approval of the Program Budget with an increase in the contributions of the countries. Keeping in mind the difficulties they face, this action expresses, as the Minister of Barbados has said, a conviction regarding the importance of agriculture. And we are committed to make the greatest possible effort to administer these resources efficiently, responding to the needs of the countries.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to Brazil for offering to host the next meeting of the Board, and to the Minister of Trinidad and Tobago for his remarks, and to all those who have contributed to the success of this meeting. Most of all, to the people of this marvelous country, Canada, whose hospitality, along with that of the government, has etched these days in our memories and has allowed us to admire the gentility, generosity, and work ethic of a society that shows its concern for the progress of humanity. A thousand thanks to Canada and its authorities, characterized by the Honorable Mr. Wise, Minister of Agriculture, and his colleagues for making our work more efficient and more pleasing. Thanks also to the interpreters and the logistical support personnel, who have diligently facilitated our daily work, and to all the participants without whose contributions nothing could have been accomplished.

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XIII. LIST OF WORKING DOCUMENTS

LIST OF WORKING DOCUMENTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Rules of Procedure | OAS/Ser.K/11.9.1
IICA/Doc.3/87
Original: English |
| 2. Recent Trends,
Outlook and Potential
for Agriculture in
the International
Economic Context | OAS/Ser.K/11.9.1
IICA/Doc.4/87
Original: Spanish |
| 3. Incentive Policies
for Agricultural
Modernization | OAS/Ser.K/11.9.1
IICA/Doc.5/87
Original: Spanish |
| 4. Technological
Innovation for
Agriculture in
Latin America and
the Caribbean:
Problems, Opportun-
ities and Issues | OAS/Ser.K/11.9.1
IICA/Doc.6/87
Original: English |
| 5. The trade Crisis and
Agricultural Devel-
opment: Options for
International Co-
operation and
Regional Integra-
tion | OAS/Ser.K/11.9.1
IICA/Doc.7/87
Original: Spanish |
| 6. General Summary | OAS/Ser.K.11.9.1
IICA/Doc.8/87
Original: Spanish |

XIV. RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE
NINTH INTER-AMERICAN
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
OF AGRICULTURE

RULES OF PROCEDURE 1/
FOR THE NINTH INTER-AMERICAN
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF
AGRICULTURE

I. THE CONFERENCE AND ITS PURPOSES

Article 1. The purpose of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture 2/("Conference") is to treat at an intergovernmental level the topic of

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1. In accordance with Article 129 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, these Rules of Procedure reflect the requirements set out in the Standards for Inter-American Specialized Conferences, AG/RES.85(II-0/72) and Model Rules of Procedure for Inter-American Specialized Conferences, CP/RES.76(84/72).
 2. The OAS General Assembly resolved to convene this conference at its sixteenth regular session held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on November 14, 1986, at the request of the Third Special Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture. See AG/RES.795(XVI-0/86); IICA/JIA/Res. 110(III-E/86).

"agricultural modernization, international trade and price policy in the framework of regional integration and present international conditions."

II. PARTICIPANTS

Article 2. The Member States of the Organization of American States ("OAS") or the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture ("IICA") may participate in the Conference through delegations appointed for this purpose. Each delegation shall consist of a chief of delegation who, whenever possible, is to be the minister or secretary of agriculture, and of alternates, representatives, experts, advisors and other members each government may deem necessary. The order of precedence of the delegations in the sessions of the Conference shall be established by lot at the preparatory session.

Article 3. The Director General of IICA ("Director General") shall invite the Permanent Observers accredited to OAS or IICA to attend the Conference as observers.

Article 4. The Secretary General of the

OAS ("Secretary General") and the Director General, or their representatives, may participate in the deliberations, but may not vote.

Article 5. The Director General shall send invitations to other organizations, in conformity with Article 6 of these Rules of Procedure.

Article 6. Observers from the following may present credentials before the Conference:

- a. Inter-American specialized organizations and intergovernmental regional and subregional organizations of the Americas;
- b. The United Nations and its specialized agencies;
- c. Those international and national organizations which maintain cooperative relations with the OAS or IICA;
- d. The governments of states which are not members of the OAS or IICA, if said governments have expressed interest in participating in the Conference;

- e. After consultation with the host country, those governmental or non-governmental international organizations which are recognized internationally and have a special interest in the matters to be addressed during the Conference; and
- f. Upon approval of the host country, Canadian organizations which represent important sectors connected with the Conference.

Article 7. Observers may attend the opening session, the plenary sessions, public sessions of the committees, private sessions when invited by the respective chairs, and the closing session. Subject to authorization from the chair, Observers may address the meeting during the plenary and committee sessions. They shall not have the right to vote at such meetings. The Secretariat of the Conference shall provide the Observers with the minutes of the public sessions and the other official documents, with the exception of those whose distribution it has been agreed shall be restricted.

Article 8. In accordance with Article 12 of the Standards for Inter-American Specialized Conferences, the Director General

and the Secretary General may invite Special Guests to the Conference. These Special Guests may attend the opening, closing, and public plenary and committee sessions, and they may attend private sessions subject to invitation by the respective chairs.

Article 9. Participants in the Conference shall be accredited by written communication to the Director General.

III. CONFERENCE OFFICERS

Article 10. The Conference shall have a chairperson, elected from among the chiefs of delegations. In the absence or incapacitation of the chairperson, a member of his/her delegation shall serve as chairperson. The chiefs of the remaining delegations shall be ex-officio vice-chairpersons of the Conference according to the order of precedence.

Article 11. The chair of the Third Special Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture ("IABA") shall act as provisional chair of the Conference until a chair has been elected during the first plenary session following the preparatory session.

Article 12. The chair has the following duties:

- a. to convene the plenary sessions and set the order of business;
- b. To open, close, and otherwise conduct the plenary sessions of the Conference and submit items for consideration, in accordance with the order of business;
- c. To direct discussion, give the floor to the delegates in the same order in which it was requested, submit to a vote matters under discussion, and announce the results of same;
- d. To decide points of order not otherwise submitted to the Conference for a decision at the request of a delegation;
- e. To establish committees;
- f. To take all necessary steps to facilitate the work of the Conference and ensure that the provisions of these Rules of Procedure are respected and enforced; and
- g. Upon approval from the Conference, place prudent limits on the time allotted each speaker.

IV. SECRETARIAT

Article 13. The General Directorate of the Institute shall be responsible for the Secretariat of the Conference and, in conjunction with the host country, shall provide the services of secretarial and technical personnel.

Article 14. The Director General shall appoint a staff member to act as General Coordinator for the preparation of working documents and instruments for agreements of the Conference, and another to act as Technical Secretary of the Conference.

V. COMMITTEES

Article 15. The Credentials Committee shall be composed of the Credentials Committee for the Fourth Regular Meeting of the IABA plus one member appointed by the Conference chairperson from among the OAS Member States which are not members of IICA.

Article 16. The Style Committee shall be composed of the Style Committee of the Fourth Regular Meeting of the IABA plus one member appointed by the Conference chairperson from among the OAS Member States which

are not members of IICA. The Style Committee shall be responsible for confirming the authenticity of the texts of the documents of the Conference in the official languages, and to that end, it shall make such stylistic changes in them as may be necessary.

Article 17. The Committee on the Declaration and Recommendations shall be made up of one member of each delegation that expresses interest in taking part. This Committee shall examine proposals for recommendations and for the draft declaration, to be submitted to the consideration of the plenary session. Other working committees as established by the chair of the Conference shall be responsible for studying the various matters that appear on the agenda. Each delegation shall have the right to be represented on each working committee. Each working committee shall elect a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a rapporteur.

Article 18. Each committee may establish such subcommittees or working groups as it deems necessary for the study of the topics assigned to it for consideration. Delegations shall have the right to participate with voice but without vote in a committee, subcommittee, or working group of which they are not members.

Article 19. The reports of the committees shall contain a summary of the background, a list of the documents considered, the essential points of the discussions, the results of any votes taken, and the complete text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted, as well as an explanation of how these decisions were reached.

Article 20. The provisions of these Rules of Procedure regarding procedures, discussions, and voting shall also govern the reports of the committees, subcommittees, and working groups, insofar as they are applicable.

VI. SESSIONS

Article 21. The Conference, together with the Fourth Regular Meeting of the IABA, shall hold a joint preparatory session and inaugural session. All other plenary sessions, including the closing session, shall be held separately and may be public or private. The committees may hold public or private meetings.

Article 22. During the preparatory session, the representatives shall reach agreement as to:

- a. The Rules of Procedure.
- b. The agenda.
- c. The adoption of the order of precedence established by lot for the Fourth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
- d. The working methods and membership of other committees.
- e. The appointment of the Credentials Committee, the Style Committee, the Committee of the Declaration and Recommendations, and other committees for the Conference.
- f. The deadline for the submission of proposals.
- g. Election of the chairperson of the Conference.
- h. Miscellaneous matters.

The agreement shall be formalized in the first plenary session following the preparatory session.

Article 23. The presence of a majority of the delegations of the OAS Member States and IICA Member States that are not member of

the OAS, that is 18 members, shall constitute a quorum in the plenary sessions of the Conference. The presence of a majority of the member delegations of each committee shall constitute a quorum of same.

Article 24. All decisions of the plenary sessions shall require an affirmative vote of the majority of delegations of the states participating in the Conference. The decisions of each committee require the affirmative vote of a majority of the member delegations of the committee present at the time of the vote.

Article 25. Each delegation is entitled to one vote. All voting shall be done by show of hands. However, any representative may request a roll-call vote, in which case the order of precedence of the delegations shall be followed.

No representative may interrupt the voting except to discuss a point of order relating to the manner in which the voting is being conducted. The voting shall be considered concluded when the chair announces the result.

Article 26. In both the plenary and committee sessions, all deliberations shall be limited to matters related to the agenda

except as otherwise provided in Article 32 herein.

Article 27. The sessions of the Conference shall be public. However, if the chair so decides, a session shall be closed and shall continue in that form unless the plenary or pertinent committee decides otherwise.

Article 28. The following standards shall be observed in the discussions:

- a. Proposals shall be presented in writing to the Secretariat, which shall distribute copies of them to all the delegations before the session at which they are to be discussed. However, if the body concerned considers it proper, it may authorize discussion of and even voting on a proposal that was not distributed beforehand.
- b. An amendment shall be submitted for discussion and shall be put to a vote before the article or proposal that it is intended to modify is voted upon. When several amendments to the same proposal are presented, the one that departs farthest from the original proposal shall be voted upon first. The

same principle shall apply to the voting on the other amendments, but when the approval of one amendment necessarily implies the exclusion of another, the latter shall not be put to a vote.

- c. Proposals on the same topic shall be put to a vote in the order in which they were presented.
- d. A proposal that would totally replace the original proposal or that is not directly related to it shall not be considered an amendment.
- e. If one or more amendments are approved, the proposal so amended shall be put to a vote in its entirety.
- f. Proposals and amendments shall be voted on by parts when any representative so requests, and voting shall immediately follow on the whole made up of the parts that have been approved.
- g. When a proposal or amendment has been approved or rejected it may not be the subject of further

consideration unless the body concerned so decides by a vote of two thirds of the delegations that are members of it.

VII. PROPOSALS AND WORKING DOCUMENTS

Article 29. Documents intended for the Conference shall be: a) working documents on topics of the agenda; b) proposals or papers presented by the official delegations; and c) reference documents.

Article 30. Working documents shall be prepared by IICA and shall be distributed to OAS and IICA Member States 45 days before the Conference.

Article 31. Proposals, studies, and reports shall indicate the agenda topic to which they relate and shall be referred to the appropriate committee by the Secretariat. When a proposal is submitted to the Conference that, in the view of a delegation or the Secretariat of the Conference, is not clearly related to a topic on the agenda, an immediate decision as to whether discussion of it is in order shall be taken by majority vote of the delegations accredited to the Conference.

Article 32. Any proposal of an activity that has financial implications for the OAS or IICA shall be presented, together with an estimate of its cost, for consideration of the Conference. However, the implementation of the approved project shall be subject to decision by the appropriate organ.

Article 33. Reference documents shall be available, in the original languages, for consultation by delegates.

VIII. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Article 34. The official languages of the Conference are English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

IX. MINUTES, FINAL REPORT, AND ARCHIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

Article 35. Summary minutes shall be kept of the plenary sessions and the working committees; these minutes shall contain a summary of the discussions and the full text of the decisions adopted.

Article 36. As soon as possible after each plenary session, the Secretariat shall distribute to the delegations the provisional

text of the minutes. Within 24 hours of the distribution of the text, the delegations may provide to the Secretariat any corrections they deem necessary.

Article 37. A provisional report on the Conference shall be prepared, containing the minutes of each plenary session and the conclusions and agreements of the Conference, and shall be submitted for consideration and signing during the closing session. Moreover, a final report, which shall include the summarized minutes, the conclusions and agreements, the background of the Conference organization, the list of participants, basic information on the development of the Conference and the reports of the corresponding rapporteurs, shall be sent to all participants.

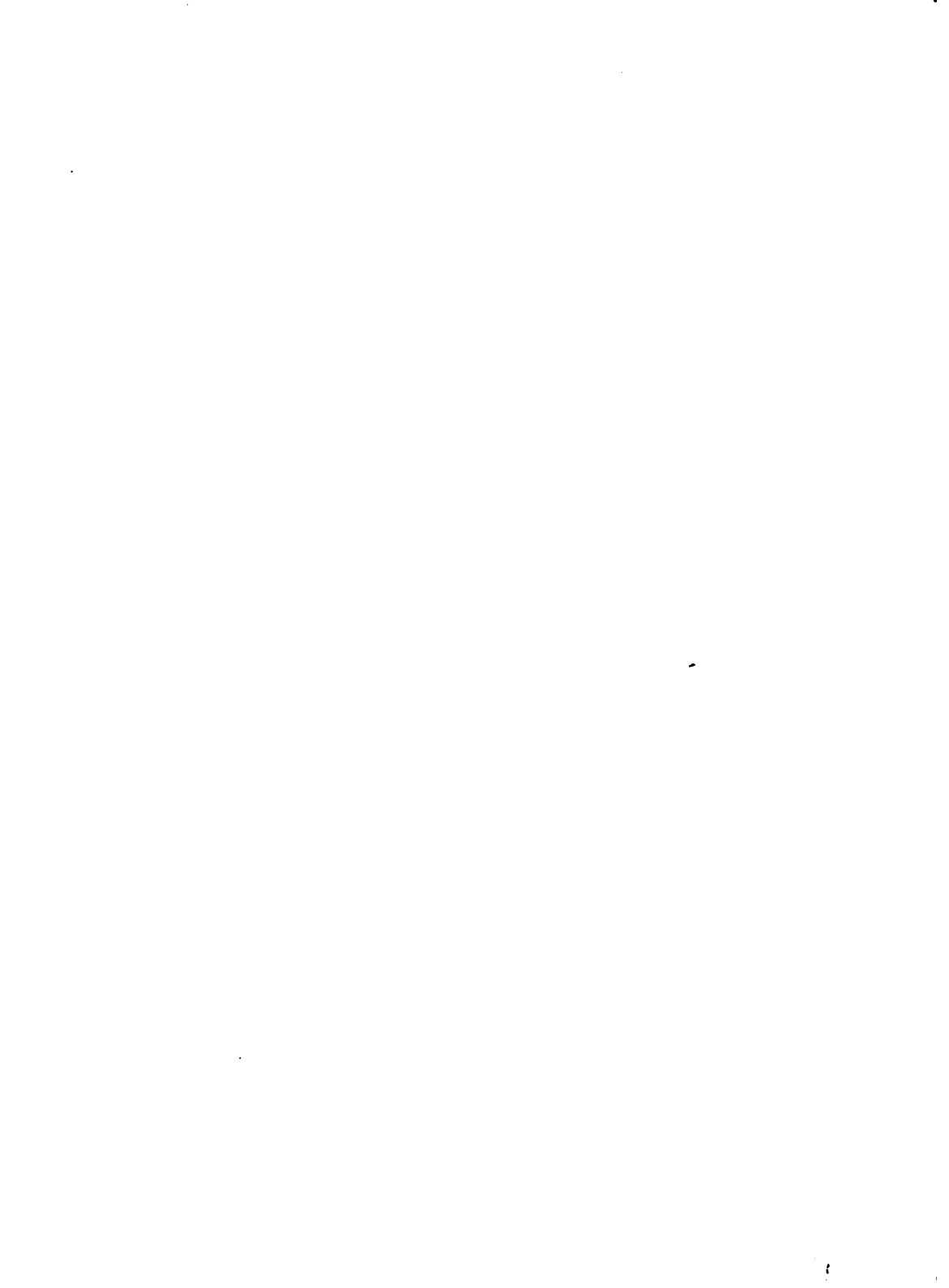
Article 38. IICA shall send copies of the final report, in the four official languages, to the governments of the OAS and IICA Member States, and to organizations participating in the Conference.

Article 39. The Director General shall deliver to the Secretary General the original of the final report and all documents and files relevant to same, to be kept and stored at the OAS General Secretariat, in accordance

with Article 128 of the Charter of the Organization.

X. AMENDMENTS OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Article 40. These Rules of Procedure may be amended with the affirmative vote of two thirds of the delegations attending the Conference, provided such amendments are consistent with the Standards for Inter-American Specialized Conferences set out in AG/Res.85(II-0/72).



OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS SERIES

Doc.
No.

- 1 **General Plan of IICA**
(1970 – English and Spanish)
- 2* **Advisory Committee**
(1970 – English and Spanish)
- 3* **CIES Resolutions on Rural Development**
(1971 – Spanish)
- 4 **Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors – San Salvador, El Salvador, May 5 to 9, 1972**
(English and Spanish)
- 5 **Sixth Inter-American Conference on Agriculture – Lima, Peru, May 27 to June 2, 1971**
(Spanish)
- 6* **Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors – Santiago, Chile, May 10 to 13, 1973**
(English and Spanish)
- 7 **Principal Resolutions of the Board of Directors – Washington, D.C. 1962 to 1972**
(English and Spanish)
- 8 **Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors – Caracas, Venezuela, May 16 to 18, 1974**
(English and Spanish)
- 9* **Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors – Ottawa, Canada, May 6 to 9, 1975**
(English and Spanish)
- 10* **Implementation of IICA's General Plan (Elements for Analysis)**
(1976 – English and Spanish)
- 11 **Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors -- Washington, D.C., May 6 to 12, 1976**
(English and Spanish)

* Out-of-print.

- Doc.
No.**
- 12* Simon Bolivar Fund – Rules and Regulations
(1977 -- English and Spanish)
- 13* Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors – Santo Domingo,
Dominican Republic, May 11 to 19, 1977
(English and Spanish)
- 14* Seventh Inter-American Conference on Agriculture – Tegucigalpa,
Honduras, September 5 to 10, 1977
(English and Spanish)
- 15* Medium-Term Indicative Plan. IICA: The Next Five Years
(1977 -- English and Spanish)
- 16 Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors -- Asuncion,
Paraguay, May 22 to 24, 1978
(English and Spanish)
- 17* Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors – La Paz, Bolivia,
May 14 to 16, 1979
(English and Spanish)
- 18 Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors – Mexico, D.F.,
September 22 to 26, 1980
(English and Spanish)
- 19 Principal Resolutions of the Board of Directors. Washington, D.C.
1973-1980
(English and Spanish)
- 20 First Special Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture – San
Jose, Costa Rica, February 17 to 19, 1981
(English and Spanish)
- 21 Eighth Inter-American Conference on Agriculture -- Santiago, Chile,
April 6 to 11, 1981
(English and Spanish)
- 22rev. Base Documents: Convention on the Inter-American Institute for
Cooperation on Agriculture; Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American
Board of Agriculture, the Executive Committee and General Director-
ate
(1984 - English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)

* Our-of-print.

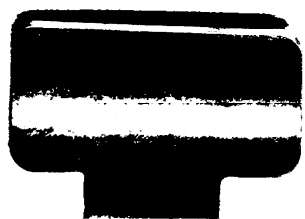
- Doc. No.**
- 23 Resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Still in Force (1984 – English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
 - 24 First Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture – San Jose, Costa Rica, June 9 to 12, 1981 and Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 7 to 13, 1981 (English and Spanish)
 - 25 Second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee – San Jose, Costa Rica, September 12 to 17 and October 25 to 26, 1982 (English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
 - 26 Second Special Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture – San Jose, Costa Rica, October 27 to 29, 1982 (English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
 - 27 General Policies of IICA (1982 – English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
 - 28 Medium-Term Plan 1983-1987 (1982 – English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
 - 29 (Second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture – Kingston, Jamaica, October 24 to 28, 1983 (English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
 - 30 Fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee – San Jose, Costa Rica, December 2 to 7, 1984 (English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
 - 31 Fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee – San Jose, Costa Rica, July 29 to August 2, 1985 (English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
 - 32 Third Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture – Montevideo, Uruguay, October 21 to 25, 1985 (English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
 - 33 Sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee – San Jose, Costa Rica, July 13 – 17, 1986 (English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
 - 34 Third Special Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture – Mexico, D.F., Mexico, October 27-30, 1986 (English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
 - 35 1987-1991 Medium Term Plan (1986 English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)

- 36 **Seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee -- San Jose, Costa Rica, 15-17 June 1987**
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 37 **Program II: Technology Generation and Transfer. Guidelines for Cooperation, June 1987**
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 38 **Program I: Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning. Guidelines for Cooperation, June, 1987**
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 39 **Program III: Organization and Management for Rural Development. Guidelines for Cooperation, September 1987**
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 40 **Program IV: Marketing and Agroindustry. Guidelines for Cooperation, September 1987**
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 41 **Program V: Animal Health and Plant Protection. Guidelines for Cooperation, September 1987**
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 42 **Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Ottawa-Canada, 29 August to 30 September 1987**
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)

Available publications may be ordered from:

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