

time grow in scope and effectiveness during the coming decade, to the point where it will be able to play a most important role in contributing to the solution of hunger and chronic malnutrition in the world today. We have urged, and will continue to urge, that the cash component of the contributions will be at least one-third, in order that the Programme may be flexible enough to meet the requirements of those in need, not just an outlet for what surplus producing countries may have available. No surplus producing country can expect to gain the support of non-surplus countries and commercial exporters for this Programme, unless this is the aim.

Mr. Chairman, may I conclude my remarks with a brief summary of some of the basic considerations which my Delegation hopes will be reflected in proposals put forward by the Inter-governmental Committee of Twenty.

In the first place - and perhaps most important - we believe that the proposals which they put forward should be such as to attract the widest possible support. From the very beginning, the World Food Programme must be truly multilateral, both in terms of membership and of financial support.

Furthermore, we believe that in its initial experimental stage, the Programme should proceed with a judicious blend of caution (as it gains experience and strength) and zeal (as it attacks the most urgent and pressing problems which it is called upon to solve). Let us not court frustration by being too ambitious in our initial operations. In our view, immediate attention should be given to making adequate and orderly provision for coping with emergency and near-emergency needs. We should also start to experiment with pilot projects in those areas of economic and social development which will assist countries to raise their average food consumption and general levels of living.

As stated in Part II, we believe that, as conditions experience and financial resources permit, the United Nations and AO might give further consideration to the scope and limitations of a truly multilateral programme.

Thirdly, it is in our view imperative that in the operations of the World Food Programme the commercial interests of food-exporting countries and those performing related services must be fully protected, as indeed must those of agricultural producers within the recipient countries themselves. It would, Mr. Chairman, be impossible to lay too much stress on this consideration.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the Charter of the World Food Programme should reflect our recognition of the fact that whatever may be done through the United Nations system to alleviate hunger, an effective acceleration of economic and social development will allow the developing countries not only to increase their own food production and consumption to levels which they can sustain, but also to purchase more food through normal channels of international trade.