

vote. The Director-General, who is elected by the Conference, is the chief executive officer of the Organization. The Council of FAO is also elected by the Conference. Since the seventh session it has had 24 members and an independent chairman, chosen for their personal qualifications and in order to give a balanced representation of the different agricultural economies of the world. The Council meets twice a year and frames policy and directs the work of the Organization between meetings of the Conference. There are various special committees and panels of experts to advise on technical and administrative matters. There are at present 71 nations members of FAO.

The seventh session of the Conference, which met in Rome November 23 - December 11, 1953, elected Dr. P. V. Cardon of the United States as Director-General to succeed Mr. Norris E. Dodd, also of the United States. Professor Josué De Castro of Brazil was re-elected as independent chairman of the Council, and Dr. G. S. H. Barton, formerly Canadian Deputy Minister of Agriculture, was re-elected for a further three-year term as member. Canada was re-elected to the Committee on Commodity Problems.

For the first time since 1939, aggregate world agricultural production in 1952-53 caught up with the growth in world population.<sup>2</sup> This development was a result of favourable weather conditions in most countries, aided to a considerable extent by expansion in production and technological improvements in some areas. Although production in 1952-53 was 23 per cent higher than before the war, the rate of progress has been very uneven among the different regions of the world. Nearly one-half of the increase since 1934-38 occurred in North America which contains only seven per cent of the world population but now accounts for more than 20 per cent of its agricultural production. On the other hand, production in the Far East is still little above its pre-war level; this region, with about half the world's population, provides little more than one-quarter of its agricultural output. In other under-developed regions, however, production is beginning to move ahead of population; export supplies of grain have increased in some areas of Latin America and are also expanded in the Near East. At the same time the recovery of production in Europe has reduced its requirements of imported foodstuffs. These developments coupled with an exceptionally good harvest in North America have led to the accumulation of stocks of food in the dollar areas. In discussing this report of increased production, the Conference recorded its conviction that the present situation requires a change of emphasis in policy for the immediate future. First, the former emphasis on general expansion of food production, vital in the post-war crisis, must give way to a more selective approach. Production must be increased in the areas of greatest need, and in the commodities for which expanded consumption is needed and for which effective demand can be developed. Second, measures are needed to enable consumers to buy more of the foods now abundant. Regarding the question of present agricultural surpluses, two main ideas found general acceptance; first that a solution to the problem should be sought in an effort to increase consumption rather than by measures to restrict supply; and second,

<sup>2</sup>See *The State of Food and Agriculture 1953*, Part I, published by FAO.