

22. The means to be employed will include the promotion of research, the dissemination of knowledge, the exchange of services, and the making of recommendations for international and national action, in which the Organization might in some cases be directly involved, with regard to the improvement of nutrition; the production, distribution, and consumption of foods and of fibres and other agricultural products; and the development and conservation of agricultural, forestry and marine resources. [Art. I, IV.]

23. These are important and far-reaching undertakings. They should be envisaged as far as possible in their entirety, so that their interrelationships may be clearly seen. But the Organization will have to develop gradually and it will probably be a considerable time before it will be able to cover the whole field described in this Report. It should be established at the earliest practicable date since there are matters falling within its scope which call urgently for action.

### 1. RESEARCH

24. One of the principal functions of the Organization will be to promote research in the fields relating to its work as a means of meeting the needs and helping to solve the problems of the peoples of its Member nations. Competence and persistence in the search for knowledge, and fairness and courage in promoting its application, will establish a solid basis for recommendations and action. [Art. I.]

25. A vast amount of knowledge in the fields to be covered by the Organization already exists. To be more widely and effectively used, it needs to be adapted to local conditions and re-examined as conditions change. In addition, new knowledge must be sought.

26. A great diversity of research in the natural and social sciences is suggested by the range of subject matter and the sources of information discussed in later paragraphs. While continually safeguarding and fostering the freedom of inquiry necessary to science, the Organization can do much to stimulate such research throughout the world; suggest and initiate projects, in many of which several institutions in more than one country might co-operate; co-ordinate such projects whenever possible; arrange for the use of procedures that would give comparable results; and keep research workers informed of one another's progress. The Organization should facilitate the exchange of personnel among institutions and the collection and exchange of important biological materials—breeding stocks, for example—and in some cases lend the services of members of its own technical staff to an institution or a country. Whether the Organization should supply equipment or give direct financial aid to research institutions is a matter of policy to be determined by the Conference. The question should be left for future decision whether, by arrangement with the governments primarily concerned, the Organization should establish research stations of its own. [Art. I, XII.]

27. In sum, the Organization should lead in stimulating, promoting, and, where appropriate, conducting research focussed on world needs in food, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. To carry out these and other functions, it will need to assemble a great deal of information from all parts of the world. But it should not only gather data; it should find out and say what they mean.

#### a. Sources of information

28. One of the principal sources from which the Organization will gather information will be the periodic reports made by Member nations in accordance with Resolutions II, III, and XV of the Hot Springs Conference. In order that