Observers were sent from the United Nations and the following six Specialized Agencies of the United Nations: International Labour Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, UNESCO, International Children's Emergency Fund, and World Health Organization (Interim Commission).

The following were also represented: Military Occupation Authorities, Holy See, International Emergency Food Council, International Wheat Council. International Sugar Council. International Cotton Advisory Committee, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, Pan-American Union. International Wine Office. International Federation of Agricultural Producers, World Federation of Trade Unions, International Co-operative Alliance, International Chamber of Commerce, International Landworkers' Federation, Associated Country Women of the World, International Council of Women, International Union for Child Welfare, International Dairy Federation, International Commission of Agricultural Industries, International Bureau of Analytical Chemistry, International Federation of Technical Agriculturalists, and League of Red Cross Societies.

The work of the Conference was undertaken in three Commissions, each of which set up small study groups for specific purposes as required. The agendas of the Commissions were as follows:—

- Commission I: Commission on the World Food and Agriculture Situation (Chairman: Viscount Bruce).—General Situation. Trends in Production, Marketing, and Distribution. Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry Commodities important in International Trade.
- Commission II: Technical Activities of FAO (Chairman: Dr. P. J. du Toit).—Organization of Commission. Adoption of Agenda. Presentation of Second Annual Report of the Director-General to the FAO Conference. Work of the Technical Divisions: (a) Agriculture, (b) Nutrition, (c) Fisheries, (d) Forestry and Forest Products, and (e) Economics, Marketing, and Statistics. World Census in 1950 of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. Plans for a Rural Welfare Division. Adoption of Commission's Report.
- Commission III: Constitutional, Administrative, and Financial Questions (Chairman: Mr. S. Y. Krishanaswamy).—Organization of Commission. Adoption of Agenda. Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities. Relations with other Organizations: (a) United Nations, (b) Other Specialized Agencies, and (c) Non-governmental Organizations. Regional Offices. Finance: (a) Report of Committee on Financial Control, and (b) Draft Budget for 1948. Permanent Site of FAO. Chapter VII of the Report of the Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals—Amendments to the Constitution and to the Rules of Procedure.