

Rome, Roma 2007



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Thirty-fourth Session • Cent trent-quatrième session • 134° período de sesiones

**Rome, 26 November 2007
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Rome, 26 novembre 2007
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

**Roma, 26 de noviembre de 2007
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO**

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-fourth Session
Cent trent-quatrième session
134° período de sesiones**

**Rome, 26 November 2007
Rome, 26 november 2007
Roma, 26 de noviembre de 2007**

**FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

26 November 2007

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10:20 hours
Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première Séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 20
sous la présidence de M. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera Sesión Plenaria a las 10.20
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

I call the first meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Council to order. This Session of the Council is traditionally short and to the point and so I call upon your cooperation in keeping our proceedings as business-like as possible.

May I take this opportunity to extend a cordial welcome to Council members which are beginning a new term at this Council, namely: Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Congo, Cuba, Kenya, Kuwait, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and United States of America.

Before beginning this meeting, I would like to pass the floor to the Secretary-General for a short announcement.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As you know, the European Community is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution. I have been asked to inform you that the declaration made by the European Community and its Member States is contained in information document CL 134/INF/1, which has already been distributed to all members of the meeting. I would also like to draw the attention of the meeting to this declaration.

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**I QUESTIONS LIMINAIRES****I CUESTIONES PRELIMINARES**

1. Adoption of the Agenda (CL 134/1; CL 134/INF/1)

1. Adoption de l'ordre du tour (CL 134/1; CL 134/INF/1)

1. Aprobación del programa (CL 134/1; CL 134/INF/1)

CHAIRPERSON

The first item we have before us is the adoption of the Agenda as set out in document CL 134/1. Does any delegation wish to make a remark on the Provisional Agenda? I don't see any, so the Agenda is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons

2. Élection de trois Vice-Présidents

2. Elección de los tres Vicepresidentes

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 2, Election of Three Vice-Chairpersons. I give the floor to the Secretary-General. Madam, you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Following the consultations among the Regional Groups, we have the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairpersons of the Council: H.E. Christer Wretborn of Sweden, Dr Zulkifli Bin Idris of Malaysia, Mr Eudoro Jaén Esquivel of Panama.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any objections to these nominations? I don't see any so let me be the first one to congratulate the three Vice-Chairpersons for their election and wish them success.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

II. ELECTION OF COMMITTEES**II. ÉLECTION DES COMITÉS****II. ELECCIÓN DE COMITÉS****3. Election of the Chairperson and Members of the Programme Committee**

(CL 134/LIM/1)

3. Élection du Président et des membres du Comité du Programme

(CL 134/LIM/1)

3. Elección del Presidente y los miembros del Comité del Programa

(CL 134/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now turn to Item 3 - Election of the Chairperson and Members of the Programme Committee.

For the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, paragraph 6 of document CL 134/LIM/1 shows that there is only one candidate for the post: Mr Vic Heard of the United Kingdom.

According to paragraph 9(a) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, in the case of an election when there are not more candidates than vacancies, the Chairperson may submit to the Council that the appointment be made by clear general consent. Can I take it that the Council wishes to appoint Mr Heard as Chairperson of the Programme Committee?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

May I be the first to congratulate Mr Vic Heard on his appointment as Chairperson of the Programme Committee. For the members of this Committee, we have a similar situation, as indicated in paragraph 7 of document CL 134/LIM/1. For the regions of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East, we have eight candidates for eight seats. For Africa: Mr Carlos Alberto Amaral of Angola, Mr Pascual Bacale Mbiang of Equatorial Guinea. For Asia and the Pacific: Mr Ramalingam Parasuram of India and Mr Seiichi Yokoi of Japan, for Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms Maria del Carmen Squeff of Argentina and Mr José Antonio Marcondes Carvalho of Brazil. For the Near East: Mr Abdul Razak Ayazi of Afghanistan and Mr Abdelaziz Hosni of Egypt.

Given that we have the same number of nominations as seats to be filled, can I take it that there are no objections to the Council appointing these countries by clear general consent?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

Will the Secretary-General please clarify the situation regarding the regions of Europe, North America and Southwest Pacific?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Council has just nominated Mr Vic Heard from the European Region as Chairperson of the Committee. Therefore, there are two vacant seats for the regions of North America and Southwest Pacific. As indicated in paragraph 8 of document CL 134/LIM/1, for these regions there are two candidates for two seats to be filled, as follows: for the North America Region: Mr James Melanson of Canada, for the Southwest Pacific Region: Ms Fiona Barlett of Australia.

CHAIRPERSON

Given that we have two nominations for the two seats to be filled, I invite the Council to appoint the candidates by clear general consent. Thank you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

4. Election of the Chairperson and Members of the Finance Committee

(CL 134/LIM/2)

4. Élection du Président et des membres du Comité financier

(CL 134/LIM/2)

4. Elección del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Finanzas

(CL 134/LIM/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 4 of our Agenda: Election of the Chairperson and Members of the Finance Committee. As you will have seen in paragraph 6 of document CL 134/LIM/2, we have only one candidate for the post of Chairperson of the Finance Committee: Mr Yasser Sorour of Egypt.

According to paragraph 9(a) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, in the case of an election when there are no more candidates than vacancies the Chairperson may submit to the Council that the appointment be made by clear general consent. Can I take it that the Council wishes to appoint Mr Yasser Sorour as Chairperson of the Finance Committee? Mr Yasser Sorour, I congratulate you to the Chairpersonship of the Finance Committee.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

We now move to appointment of the members of the Finance Committee, and I give the floor to the Secretary-General again.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Council has just nominated Mr Yasser Sorour of the Near East Region as Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

As indicated in paragraph 7 of document CL 134/LIM/2, for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean Regions, there are six nominations for six seats to be filled. For Africa: Mr Medi MOUNGUI of Cameroon, Mr Robert SABIITI of Uganda. For Asia and the Pacific: Mr Aamir Ashraf KHAWAJA of Pakistan, Mr Li ZHENGdong of China. For Latin America and the Caribbean: Mr Jorge Eduardo Chaen Charpentier of Mexico, Mr Eudoro Jaén Esquivel of Panama.

CHAIRPERSON

Given that we have six nominations for the six seats to be filled, I invite the Council to appoint the candidates by clear general consent. Thank you, it is so decided. I shall now ask the Secretary-General to inform us of the situation regarding nominations from the group of regions of Europe, North America and Southwest Pacific.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For the regions of Europe, North America and Southwest Pacific, we have five nominations for four seats to be filled. For Europe: Mr Soeren SKAFTE of Denmark, Mr Eckard HEIN of Germany, Mr Augusto ZODDA of Italy, Mr Jean-Jacques SOULA of France. For North America: Mr Lee BRUDVIG of the United States of America.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. If none of the candidates wishes to withdraw we shall proceed to a secret ballot. May I inquire whether one of the candidates wishes to withdraw? I don't see any. Sweden, you have the floor.

Christer WRETBORN (Sweden)

Sweden now speaks on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The Nordic Countries are strongly committed to the UN System, including FAO. We have always worked with the aim to strengthen the UN as we are strong believers in the multilateral list. This is also the firm base for the Nordic Countries' active engagement in FAO. The Nordic Countries have supported the IEE process from the very beginning. The reason for that is, that we want a stronger FAO, more fitted to challenges we have ahead of us, in agriculture, fishery, forestry and rural areas. With the decision taken by the Conference last week, we are convinced that we will start the next step of IEE process in a positive spirit that make it possible for every Member Nations to feel full ownership for the process and also for the outcome of our deliberations next year. Our strong support for FAO and its mandate means that we are also prepared to take responsibility.

The Nordic Countries will take an active part in the IEE follow-up and will do everything possible for a successful outcome. We are also prepared to actively participate in the Governing Bodies. The Conference elected Norway to succeed Sweden from the beginning of 2009 as a Member of the Council. We think that the Nordic Countries with our strong commitment to FAO and a long

experience of the development policy can play an important role in the Governing Body in adapting the Organization for the future. There is, as you all know, a candidate from the Nordic Countries, Denmark, on the Finance Committee. And I hope, reflecting on the background I have given you, that you can support Denmark for one of the seats in the Committee. While asking support for the Danish candidate to the Finance Committee, I will underline that the Nordic Countries regard as utmost importance that the regional balance be kept in the Committee and that all regions are represented on the Committee.

Mme Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

Pour la première fois, depuis de très nombreuses années, la France est candidate au Comité financier. Je voudrais être brève et vous donner les cinq raisons qui nous ont amenées à être candidate au Comité financier.

La première raison, c'est le respect du principe de rotation. Ce principe n'est pas écrit sur le plan légal mais c'est une pratique courante au sein de notre Organisation et nous pensons qu'il n'y a pas lieu de remettre en cause cette pratique courante. Cette pratique courante nous permet de faire en sorte que, tour à tour, les États Membres prennent des responsabilités particulières. Cela nous semble tout à fait juste, cela nous semble équitable et cela nous paraît démocratique. Donc, au nom du principe de rotation nous pensons que la France est en situation légitime de prétendre entrer dans ce Comité financier.

La deuxième raison, c'est l'idée que se fait mon pays de l'exercice de ses responsabilités. C'est donc une raison de responsabilité. Il se trouve que la France, à partir du 1^{er} juillet 2008, va exercer la présidence de l'Union européenne et il se trouve que pendant ces six mois va se dérouler notamment cette Conférence extraordinaire de la FAO au cours de laquelle tous les États Membres devront prendre des décisions extrêmement importantes qui engagent l'avenir de notre Organisation. Mon Gouvernement estime que dans ces conditions, mon pays aura des responsabilités particulières à exercer, vis-à-vis des Membres de l'Union européenne - des responsabilités d'implication, de transparence, de suivi notamment dans le domaine budgétaire et financier dont nous avons vu au cours de notre dernière Conférence à quel point ces domaines étaient importants et nous voulons continuer au sein de l'Union européenne à essayer de jouer ce rôle de pont entre les différents groupes qui travaillent au sein de la FAO.

Donc, c'est au nom du principe de responsabilité et d'engagement que la France estime qu'il est important qu'elle puisse entrer au Comité financier à ce moment clef de l'avenir de notre Organisation.

La troisième raison, la France a décidé, si elle est élue, de créer une équipe de soutien technique pour qu'elle puisse faire son travail dans de bonnes conditions et je peux aujourd'hui indiquer que le premier Président de la Cour des Comptes française, Monsieur Philippe Seguin, a accepté de mettre à ma disposition un magistrat de la Cour des Comptes pour aider la France dans son travail technique.

Je voudrais dire, qu'en ce moment, la Cour des Comptes française, exerce l'audit du système multilatéral jusqu'en 2010, de New York. Les échos que nous avons, sont que le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies est très satisfait de la façon dont la Cour des Comptes collabore avec les institutions new-yorkaises pour travailler sur l'audit des comptes et si je donne ces références c'est parce que j'ai l'assurance que le magistrat qui viendra travailler avec la Représentation française est un magistrat qui connaît bien notre système multilatéral et qui connaît particulièrement les normes IPSAS auxquelles la FAO doit bientôt soustraire.

Bref, nous pourrions disposer de compétences qui sont des compétences propres au système multilatéral et je me réjouis que nous puissions ainsi aider la FAO à prendre un virage très important dans le domaine budgétaire et financier.

La quatrième raison c'est tout simplement, en dehors des trois autres que j'ai évoquées, l'implication de la France. Il ne vous a pas échappé qu'au cours de cette dernière Conférence nous avons pris une part très active à l'ensemble des travaux de la FAO et je dois dire aujourd'hui à

quel point mon Gouvernement attache de l'importance à notre institution et veut l'accompagner dans tous ces mouvements de réforme. Donc, c'est tout simplement une raison française d'attachement à notre système multilatéral et en particulier à la FAO ici à Rome. C'est un signe d'intérêt, ce n'est pas la volonté de pouvoir, c'est la volonté d'aider, d'être un médiateur.

La cinquième raison n'est pas une raison, c'est de m'associer à la déclaration de l'Ambassadeur de Suède pour dire qu'en posant sa candidature, la France n'entend absolument pas remettre en cause les équilibres au sein de ce Comité financier et elle n'entend prendre la place de personne. Elle veut un équilibre au sein de ce Comité financier. Elle entend prendre seulement sa place à elle et exercer ses responsabilités à elle.

Voilà Monsieur le Président, ce que je voulais dire en ce moment très important où nous allons passer au vote.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ambassador, I have Italy on my list.

Romualdo BETTINI (Italy)

Allow me first of all to present my sincerest congratulations to our new Independent Chairperson. His past performance is a guarantee for our future challenges. Thank you, Mr Noori.

Before we go to cast our votes and for the sake of clarity, I would like to explain our position, our goals, our reasons, for presenting for your judgement, the candidature of Italy to one of the positions of the Finance Committee for the period 2008-2009.

The first element of this presentation is that we are offering a candidate of top level and we feel that it would be a mistake not to take advantage of this fact. Mr Augusto Zodda, who is well known to the majority of the people of this establishment, is an expert on the topics of FAO, financial and budgetary topics, having served for four years in the Finance Committee of this Organization. He comes from the Italian Ministry of Finance and Treasury where he served as Director General. He has been, for many years and still is, a member of the Board of IFAD. He lives in Rome and has always been available for consultation, advice and action whenever needed by our Representation and the various international organizations here in Rome.

We are told that for the purposes of rotation, he should step down in favour of other candidates. We understand the principle of rotation and, generally speaking, we accept it, but in an environment where this principle has known macroscopic exceptions, we believe that serving for another biennium in the same Committee is not awkward, especially when the performance has been so good in the past, to the point where Mr Zodda was elected Vice Chair of the Committee by his companions.

The second reason is that, as your Host Country, we feel it is our duty to follow from within, all the delicate phases of the Reform process, with their financial, and budgetary implications, that is, the Reform process that the Membership has just approved. I do not think that anyone has difficulty in understanding that as one of the biggest supporters of the Organization, if not the biggest, considering the Regular Budget, the voluntary contributions of different nature and origin, the premises offered for one symbolic euro a year, the extraordinary maintenance expenses, gifts such as the Library, etcetera, we have a particular interest and responsibility in participating in the work of the Finance Committee.

Finally, I would like to say that we regret the fact that our constituency was not able to find a solution that could allow a clean slate in this election. Italy tried to take some initiatives in that direction, even our Prime Minister, Mr Prodi, with our Minister for Agriculture, Mr Di Castro, made some proposals, unfortunately without success.

I conclude in inviting you all to consider without prejudice, our initiative.

We are offering, for your approval the best candidate we could find - a candidate who has proven in the past his high-level experience, knowledge, competence, capacity and wisdom, and who is

more than eager, with your help, to continue his efforts for a successful outcome of our collective drive towards Reform with Growth.

Ms Swantje HELBING (Germany)

Unfortunately, we have come to this Session of the Council with more candidates from the EU than seats available.

Much to my regret, efforts to reduce the number of candidates were not successful, causing the necessity to proceed to a vote. Regrettably the applicable rules of the Organization in such a case do not guarantee that all regions who have put forward a candidate will be represented on the Committee.

It is absolutely not the intention of Germany to put at risk the membership of other regions on the Committee. On the contrary, I would like to stress that we find it an essential element that all regions that so wish are, in fact, represented on the Committee.

In this regard, I would like to seize the opportunity to remind us all of Resolution 11/97 which calls for a just and equitable representation of all regions in the Programme and Finance Committees, including equitable rotation among the countries constituting each region.

Germany is very concerned about the situation and apologizes for putting the burden on the FAO Membership. You have four votes. Please give no more than three votes to the EU candidates, and save one vote for the North America Region.

This Organization is embarking on a Reform process. We, the Membership, want to embark on the Reform process together, so please make sure all regional groups are equitably represented on the Finance Committee.

Germany believes to have put forward a most reliable candidate for the Finance Committee who would serve now only for the second term in the Committee.

Ms Judy BARFIELD (Australia)

The Southwest Pacific has not been able to provide a candidate for the Finance Committee on this occasion. However, we do believe, that it is very important to support the notion of equitable representation from all the regions. On this occasion, we would support the election of three candidates from the European Region and one candidate from the North America Region.

Gaddi H. VASQUEZ (United States of America)

The United States of America welcomes the statements of all the other candidates, Europe, North America and the Southwest Pacific Regions.

We have spoken on the subject of regional representation, and we fully endorse and encourage that this principle be upheld.

CHAIRPERSON

Since I do not have any other requests from the floor, I would like to invite the Secretary General to provide the required information for this election.

You have the floor.

SECRETARY GENERAL

Delegates will be called one at a time to go to the voting area, where they will receive a ballot paper indicating the names of the candidates.

Each elector, unless he or she wholly abstains, shall cast a vote by marking a cross "X" in the box beside the candidates, he or she wishes to elect.

Each elector must cast four votes. I repeat no more and no less than four votes.

In accordance with Rule 12.4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, any ballot paper left blank, will be recorded as an abstention.

In accordance with paragraph 4(d) of the same rule, ballot papers must carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote.

Any ballot paper carrying votes for more or less than the post shall be declared defective.

I take the opportunity to remind you that in accordance with Rule 12.9(f) of the General Rules of the Organization, any delegate who makes an error in completing the ballot paper, may request a clean one from the election officer. A clean ballot paper will be delivered on the surrender of the invalidated ballot paper.

CHAIRPERSON

Before proceeding to the election, I would like to remind you that the election is for the representatives from three regions, North America, Europe and South West Pacific.

Southwest Pacific has not presented any candidacy, so the seat for that region, automatically goes to Europe.

So you have candidates for Europe and North America.

All those who have spoken on this issue have emphasized to please remember that equitable regional representation is essential in working on all our Committees and Bodies of FAO.

With this, I would now like you to proceed to vote.

Please bear in mind the need for equitable regional representation.

Now I invite the delegates of Bolivia and Gabon to act as tellers and to proceed to the voting area. After which, the Secretary General will begin calling the countries.

Finally, may I draw your attention to Rule 12.14 which specifies that once voting has commenced, no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point or order in connection with the voting.

Vote

Vote

Votación

*Christer Wretborn, Vice-Chairperson of the Council, took the Chair
Christer Wretborn, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Christer Wretborn, Vicepresidente del Consejo*

The meeting was suspended from 11.12 to 12.10 hours

La séance est suspendue de 11.12 à 12 h 10

Se suspende la sesión de las 11.12 a las 12.10

CHAIRPERSON

Now we have the results of the elections, and I give the floor to the Secretary-General to read them out.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of ballot. Ballot papers deposited 46; defective ballots 1; abstentions none; valid ballots 45; seats to be filled 4; votes cast 45; majority 23. Elected Denmark 35 votes, France 36 votes, Germany 35 votes, United States of America 40, Italy 34 votes.

This is the report of the election.

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 1	FINANCE COMMITTEE (Europe, North America, Southwest Pacific) COMITE FINANCIER (Europe, Amérique du Nord, Pacifique Sud-Ouest) COMITE DE FINANZAS (Europa, America del Norte, Pacífico Sudoccidental)
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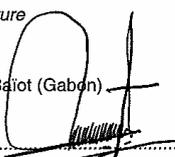
1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	46	4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	45
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1	5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	4
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	45

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	23
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Elected - Élus - Elegidos		Not elected - Pas élus - No elegidos	
Mr S. Skafte (Denmark)	35	Mr A. Zodda (Italy)	34
Mr M. J. J. Soula (France)	36		
Mr E. Hein (Germany)	35		
Mr L. Brudvig (USA)	40		

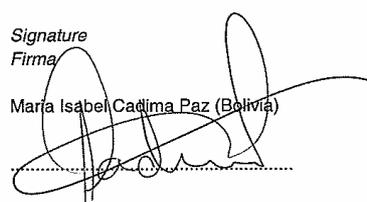
Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature
Firma
Noël Baiot (Gabon)

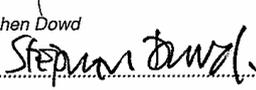


Date
Fecha
26 November 2007

Signature
Firma
María Isabel Cadima Paz (Bolivia)



Stephen Dowd



Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

Would anyone like to ask for the floor? We have just confirmed the outcome of the ballots.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will repeat the report of the ballot. Ballot papers deposited 46; defective ballots 1; abstentions 0; valid ballots 45; seats to be filled 4; votes cast 45; majority required 23. Elected Denmark 35, France 36, Germany 35, United States of America 40. Italy not elected 34.

CHAIRPERSON

Has no one asked for the floor? We will just confirm what has been said by the Secretary-General?

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

5. Election of Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters

(CL 134/LIM/3)

5. Élection des membres du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

(CL 134/LIM/3)

5. Elección de miembros del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos

(CL 134/LIM/3)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move to Item 5, Election of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, document CL 134/LIM/3.

We have here seven candidate countries for seven seats, as indicated in the documentation. They are: Chile, Gabon, Indonesia, Lesotho, Netherlands, Syria and United States of America.

Does the Council appoint them by clear general consent?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

III. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
III. PROGRAMME ALIMENTAIRE MONDIAL
III. PROGRAMA MUNDIAL DE ALIMENTOS

6. Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board

(CL 134/LIM/4; CL 134/INF/3)

6. Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM

(CL 134/LIM/4; CL 134/INF/3)

6. Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA

(CL 134/LIM/4; CL 134/INF/3)

CHAIRPERSON

We move to Item 6, Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board. The main documents for this item are CL 133/10; CL 134/LIM/4 and CL 134/INF/3.

We now come to the election of six members for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010. I give to the floor to the Secretary-General who will inform the Council on the candidates.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Paragraph 2 of document CL 133/10 indicates that the candidates are as follows: For List A, there are two candidates, Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea, for two seats to be filled; for List B, there is one candidate, Kuwait, for one seat to be filled; for List C, there is one candidate, Haiti, for one seat to be filled; for List D, there are two candidates, Canada and Germany, for two posts to be filled. No seat has to be filled for List E.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Secretary-General for the explanation.

For all lists, we have the same number of candidates as vacant seats. Does the Council agree to appoint the six candidates, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Kuwait, Haiti, Canada and Germany to the six vacant seats by clear general Consent?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

May I be the first to congratulate the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Kuwait, Haiti, Canada and Germany on their election to the Executive Board of the World Food Programme.

I thank you and we proceed to the next Item on our Agenda.

Secretary-General, are there any other matters to be raised under Item 7 of the Agenda?

IV. OTHER MATTERS
IV. AUTRES QUESTIONS
IV. OTROS ASUNTOS

- 7. Matters Arising out of the Conference Session**
7. Questions découlant de la session de la Conférence
7. Cuestiones planteadas en el período de sesiones de la Conferencia

SECRETARY-GENERAL

There are no matters to report under that Item.

- 8. Provisional Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2008-2009 (CL 134/2)**
8. Calendrier provisoire des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales 2008-2009 (CL 134/2)
8. Calendario provisional para 2008-2009 de los períodos de sesiones de los Órganos rectores y de otras reuniones importantes de la FAO (CL 134/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We shall now move to Item 8, Provisional Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions 2008-2009.

You have all seen document CL 134/2-Rev. 1, which has been prepared to avoid clashes with the dates of IFAD and WFP Governing Body Sessions. The dates given for sessions in 2009 are for information only, while the dates of sessions for 2008 require the approval of Council. Please note that Friday, 14 November 2008 is proposed as the date of the Hundred and Thirty-fifth Session of Council, while the Special Session of the Conference will be held from Monday, 17 to Saturday 22 November 2008, as announced at the recently-concluded Session of Conference.

No one has asked for the floor? Then I can take it that the dates proposed for 2008, including the dates of the Hundred and Thirty-fifth Session of Council, are approved?

The Provisional Calendar for 2008 is thus approved.

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Así se acuerda

The meeting was suspended from 12.17 to 12.26 hours
La séance est suspendue de 12.17 à 12 h 26
Se suspende la sesión de las 12.17 a las 12.26

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Bangladesh, Lebanon, Uruguay and Nigeria have not registered for the Council. It is important that they do so this morning. Absence of two consecutive Sessions of the Council will lead to loss of Membership.

CHAIRPERSON

I think we still have to wait a couple minutes until we can continue our discussions.

The meeting was suspended from 12.26 to 12.35 hours
La séance est suspendue de 12.26 à 12 h 35
Se suspende la sesión de las 12.26 a las 12.35

CHAIRPERSON

Welcome to the Council Director-General. We are very pleased to have you here.

You have the floor.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I would like to say that we are very pleased with the results of the Conference and I am very happy that the Council, itself, has also conducted its activities in a very positive way. I would like to express my appreciation again to all the Member Nations for the very hard work they have undertaken but also, more important, for the spirit that has presided over the different discussions and debates leading to decisions that, I believe, will unite the Organization and allow us to address the great challenges that are ahead of us.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Ambassador of Mali, who will be leaving us. He has been particularly committed to this Organization, trying to interact with everybody within the Africa Group, within the G77, with OECD countries and I do not think that anybody here will ask who the Ambassador of Mali is? Therefore, I would also like to thank him for all the time he has spent, all of the long hours, long night hours, trying to make sure that the right decisions were taken in the interest of the international community in general, but also in the interests of those who are hungry around the world. We will miss him but we hope that we will have an opportunity to continue to maintain contacts and relations with him.

I would like to do something I did within the PPAB with so much emotion. Today, I will try to be very short because I could not even finish my speech at the PPAB, which is to really play homage to the Deputy Director-General, David Harcharik, who has served this Organization, as I said yesterday, with the spirit of the Peace Corps where he started at the beginning of his career. He worked for peace around the world, he worked for peace among the Member Nations, and he worked for peace within the FAO Organization among staff at different levels.

I must say, because of the nature of my responsibilities, he was the one running the Organization on a day-to-day basis. I had to go out to be in contact with Governments to mobilize support, resources, etc. The running of the Organization was essentially his doing, and I must say that was certainly not the easiest part of the job. He had to listen to all of the staff members: their aspirations, wishes, frustrations – particularly in an environment of budget cuts of 22 percent in real terms over the past 12 years. He always did it with his kindness, openness, friendship and his respect for everyone, irrespective of where you came from, irrespective of what position you occupied in the Organization. He always tried to be understanding, and he also always tried to give me good advice. I hope I followed most of them, sometimes I did not, but in general we were on the same wave-length because we had the same aspirations for this Organization.

I must say again that I had a lot of difficulty convincing him to become Deputy Director-General. When I called him the first time he said: “No, I want to stay in the Department of Forestry”. I had to really use a lot of persuasion to be able to get him to accept that having first worked in this Organization as a Professional, having left the Organization to return to the Forestry Service in the United States, having returned to become ADG, having managed so many divisions and later on as Deputy Director-General, he managed all the Departments as ADG in charge – I think, with the exception of the AF Department . I just thought he was the right man for the right place. We did our best to make use of his wisdom, heart and sentiments, beyond his expertise, which well-known and well-respected around the world.

You all know the difficulty we had in the Forestry area when he arrived. He managed to get all the international forest communities working together and had FAO play a lead role in this process although some years before FAO had had a lot of in-fighting in this area. That shows also his capacity as a diplomat in handling other countries, other institutions and within the framework of the CEB. He has also represented us in all of the committees in such a way that the Organization was always perceived positively because he had the courtesy, kindness and the type of education that we do not see very much today, which is the basis for human relations. In an

institution of the United Nations, what is important is respect and affection for every human being on the earth, starting with those who are within this Organization.

I will miss him and I would again like to say how grateful and how indebted I am to him. I am sure that if he had not been here, this Organization would have had many more problems. I thank him for always being a loyal and open colleague, who never hesitated to let me know what he thought I should be doing.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Mrs Harcharik because, honestly, she has been very patient toward this Organization. She still managed to give me a hug whenever she saw me, despite the number of hours I was making her husband spend in this Organization while she handled the house and gave to David the kind of love and affection that allowed him to perform his duties. So, I would like also, Madame Harcharik, to present to you my respect and also my affection.

Thank you very much, David.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

There were times when I thought this day would never arrive. And now that it has, I am sad that it has come so soon.

It has been a privilege for me to work in this great and wonderful Organization, and to be part of a global community trying to overcome world hunger and promote better management of the world's renewable natural resources. It has also been a privilege to live in this truly marvellous country of Italy, so rich in history, art, cuisine and beauty where my wife and I have learned so much from the wonderful, kind people we have met. We are going to miss all of this.

Now that my time has come to leave, I cannot help but reflect back on how I managed to be so lucky. I promise not to go on too long, but please bear with me for a few moments because I wish to recognize a few people and events that have shaped my life and, I believe, defined the path that brought me here.

In reflecting back, I think first of my parents, both of whom worked to support five children and to help put three of us through university. I was the first to graduate --- the first among all in my extended family. My parents gave me a free hand in choosing a career path. When I indicated that I wanted to be a forester, I thought that they would be disappointed, for forestry was not a well-known profession in the farm belt south of Chicago where I was raised, and certainly was not considered to be a lucrative one. My father, though, who had been stuck in a job that he did not like, was supportive, as he thought that doing something I enjoyed would be much more important than making money.

I began my forestry studies in 1961 and stayed active in the profession until 1998 when I moved into my current post. As I had no aspiration whatsoever to become the Deputy Director-General, the prospect of leaving Forestry in favour of ODG had simply not occurred to me. Yet one day in the middle of December of 1996, the Director-General called me to his office with his shocking proposition. I remember being stunned by the news, and I pleaded for time to think it over during the Christmas holidays. My wife will verify that I was an emotional wreck during those holidays. It was not easy for me to consider leaving my profession, especially since I thought that as ADG of the Forestry Department, I already had the best job in FAO. Also, the calling of the forestry profession is magnetic, and the natural camaraderie among foresters, regardless of nationality, is something that you have to experience to understand. Frankly, I did not want to give all this up.

But I did. Director-General, I never told you this, but I agreed for two main reasons. The first was that I felt that at the most senior levels of an organization, one had an obligation to take on special or new assignments at the request of the boss. Although there is space for disagreement over

issues, I didn't think that a Director-General needed the burden of an ADG who was unwilling to accept new roles. Thus, I felt that I had a responsibility, an obligation, to say "yes". Second, I thought that my leaving the Forestry Department would be the best thing for the Department. After all, if I said "no" to the boss when he needed me, would the boss also say "no" to me when I needed him? And could such a no-no scenario ever be good for Forestry? I thought not and, thus, I agreed to move to ODG. I wasn't happy about it at the time, but as I reflect back, I am convinced that it was the right decision, for I was followed in the Forestry Department by two outstanding leaders.

I remember my first day as Deputy. For some reason which I have forgotten, I ended the day in an unfamiliar part of the building. When I took the lift down to the ground floor to leave, I found myself completely lost somewhere in the printing section. And like Moses wandering in the desert, I refused to ask directions lest word got around that the new Deputy didn't even know how to get out of the building.

I learned later that I was not supposed to get out of the building --- that I was supposed to stay in Rome and attend to all the matters that the Director-General did not have time to deal with. I think I did that well. In fact, one year, I was here 728 days. That explained this special passport that the DG had arranged for me. It's thinner than your FAO ID card. In fact, it has no pages for visas. None whatsoever. There is no need for them. There is one stamp on the back that says "Benvenuto 1995", and space for one more that will say "Arrivederci 2007".

I am pleased to end my career, at least this phase of it, much as it started---in close association with the U.S. Peace Corps. I joined the Peace Corps upon graduation from university in 1965 and was assigned to work on an FAO forestry project in Peru. I learned later that the Peace Corps and FAO had signed a Cooperation Agreement in 1962, and it was that Agreement that led the FAO forestry team in Lima to request the assistance of five Peace Corps Volunteers, of whom I was one. I had a great two-year assignment in Peru, working side by side with both Peruvian and FAO counterparts. I learned much in Peru. For example, I learned about tropical forests, about poverty, a lot about people and some Spanish. But mostly I learned how little I knew about life and the complex problems of development. I also learned, as the Peace Corps motto says, that "If you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem", and I decided that I wanted to try to be at least a small part of the solution. Thus, my international vocation was born, in Peru with the Peace Corps. So, it was with great pleasure that I witnessed the signing two weeks ago by the Director-General and the Director of the Peace Corps of the extension of the Cooperation Agreement between these two great institutions. It was as though my career had come full circle.

I also want to recognize and thank my wife, Angelica, for she has always been one hundred percent supportive throughout my career. She says that behind every successful man stands an exhausted woman. I don't know how successful I have been, but she has been with me, not behind me, each step of the way. And she has been very influential regarding my career path. For example, when I received my Ph.D., I had two immediate, but very different, job offers. One was to join the Forest Genetics Research Unit of a major forest industry in the north-western part of the United States, and the other was to join the International Office of the U.S. Forest Service in Washington, D.C. I wanted to take the private sector job, while my wife wanted me to take the government job. So, we compromised, and I took the government job. Over the course of our marriage, I have been smart enough to make many similar compromises. At least I know now that joining the U.S. Forest Service turned out to be the best decision, a decision that led eventually to my coming to FAO.

I will share with you one other example of how supportive my wife has been. Our home in Virginia was on three floors, the ground floor, an upstairs and a basement. When the toilet on the upper floor developed a problem, I fixed it myself. Why pay a plumber to fix a minor problem? Then I accompanied the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service on a mission to Brazil. I phoned my wife from Manaus, in the middle of the Amazon Basin, to say that all was well and to see if she was, too. She assured me that everything was just fine back home, while she stood ankle-deep in water in the basement of our home. The water line to the toilet that I had fixed had come apart, and

water had spread from the upstairs bathroom, though the kitchen below and down into the basement. The entire kitchen ceiling, part of the floor and several other things had to be replaced, yet my wife, not wanting to worry me while I was travelling around with the big boss, had assured me that all was well. I learned about the catastrophe only upon returning home. I also made a lot more compromises when I got home! In fact, I still have a list here that I am working on!

My wife has been absolutely 100% supportive, no matter how many long nights and weekends I put in on the job and no matter how many times I left her alone as I went off on long duty travels to far away places. *Amore*, I would not be here if it were not for you.

I am also most grateful to you, Director-General, for giving me the opportunity and privilege to serve in FAO, first in Forestry, and for the past ten years as your Deputy. You are absolutely the hardest working person I have ever met, bar none, and the most dedicated. Frankly, I don't know how you maintain the pace that you keep, or how you shoulder the pressures of your job. But you do --- in super-human fashion. Although we have on occasion seen issues from different perspectives, not once in the 13 years that I have been here have you treated me with anything but decency, courtesy, respect and trust. I thank you for that.

I will remember you for many things, but one thing stands out above all the others, and that is your advocacy for agriculture and the rural poor. You, more than anyone else, have been responsible for getting agriculture back on the development agenda and for raising its profile to the highest level of government. You did this by inviting Heads of State and Government to Rome, not once but twice for World Food Summits, and by continuing to invite them on special occasions, such as for the Conference last week. You also met with them privately, as well as with the Heads of multi-lateral and regional banks and with bilateral donor agencies, to sensitize them to the needs of the hungry and to encourage them to invest in agriculture. It has taken time, but I believe that we are finally starting to see the fruit of your tireless efforts.

I have been very fortunate over the course of my career in that I have always been surrounded by outstanding people. My Forest Service colleagues in Washington, with whom I spent 14 years, were outstanding, and the FAO staff is nothing short of phenomenal. In fact, prior to joining FAO, I had opportunities to work with a voluntary organization, a private company, a university and a government, and I can tell you with no hesitation and not a trace of doubt that the FAO staff is unmatched in terms of commitment and capability. You Government Representatives have no idea of the bargain, the value, that you are getting for your money. I have really enjoyed working with so many wonderful, talented, dedicated people from so many countries, cultures and ethnic backgrounds. It has been a highlight of my life.

In particular, I want to recognize and thank my immediate staff, those who have been closest to me for the longest period: Blanche McMullin-Cerchia, Laura Pela and Carola Saini are with me today. If I occasionally managed to do something right, it was most likely because they told me how. They have been truly fantastic, and I will miss them dearly. I want to especially mention Blanche, for she has been with me 12 of my 13 years here and she, more than anyone else, has corrected my mistakes, re-written my speeches, suggested solutions and tolerated my many shortcomings. Blanche, you have simply been the greatest.

I have enjoyed too, immensely enjoyed, working with you, the Representatives of Governments in Rome and with your colleagues who visit us from capitols. So many times I have witnessed you step forward to respond to special causes, like Avian Influenza, the Tsunami, African locusts, the Special Programme on Food Security and a multitude of other, often unforeseen needs. Your commitment is one of the things that makes FAO great.

You may not believe me, but I also liked working with those of you who sometimes made my life difficult. I found that those who questioned, those who demanded explanations and those who offered candid, but constructive, criticism also had much to offer to FAO. I learned from them. I learned of their concerns, their views and their perspectives. And, of course, their visits also gave me an opportunity to respond, to explain how I saw things, and to offer perspectives that they

might not have thought of. Although such discussions did not always lead to agreement, with few exceptions, they led to better understanding, respect and trust.

I remember, for example, a Canadian member of the Programme Committee in the mid-to-late 90s, who was particularly tough. He did his homework and came to each meeting extraordinarily well-prepared. He knew what was on each page of our documents, he understood the budget figures, and he could find contradictions in our presentations. He knew how to get to the crux of matters, and to ask penetrating questions. Frankly, he made me nervous. As a result, though, just as he came prepared, I had to prepare for him. I had to know our programmes well, and I had to be able to articulate the rationale for them in considerable detail. He made me work, and he made me better. Thanks to all of you who are working to make FAO better.

Many of you know that this past year has not been easy for me. It took a long time to combat my illness and to recover from it. So many of you sent encouragement, and so many of you offered prayers, prayers in more religions than I knew existed. Your good wishes and your prayers had a major impact on my recovery --- I just know it --- and have had a pivotal, defining influence on my life. There is no way that I can properly express my gratitude to you or to the Director-General, who was immediate, unhesitating and un-wavering in his support for me, but I want you all to know of my heartfelt appreciation. I am also grateful to you, Director-General, for inviting me back this last year, thus giving me the opportunity to finish my work and to pass the baton to my successor in orderly fashion. Thank you.

People often ask what I am going to do in retirement. Well, ideally, I am going to see every sunrise and every sunset, watch the moon and count the stars. I am going to reconnect with old friends and family, and I am going to take long walks in the forest to see if I can also reconnect with my forestry roots. I am going to exercise a lot, hike, fish and enjoy nature. I'm going to do a little gardening, smell the roses, and my wife and I are going to travel. I'm going to read. I might even learn to tango. And each evening, I'm going to enjoy a nice glass of red wine and fall asleep on the sofa while listening to classical music. But mostly, I'm going to work on my list of compromises!

Director-General, Members of the Council, thank you for giving me the privilege of serving this great Organization.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now open the floor and I recognize the United States, Kuwait. United States, you have the floor.

Gaddi H. VASQUEZ (United States)

On behalf of the United States and on behalf of the North America Region, we would like to take this occasion to thank David Harcharik for his thirteen years of service to FAO, first in the Forestry Department and these last ten years as Deputy Director-General.

FAO has benefited from his strong leadership, his dedication to service and his tireless commitment to the ideals of the United Nations. He has helped to guide FAO to a renewed commitment, to eliminate food insecurity through the World Food Summit and through a Reform process to improve the Organization's efficiency and effectiveness.

Mr Harcharik has devoted his life to public service, as has been described in his remarks in the interests of those with the greatest need. Like many of the US citizens working in FAO, he started his long and distinguished career with service in the US Peace Corps and, as the immediate past Director of the United States Peace Corps, it gives me personal pride and satisfaction to see his leadership, his guidance and his Peace Corps roots still very prominent on what he does on a day to day basis.

Throughout his career he has demonstrated a commitment to the goals of FAO, reducing hunger and poverty, improving nutrition and ensuring sustainable use of our natural resources. He has worked as volunteer, educator, manager, and administrator and, in short, he is one of those invaluable people who unselfishly contribute to the betterment of society and the human condition. For that, he has earned our gratitude and our respect.

We collectively will miss Mr Harcharik's wise council, advice and guidance from which we have benefited greatly over the years.

As an American, it gives me great pride to salute your great service to this Organization and to the United States. We wish you well in your retirement and future endeavours and frankly, after hearing a description of what you will do in retirement, it would be a pleasure to follow you out the door.

Congratulations, we wish you well, with the exception of the list.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Manar Sabah Mohammad AL-SABAH (Kuwait)

The G77 and China wishes to pay tribute to Mr Harcharik for all his hard work over the last years of FAO. His guidance and insight have always been particularly helpful to our Group, and his many qualities will be sorely missed.

We wish him all the best in his retirement and assure him that his contribution to the Organization will live long in our memory.

Mohamed Ashraf GAMAL ELDIN RASHED (Egypt)

On behalf of the Near East Group, we would like to pay tribute and thanks to Mr David Harcharik, Deputy Director-General for his dedicated work, commitment and remarkable achievements during his thirteen-year term of office since 1995 as both Assistant Director-General for Forestry, and Deputy Director-General for this wonderful Organization. We wish him the best of luck, health and a prosperous future.

Noël BAÏOT (Gabon)

Je prends la parole au nom d'abord du Gabon et aussi en temps que Président du Groupe africain.

Je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer au Directeur général mes remerciements d'avoir attendu la fin de cette Session pour nous annoncer de manière solennelle le départ de Monsieur Harcharik. Vous nous quittez, Monsieur Harcharik, au moment où les États Membres viennent de donner à notre Institution un nouveau souffle, un nouvel élan vers des horizons nouveaux pour une FAO forte. Nous aurons une pensée pour vous parce que nous savons que vous avez bien voulu apporter votre contribution, comme vous l'avez toujours si bien fait pour l'Organisation. Nous penserons à vous. Nous regretterons votre présence à nos côtés et nous vous souhaitons bon retour auprès de votre famille. Également, nous vous remercions pour avoir consacré plus d'un quart de siècle au sein de cette Organisation, au service de l'humanité.

Enfin, nous vous souhaitons une bonne retraite. Monsieur le Sous-Directeur général, tous nos vœux vous accompagnent.

Eudoro Jaén ESQUIVEL (Panamá)

Tengo el honor de hacer uso de la palabra a nombre y en representación del GRULAC. Debo admitir que a pesar de la riqueza de nuestro idioma resulta difícil encontrar las expresiones adaptas para describir con cabalidad la personalidad del Dr. David Harcharik, Director General Adjunto de esta nuestra Organización. En efecto, no resulta fácil expresar en palabras sus amplias cualidades intelectuales, profesionales y personales.

El Dr. Harcharik ha sido siempre considerado como un miembro más de nuestro GRULAC, ya que nos unen a él fuertes lazos de afinidad y admiración. Por tales motivos, hemos preferido sustituir la vana elocuencia, con las más profundas y sinceras expresiones de nuestros sentimientos de amistad y agradecimiento por su labor en la FAO, así como por su reconocida estimación hacia nuestro Grupo Regional. Al momento de saludarle por su merecido descanso, los innumerables miembros del GRULAC, que han tenido la dicha de conocerle, me han solicitado expresarle que aunque su ausencia en la Organización se hará notar, no quedará un vacío en ella, ya que usted perdurará en la mente y los corazones del GRULAC. Es a nombre de ese grupo que van dirigidos nuestros augurios por una larga y provechosa vida de satisfacciones, salud y unión con sus seres queridos; y deseamos que disfrute de su más que bien merecido descanso.

Dr. Harcharik, a nombre del GRULAC, muchas felicitaciones y buena suerte en sus nuevas empresas.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Judy BARFIELD (Australia)

The Southwest Pacific Region wishes to pay to David Harcharik on his retirement a great tribute.

We have had the pleasure of working with David Harcharik in this Organization over a number of years. His comments just now regarding his relationship with Permanent Representatives certainly resonate with us. Our delegation and others in our Region have always benefited from David's leadership in the Organization. His personal qualities in particular have made it possible to deal with the Organization at the highest level in a positive and constructive manner. David has always been available to us and to officials from our capitals to discuss issues of interest to our countries. He is always open and frank and we were able to hear the views of the Organization from David in a fair manner. Only last week David met with senior officials from our capital and had a frank discussion on the current issues facing the Organization.

We are fortunate that David is a good listener and always provided considered responses.

Finally, we wish to pay tribute to David's dedication to the Organization, to the Members and to the task of improving food security for all. His recent health crisis would have been enough for anyone else, but David chose to continue to make a contribution.

We wish David and Ms Harcharik all the best for the future.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Aamir Ashraf KHAWAJA (Pakistan)

On behalf of Pakistan and on behalf of the Asia Region, we would like to recognize the untiring services of David Harcharik to FAO.

On a more personal note, we are going to miss a very kind David and his wife. They are graduating to another phase in their lives, which appears to be so wonderful and serene. I wish David luck and in completing his list of compromises, it appears that he needs more time, I wonder if Angelica is working on a similar project which should be even more interesting than the one that David Harcharik has undertaken.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Tommie SJÖBERG (Sweden)

Sweden now speaks on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

When David Harcharik now leaves FAO, it is not only the Deputy Director-General who leaves, it is also a friend. During the many years we have cooperated with David, we have always appreciated the open and friendly atmosphere he created, despite the subject which we were to discuss. It has always been easy to get access to David and after meeting with him, you could be sure that you brought back a piece of good advice.

David Harcharik is a forester. Since the year 2000 he has been selected a Member of the well-known Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry. The context with the Nordic Countries will consequently remain. If you find that the open and billowing landscape of Umbria becomes too boring for you as a forester, you can be sure that you are always welcome to the deep, dark and silent forests in the north.

We look forward to continue our cooperation with you, not least myself, since I am to retire soon and I am afraid that my wife will present a list of compromises as well.

The Nordic Countries wish you all the best in the future.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Romualdo BETTINI (Italy)

I wish to say a few words to our friend David, who has been so kind to make a very wonderful declaration of love to Italy – a country where you have lived for the past 10 to 15 years and where you have performed so well.

I wish to assure you that all of the kind expressions that you have pronounced are reciprocated by us. I am speaking just for Italy, with no country backing me up. I think that having served so well here, you are going to be really missed, you and your *Amore*, who I think has been - as you have said – an important part of your successful presence in this country.

I wish you all the best and hope that in the near future, when I will be following your path, I will be able to do all the beautiful things that you have just illustrated to us. In any case, I wish you all the best, a lot of health and go away with a lot of love from all of the Italians.

Thank you, David and Madame.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Zohrab V. MALEK (Armenia)

I have a few words of appreciation for David Harcharik from the European Regional Group (ERG) Members on the occasion of his last Council meeting as Deputy Director-General.

Many positive words have come to mind. He was accessible and a man of resilience and perseverance. We admire the sincerity of his determination and share his global vision for the future of the planet. He was balanced and fair in both, giving us criticism and in taking criticism from us, ERG included. His responses were always intelligent and honest. He is a man with a serious demeanour but when you look a little closer, you will notice a wry smile on the side, especially after a glass of good wine. Speaking of wine, we know him to be a *connoisseur*, as much as any American can be – better than a Canadian, which I have been for more than half my life.

Really, in contemplating my interactions with David Harcharik, did I or any other Permanent Representative know him well? I decided to consult my friend Google, because Google knows everybody better than I do. After slogging through page after page of information on David Harcharik – full of FAO press releases and special notes – Google found for me one little gem that I did not know. When the North Carolina State University named Dr. David Harcharik its 2002 Distinguished Alumni, the statement read like this: "His fundamental concern for

narrowing the gap between rich and poor nations and for achieving a sustainable world economy and environment are the core values we work to instil in every student, and David Harcharik is a true role model for our students".

While we do not have first-hand knowledge related to students, we do know this: if we substitute other words for students – for example colleagues, junior and senior staff members of FAO and the Permanent Representatives – we have had the privilege of working with him. We too can say that he is a true role model.

Hearing his speeches, especially the recent ones, they are sincere, heartfelt, and full of hope for the mission of FAO. They convey his dream that real improvements in agriculture, food security and nutrition security are possible.

Five years after retiring from FAO I thought I was the only one who gets emotional speaking to my colleagues, until David went through it a few minutes ago. David, emotion never hurts anyone. It is the best medicine to carry with us into retirement, to carry our sacred work for FAO.

Dr. Harcharik, you are one of the good guys of FAO. We hope to see you soon and wish you good health, (*nastravia*), a new incarnation – maybe even here at FAO, representing a country or defending a cause. Thank you Dr. Harcharik, you have been a gentleman and a leader.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Armenia was the last speaker on my list.

Would anyone else like to request the floor?

If not, I would just like to say from the podium, that we also thank you, David, for the work that you have done and if you have nothing to add to what has been said, we agree to everything.

9. ANY OTHER MATTERS

9. AUTRES QUESTIONS

9. OTROS ASUNTOS

CHAIRPERSON

On the last point of the Agenda, Any Other Matters, does any Member wish to take the floor?

This concludes the work of this Hundred and Thirty-fourth Session of the Council.

The meeting stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 13:28 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 28

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.28