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Продовольственная и
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Alimentación y la Agricultura

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-second Session - Cent cinquante et deuxième session -
152.º período de sesiones**

Rome, 15 June 2015

VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Rome, 15 juin 2015

PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL

Roma, 15 de junio de 2015

**ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL
CONSEJO**

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-second Session
Cent cinquante et deuxième session
152.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 15 June 2015
Rome, 15 juin 2015
Roma, 15 de junio de 2015**

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

15 June 2015

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.40 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.40
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the first meeting of the 152nd Session of the FAO Council to order. I wish to welcome Council Members and observers to this session.

This being the first Council meeting after the Conference and, in accordance with the items on the Provisional Agenda, is a traditionally one or even half day meeting, so I call upon your cooperation to keep our proceedings as focused and concise as possible.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend a particularly cordial welcome to Council members who have begun a new term at this session of Council, namely: Cyprus, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Nicaragua, San Marino, Spain and Sri Lanka.

I should also like to thank the outgoing Council Members who have finished their mandate and vacated their seats.

Allow me also to express once again my gratitude to all FAO Members for my re-election by acclamation for a second term of office at Conference last Friday. I am committed to continuing to serve equitably all Council Members and Members at large as Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council for the period June 2015 to June 2017.

I will endeavour to discharge my responsibilities to the best of my abilities, aware of the pivotal role that the Independent Chairperson of the Council holds in the Organization's governance hierarchy.

I request your continued trust, openness and cooperation with me and among yourselves. I thank you.

I shall now give the floor to the Secretary-General of the Council to make a short announcement.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you. I wish to bring to the attention of the Council that the European Union 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 Union and its Member States is contained in information document CL 152/INF/1, which is available at the documents desk, and I wish to draw the attention of the meeting to this declaration. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Before we move on to the first item on our Agenda, I would like to ask the Secretary-General to report on the documentation for this session of Council. Mr Gagnon, you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you. The list of documents for this short session of Council includes three main documents; two of them, the agenda and the document concerning membership of the Programme and Finance Committees and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, were posted on the webpage of the Council five weeks prior to the publication deadline of 18 May 2015, whereas the calendar of Governing Bodies sessions was published one week before the due date.

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda
Point 1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour
Tema 1. Aprobación del programa
(CL 152/1; CL 152/INF/1)

CHAIRPERSON

The first item we have before us is the Adoption of the Agenda as set out in document CL 152/1. Can I take it that the Council wishes to adopt the Agenda? Thank you. The agenda is adopted.

Item 2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons**Point 2. Élection des trois vice-présidents****Tema 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.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, we have the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairperson: Mr Niu Dun of China, Ms Gerda Verburg of the Netherlands, and Ms Monica Robelo Raffone of Nicaragua.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any objections? If not, I wish to congratulate the three Vice-Chairpersons on their election.

Applause

Applaudissement

Aplausos

Item 3. Election of the Chairperson and Twelve Members of the Programme Committee**Point 3. Élection du Président et des douze membres du Comité du Programme****Tema 3. Elección del Presidente y los 12 miembros del Comité del Programa**

(CL 152/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now turn to item 3, *Election of the Chairperson and Twelve Members of the Programme Committee*.

For the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, paragraph 4 of document CL 152/LIM/1 shows that there is only one candidate for the post: Ambassador Serge Tomasi of France.

According to paragraph 10(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 elect Ambassador Serge Tomasi as Chairperson of the Programme Committee?

Applause

Applaudissement

Aplausos

It is so decided. I congratulate Ambassador Tomasi on his appointment as Chairperson of the Programme Committee. My best wishes for your work with the Programme Committee.

I now give the floor to Mr Gagnon, who will inform the Council of the candidates for membership of the Programme Committee.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As indicated in paragraph 5 of document CL 152/LIM/1, for the regions of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East, there are two seats to be filled and two candidates for each region.

For the regions of North America and Southwest Pacific there is one candidate for one post to be filled for each region.

I will now read the names of the candidates.

For Africa: Mr Marc Mankoussou of Congo and Mr Mohamed Nassir Camara of Guinea.

For Asia and the Pacific: Mr Vimlendra Sharan of India and Mr Osamu Kubota of Japan.

For Europe: Mr Inge Nordang of Norway and Mr Andrzej Halasiewicz of Poland.

For Latin America and the Caribbean: Mr Claudio Javier Rozencwaig of Argentina and Mr José Antonio Carranza of Ecuador.

For the Near East: Mr Fiesal Rasheed Salamh Al Argan of Jordan and Mr Haytham Abdulmomen Shoja'aadin of Yemen.

For North America: Mr Eric Robinson of Canada.

For Southwest Pacific: Mr Matthew Hooper of New Zealand.

CHAIRPERSON

Given that we have the same number of nominations as seats to be filled for all regions, I propose that the Council appoint these candidates by clear general consent.

Applause

Applaudissement

Aplausos

I wish to congratulate the countries elected to the Programme Committee.

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

Point 4. Élection du Président et des douze membres du Comité financier

Tema 4. Elección del Presidente y los 12 miembros del Comité de Finanzas

(CL 152/LIM/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We continue with item 4 of our agenda, *Election of the Chairperson and Twelve Members of the Finance Committee*.

As you will have seen in paragraph 4 of document CL 152/LIM/2, we have one candidate for the post of Chairperson of the Finance Committee: Mr Khalid Mehboob of Pakistan.

As previously indicated, when there is the same number of candidates for the same number of posts the Council may decide on the appointment by clear general consent.

Can I take it that the Council wishes to appoint Mr Khalid Mehboob as Chairperson of the Finance Committee?

Applause

Applaudissement

Aplausos

It is so decided.

Congratulations to Mr Khalid Mehboob on his appointment as Chairperson of the Finance Committee. I wish you success in your work with the Finance Committee.

We now have to appoint the Members of the Finance Committee. I will give the floor to the Secretary-General so that he can inform the Council on the number of nominations received.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As indicated in paragraph 5 of document CL 152/LIM/2, for the regions of Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East, there are two seats to be filled and two candidates for each region; and for the regions North America and Southwest Pacific there is one candidate and one post to be filled for each region.

For the Asia and the Pacific region there are three candidates for two seats. I will now read the names of the candidates.

For Africa: Mr Carlos Alberto Amaral of Angola and Mr Crisantos Obama Ondo of Equatorial Guinea.

For Asia and the Pacific: Mr Mafizur Rahman of Bangladesh, Mr Niu Dun of China and Mr Lupiño Lazaro Jr. of the Philippines.

For Europe: Mr Heiner Thofern of Germany and Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov of the Russian Federation.

For Latin America and the Caribbean: Mr Antonio Otávio Sá Ricarte of Brazil and Mr John Sandy of Trinidad and Tobago.

For the Near East: Mr Khaled El Taweel of Egypt and Ms Abla Malik Osman Malik of Sudan.

For North America: Ms Natalie Brown of the United States of America.

For Southwest Pacific: Mr Matthew Worrell of Australia.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon. Given that we have the same number of nominations as seats to be filled for the regions of Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America and Southwest Pacific; can I take it that there are no objections to the Council appointing these candidates by clear general consent?

Applause

Applaudissement

Aplausos

Thank you, it is so decided.

As regards the Asia and Pacific region, if none of the candidates wish to withdraw we shall proceed to a secret ballot. May I enquire whether any candidates wish to withdraw?

Given that all three candidates wish to stand we shall proceed to a secret ballot. The Secretary-General will provide the relevant information.

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 two votes on each ballot paper. I repeat, no more and no less than two votes. Ballot papers which do not bear two crosses will be considered invalid.

In accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 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.

As already mentioned, any ballot paper carrying votes for more or less than the posts to be elected shall be declared defective.

In accordance with paragraph 10(f) of Rule XII 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 Elections Officer. The clean ballot paper will be delivered on the surrender of the invalidated ballot paper.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mr Gagnon. I am assured that there is a quorum so voting may commence.

I now invite the delegates of Argentina and San Marino 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 paragraph 15 of Rule XII which specifies that once voting has commenced, no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the voting.

Vote
Vote
Votación

CHAIRPERSON

Voting has ended. The tellers will now leave the room with the ballot boxes to count the votes. We will now temporarily suspend this meeting while the vote is being counted.

The meeting was suspended from 10.10 to 10.45 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 10 à 10 h 45

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.10 a las 10.45

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to thank the tellers who have done a good job. I now ask the Secretary-General to read us the results.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of ballot number 1 for the Members of the Finance Committee 2015-2017 for the Region Asia and the Pacific. Ballot papers deposited: 49. Defective ballots: 1. Abstentions: 1. Valid ballots: 47. Seats to be filled: 2. Majority required: 24.

Elected: Mr Lupiño Lazaro Jr. of the Philippines with 42 votes and Mr Niu Dun of China with 40 votes.

Not elected: Mr Mafizur Rahman of Bangladesh with 12 votes.

Applause
Applaudissement
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon. I wish to congratulate the countries elected to the Finance Committee.

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 1	FINANCE COMMITTEE (Asia and the Pacific) COMITE FINANCIER (Asie et Pacifique) 2015-2017 COMITE DE FINANZAS (Asia y el Pacífico)
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	49
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	47
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	94

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	24
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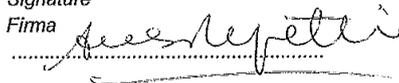
Elected - Élus - Elegidos		Not elected - Pas élus - No elegidos	
Mr Lupiño Lazaro Jr. (Philippines)	42	Mr Md. Mafizur Rahman (Bangladesh)	12
Mr Niu Dun (China)	40		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Ms Andrea Repetti (Argentina)

Signature

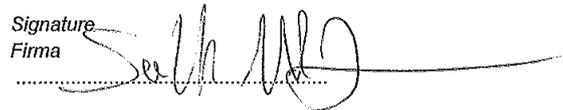
Firma



Mr Alessandro Suzzi Valli (San Marino)

Signature

Firma


Date
Fecha

15/06/2015

Stephen Dowd, CSCC


Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

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

Point 5. Élection du Président et des sept membres du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

Tema 5. Elección del Presidente y los siete miembros del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos

(CL 152/LIM/3)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 5, *Election of the Chairperson and Seven Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*.

As you will have seen in paragraph 4 of document CL 152/LIM/3, we have two candidates for the post of Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters: Mr Lubomir Ivanov of Bulgaria and Mr Mohammed Sheriff of Liberia.

If none of the candidates wish to withdraw we shall proceed to a secret ballot. May I enquire whether any candidates wish to withdraw?

Mr Mohammed SHERIFF (Liberia)

Thank you Mr Chairperson. May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your re-election by acclamation to lead and to continue to effectively guide our work in this Council. I have served in this important Committee and actively participated in its deliberations for the past two years. My government and indeed my Regional Group believe I am capable of providing the leadership to guide the work of this Committee, hence my nomination as candidate.

While I appreciate the strong support I have received from various regions, including the mighty G77 with the largest voting block on my candidature, I have carefully considered the fact that we have another candidate from the OECD, who I consider will provide the same strong leadership I offered myself to provide, should I be elected.

I am very much qualified for the post and many of my OECD Members are cognizant of this fact. Traditionally, my country and other regions have had a very good working relationship with the OECD countries and indeed all other Regional Groups in FAO. Liberia's active participation in this Organization has consistently shown the great value the country grants to building consensus and promoting consultations to ensure the smooth coordination and cooperation among the different Regional Groups and countries.

In particular, we have just re-elected the Director-General by an historic consensus with the largest number of Member Nations, and in order to help pave the way for a smooth and easy operation of the Organization at this early beginning of our journey, it is indeed imperative that we put aside our personal ego and make the sacrifice in combating hunger, malnutrition, and poverty so that the Director-General can focus on the great challenges ahead.

On the heels of a very historic Conference, which built the most unprecedented consensus on key issues, I offer to step down from the competition to pave the way for consensus to attain and to facilitate our work. I know that our group, the G77, has got the votes to get me elected, but we do not want to take advantage of such a democratic principle in place of reciprocity and consensus.

I thank the G77 and also the OECD for their support during my chairmanship of the Africa Regional Group until April this year. I wish all the best to Ambassador Lubomir Ivanov, a friend with whom I have always shared the same viewpoints in the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

Liberia, as an example of mainstreaming gender, elected the first female President of Africa not only once, but twice. This indeed shows that we are serious about gender mainstreaming. My regret, therefore, in the process of the elections on these committees, is the absence of women. Only the CCLM has shown recognition of gender in appointing members to the various committees.

We as Member Nations expect FAO to mainstream gender in the work of the Organization, yet we continue to put this practice in the backseat. I plead with my Distinguished Members of Council to put

into action within this Organization the appointment or election of women to key positions on the different Committees. Let us make the efforts to practice what we preach in relation to gender mainstreaming, so that we are on the same wavelength with the Director-General.

Therefore, Mr Chairperson, I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity and I want to thank all of my colleagues who have given me that support. For the benefit of consensus, I have withdrawn my candidature.

Applause
Applaudissement
Aplausos

Sr Pierfrancesco SACCO (Italy)

Italy would like to ask the floor for Bulgaria.

Mr Lubomir IVANOV (Observer for Bulgaria)

Mr Chairperson, I also want to join those that congratulate you for your unanimous election in this position. Secondly, I want to express my gratitude to Ambassador Sheriff who made this move to withdraw his candidature for the Chairmanship of the CCLM, which is the important point with regard to the current discussion we are having.

Indeed, this is in the spirit of sincere cooperation and consensus-building that deserves our highest appreciation. I want to stress that we have been working together with Ambassador Sheriff in the CCLM in the previous term of two years. In fact, we have been in excellent relationship, which I hope will continue in the same productive spirit in the future. I believe he will be the representative and the member from the Africa Group in the CCLM for the future.

I am absolutely certain that he has all the qualities required for the position of Chairperson and his wisdom was shown also just minutes ago with his move to help the productive work in this Organization and open the way for a clear election process for which I want to thank him very much.

Applause
Applaudissement
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

As Liberia has withdrawn its nomination for the post of Chairperson of this Committee, we have one candidate for the post of Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, Ambassador Lubomir Ivanov of Bulgaria.

Again, the Council may decide to appoint the Chairperson by clear general consent.

Applause
Applaudissement
Aplausos

I congratulate Mr Lubomir Ivanov on his appointment as Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and wish him well as he moves from being Member to the Chair of the CCLM.

We now have to appoint the Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. I will give the floor to the Secretary-General to provide the Council with information on the nominations received.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As indicated in paragraph 5 of document CL 152/LIM/3, there is one candidate for one post to be filled for all regions.

For Africa: Mr Mohammed Sheriff of Liberia.

For Asia and the Pacific: Mr Royhan Nevy Wahab of Indonesia.

For Europe: Ms Daniela Rotondaro of San Marino.

For Latin America and the Caribbean: Mr Rawell Salomón Taveras Arbaje of the Dominican Republic.

For the Near East: Mr Osama Mahmoud Humeida Masoud of Sudan.

For North America: Ms April Cohen of the United States of America.

For Southwest Pacific: Mr Lawrence Kalinoe of Papua New Guinea.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon. Given that we have the same number of nominations as seats to be filled for the seven regions; can I take it that there are no objections to the Council appointing these candidates by clear general consent?

Applause

Applaudissement

Aplausos

Thank you, it is so decided.

Sr. Pierfrancesco SACCO (Italia)

Italia quería pedir la palabra para presidencia de turno de la Unión Europea, Letonia.

Ms Elina GRINPAUKA-PETETENA (Observer for Latvia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. We would like to extend our congratulations to the Members and Chairpersons, who have been elected for the Committees. We have full confidence in their capacity and commitment to take on these important responsibilities in the Organization.

For the EU and its 28 Member States, gender balance between women and men is a very important issue. We are fully committed to a gender balance as a cross-cutting strategic objective for the next Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget. We note with regret that women are seriously under-represented in the new Committees. We would like to stress that achieving gender balance is a common responsibility of FAO Members. We all need to put a great deal of effort in empowering women, including in FAO's Governing Bodies and Committees.

We would welcome the ICSC's involvement in addressing this issue in an appropriate manner. Let us all take this opportunity to renew our commitment to gender balance at all levels of the Organization and continue to work together towards achieving a gender-balanced world.

Ms Natalie BROWN (United States of America)

The United States congratulates the recently elected members of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and CCLM and wishes them a successful tenure. To those returning to the various committees, your knowledge and experience are essential to the continuity of each Committee's important work and we commend your dedication. We also applaud the new members and appreciate their interest in and commitment to this important aspect of FAO governance.

That being said, as expressed by the delegate from Liberia as well as from Latvia, we are disappointed to see the lack of women's representation among the Programme Committee members. We as members have stressed to FAO the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment at all levels and further supported the inclusion of gender as a cross-cutting strategic objective. This is not a new position. Across the UN System, Member Nations have focused on the inclusion of women in power and decision-making as critical areas of focus since the Beijing Platform for Action was agreed in 1995. More recently and closer to home, the Report of the 38th Session of the Conference includes a comprehensive section on FAO's gender policy, recognizing the extensive participation of women in agriculture and the many contributions, and the role of women in ending hunger rose repeatedly in the just concluded 39th Session. We have seen some progress on gender equality, both in how the

Organization is staffed and its work, but there is still much to do, and we as Members must do our part.

As we say in the United States, “we must walk the talk”. So it is troubling to see that a committee vital to the work of this Organization, particularly FAO’s work on gender, and a committee which had strong representation by women over the past two years, now includes no women. This is not to say that men cannot be champions of gender equality. The Director-General has emphasized that FAO programmes must reach women and has required that the shortlist for vacant positions include female candidates. All of us know of other examples of men who are strong advocates of the full political and economic empowerment of women and of ensuring that they have access to the same programmes and resources as men. Personally, the first man that I always think of is my father. He is a boxer, a policeman, who made sure his two children, both daughters, were not disadvantaged because of gender or race. But if we as Members of this Organization and members of the Governing Bodies do not live up to the standards we set, how can we expect FAO and its field offices to do so? The complete absence of women as Programme Committee members highlights the fragility of efforts to ensure that women play a role in decision-making processes and benefit from the results of these processes.

We are all familiar with the reports and statistics on the role of women in agriculture and how a community’s health and welfare improved when women have equal access to land, seeds and credit. Other studies show that well-managed diverse teams are more productive, more innovative, and have higher collective intelligence than homogeneous ones. Therefore, it is clear that continued engagement and vigilance are imperative by the Secretariat, by Programme Committee members, and most importantly by the Member Nations.

We call on Members to continue to pay close attention to the work of the Programme Committee and to be especially attuned to gender issues to ensure that programmes benefit everyone. We call on Members to work through their Regional Groups to ensure that their representatives remain aware of the issues affecting women. We further ask that the men elected to this new Programme Committee in their deliberations remember the women who are not seated with them around the table. And going forward, we strongly encourage Members to nominate women for these important leadership and governance positions.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic countries – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The EU countries – Denmark, Finland and Sweden – align themselves with the statement made on behalf of the EU. Switzerland also aligns itself with this statement.

Allow me to congratulate all the members of the committees for their election. To serve on a Council committee is an opportunity but, at the same time, a big responsibility.

At this juncture, allow me to bring to the attention of the members of the Committees one important responsibility you have which is to be strong supporters of gender equality. Men can and should be advocates of gender equality, and I know for a fact that the newly elected members will do so. Gender equality is not only a women’s issue, it is a human rights issue that affects us all.

In this regard, you as our Chairperson have a key role to play. When we in our respective Regional Groups are putting forward our candidates for the Council committees, transparency and early nominations are important in this respect, and your early involvement would be highly appreciated to make sure all regions work together to have gender balance in our committees.

Ms Marina EMILIANI (San Marino)

It is indeed a great honour for the Republic of San Marino to be seated for the first time on the Council. We are the oldest democratic Republic. Our region dates back to 301 after Christ and our main objectives in all international *fora* are human rights, freedom, food security, social protection and gender equality, which are for us the pillars we believe in. Therefore, we would like to strongly affirm our commitment in working with the Organization and all Member Nations to fight hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

We strongly believe in having gender as a cross-cutting issue in FAO programmes. Also, we are surprised that no Regional Group has presented women candidates in the Programme Committee.

My Delegation would like to express its gratitude to Germany for its leadership and to all countries of the European Region for the consensus reached in the new rotation mechanism giving the opportunity to all the countries of the region to be members of the Council, including the smaller ones. We would also like to thank all the Regional Groups for having supported and elected the Republic of San Marino.

We welcome the new mandate of the Director-General and his work for a new efficient and effective Organization and look forward to working under his guidance and wisdom. We welcome the re-election of Mr Wilfred Ngirwa as Independent Chairperson to the Council whom we congratulate. We look forward to working together with you all.

Mr John SANDI (Trinidad and Tobago)

Mr Chairperson, my delegation joins others in congratulating you on your re-election as Independent Chairperson of the Council and embraces this opportunity as well to congratulate all newly elected members. Trinidad and Tobago wishes to express its appreciation to all members of the Council in general, and our friends and colleagues of GRULAC in particular, for supporting our re-election to the Council, and to membership of the Finance Committee.

We recognize this is a tremendous opportunity to continue apprising the Council of issues relating to the Caribbean in particular, as we join colleagues in the thrust of the FAO to realize food and nutrition security for all, to eradicate starvation, and reduce poverty in the world. Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its commitment to the novel ideas of the FAO and pledges its continued support and cooperation in all areas.

M. Serge TOMASI (France)

Je vais prendre la parole parce que les collègues ont bien voulu me faire l'honneur de me désigner comme Président du Comité du Programme et celui-ci a été cité dans certaines interventions. Je ne pensais pas avoir à prendre la parole aussi vite pour défendre le Comité du Programme, mais je vais essayer de le faire.

La question du droit des femmes et de l'égalité entre les sexes est une question fondamentale parce qu'elle est au cœur des droits humains. Et je crois que c'est une question trop importante pour être expédiée en fin de réunion par des déclarations. La France, mon pays, a une vieille tradition démocratique, et nous sommes très attachés à deux principes fondamentaux: la règle de droit et le respect de la règle de droit, les valeurs démocratiques et le respect des élections.

Nous avons aujourd'hui élu des membres et présidents des comités du Conseil et vendredi, la Conférence a élu le Président indépendant du Conseil. Les règles ont été parfaitement respectées, les scrutins ont été exemplaires. Il n'est pas d'usage chez nous de commenter les résultats d'une élection et surtout d'exprimer des réserves sur leur résultat. C'est contraire à notre conception du respect de la règle de droit et des principes démocratiques. La France veut donc exprimer ici ses plus sincères félicitations, sans réserve, sans condition, à notre Président indépendant du Conseil et à tous les membres des comités élus.

J'en profite pour exprimer mon amitié à nos collègues du Bangladesh et du Libéria qui n'ont pas été élus aux postes auxquels ils pouvaient prétendre, et je voudrais leur dire que bien sûr ils restent membres de notre communauté et j'espère bien que nous continuerons à travailler étroitement ensemble.

Je crois qu'il n'y a pas lieu de stigmatiser aujourd'hui, à ce moment, le déséquilibre dans la composition des comités, car stigmatiser c'est toujours discréditer. Les comités sont à peine élus, ils ne se sont pas encore réunis et déjà l'on émet des réserves. Ce n'est pas bien. Le Conseil est en effet un organe important de la FAO, chargé de prendre des décisions difficiles. Il nous revient donc de prendre ces décisions et de les assumer. Les décisions que nous prenons ne sont jamais optimales. Elles sont le fruit de consensus délicats et résultat d'équilibres précaires entre des objectifs parfois contradictoires. Et le Conseil, me semble-t-il, doit aussi à travers ces décisions, protéger la réputation

et l'intégrité de la FAO. En émettant des critiques, on peut nuire à la réputation de notre Organisation. Les discours sont publiés, circulent sur Internet.

Or, dans cette affaire, la FAO et ses règles de procédure ne sont nullement en cause. Ses règles sont claires, les États Membres peuvent présenter des candidats hommes et des candidats femmes. Ils n'ont, c'est vrai, présenté que très peu de femmes, je le regrette, nous le regrettons. Mais c'est l'affaire des États, c'est l'affaire des Groupes régionaux, la FAO n'est pas responsable de cet état de fait.

Je comprends la délégation américaine, qui a eu la cohérence de présenter deux candidats à ces comités, deux femmes. D'autres n'ont pas eu cette cohérence et je voudrais, pour faire preuve de transparence, parce qu'il faut être pragmatique sur ces questions, vous donner ma vision de la situation du Groupe Europe pour le Comité du Programme puisque c'est vrai le Groupe Europe a présenté trois hommes au Comité du Programme.

Pouvait-il en être autrement? Je ne suis pas sûr. J'étais présent et Zoltan, qui est à côté de moi, présidait la réunion du Groupe quand nous avons approuvé les trois candidatures, la mienne, celle de mon collègue norvégien et celle de mon collègue polonais. Tout de suite une petite bougie s'est allumée dans mon cerveau parce qu'il est évident qu'il y avait un déséquilibre. Dans mon Ambassade, je suis le seul homme, nous en avons parlé, nous nous sommes demandés est-ce qu'on peut réagir et faire quelque chose. Nous avons décidé de ne pas réagir. Pourquoi?

Le premier c'est la Norvège, il se trouve que le Représentant Permanent aujourd'hui de la Norvège est un homme. Pouvons-nous décemment demander à la Norvège de retirer sa candidature alors que c'est peut-être le pays le plus exemplaire en matière de promotion des droits de la femme? C'est un pays qui depuis longtemps promeut les femmes et a fait parmi les plus grandes avancées, en tous cas, en Europe. Non, bien sûr.

Ensuite, il y avait le collègue polonais. La Pologne est un grand pays agricole d'Europe. Je crois, sauf erreur de ma part, que la Pologne n'a jamais siégé dans aucun comité. Pouvons-nous refuser à la Pologne ce droit de siéger dans un comité parce que, ponctuellement aujourd'hui, elle est représentée par un homme?

Et le troisième c'est la France. Il se trouve que je suis l'Ambassadeur de France et je suis un homme, cela n'aura échappé à personne. Je n'ai pas choisi à ma naissance, on ne m'a pas demandé mon avis.

Mes deux prédécesseurs étaient des femmes, deux femmes qui auraient eu toutes les compétences pour exercer les fonctions de président de comité. Mais il se trouve que, quand elles étaient en poste ici, c'était un compatriote français qui présidait le Conseil. Bien sûr, il n'était pas concevable que nous prétendions aussi présider un comité. Donc elles n'ont pas pu faire acte de candidature. Et aujourd'hui, mon Gouvernement a choisi de me nommer à cette position. Devions-nous refuser de postuler à ce poste puisqu'aucun Français n'a présidé un comité depuis 25 ans? Après réflexion, nous avons décidé que non, et qu'il fallait présenter une candidature.

Je mets tout cela sur la table pour défendre une fois de plus l'Europe, qui passe trop son temps à s'auto-flageller et à s'autocritiquer. Il n'y a pas dans cette affaire de volonté d'exclusion des femmes, mais il y a une difficulté à faire émerger des candidatures féminines cette fois dans un contexte particulier. Mais je note que la dernière fois l'Europe avait présenté trois femmes dans ce Comité.

Ce qui me paraît important maintenant, c'est d'éviter les faux procès et d'avancer. Sur le Comité du Programme, puisque vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'élire Président du Comité, je peux vous assurer et je prends cet engagement devant vous, que j'aurai une exigence particulière sur tous les sujets touchant au droit humain et en particulier à la promotion des droits des femmes et à l'égalité des sexes. Ce Comité est composé uniquement d'hommes, cela ne m'a pas échappé non plus. Je crois qu'il devra donc être particulièrement vigilant sur la façon dont il abordera ces questions et sur l'importance qu'il donnera à la question de l'égalité des sexes.

Dans la déclaration des collègues américains, il y a une très belle phrase que je reprends à mon compte: «Les hommes peuvent être les champions de la promotion des droits des femmes et du renforcement de la place des femmes.» Je suis tout à fait d'accord. Il y a longtemps que je pense que la question de la promotion des droits des femmes n'est pas qu'une question de femmes. Cela concerne

aussi les hommes. Les hommes sont partie du problème et doivent être partie de la solution. Ils doivent être beaucoup plus mobilisés sur cette question.

J'invite aussi bien sûr toutes les collègues femmes de ce Conseil à participer à nos travaux. Traditionnellement, les réunions sont ouvertes aux observateurs, et j'espère bien qu'elles seront là pour communiquer aux membres du Comité et au Président leurs suggestions, leurs contributions et éventuellement leurs critiques.

Et puis, nous aurons d'autres élections. Nous aurons en octobre l'élection du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA). Comité important s'il en est. Je comprends que le G77 a proposé la candidature d'une femme. Je salue cette décision. Elle montre la voie. Nous aurons aussi à renouveler le bureau du CSA. J'invite donc toutes les délégations à promouvoir des candidatures féminines au renouvellement du bureau du CSA.

Je voudrais en conclusion remercier tous les collègues, encore une fois, qui ont bien voulu m'accorder leur confiance et j'essaierai d'en être digne. Ma candidature a été bien sûr approuvée par le groupe «OCDE plus», et je voudrais en particulier remercier la délégation des États-Unis et le Groupe Amérique du Nord pour le choix peu facile qu'ils ont fait. D'autres étaient légitimes à «candidater», mais ils ont décidé de soutenir ma candidature et je les en remercie.

Je voudrais aussi remercier la délégation russe, dont c'est aujourd'hui la fête nationale que nous allons fêter ce soir, je voudrais donc la remercier pour m'avoir apporté un soutien constant et clair, que j'ai beaucoup apprécié.

Et puis, je voudrais remercier tous les collègues du G77, pour leur témoignage de sympathie et de soutien pendant ces dernières semaines et ces derniers mois. J'ai été très sensible à ces marques de soutien qui ont pesé dans ma décision de me porter candidat et d'aller au bout de cette élection. La question de la sécurité alimentaire effectivement est d'abord un défi qui se jouera au sud, dans les pays en développement, et il est important pour moi de ne pas être l'élu d'un groupe mais d'être l'élu de tout le Conseil.

Pour finir, je veux dire que je serai très heureux de travailler avec tous les membres du Comité, les deux Présidents du Comité financier et du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, le Président indépendant du Conseil et bien sûr, tous les amis du Secrétariat. Je vous remercie.

Mr Majid DEGHAN SHOAR (Islamic Republic of Iran)

I wish to congratulate you, Mr Chairperson, for your re-election and also all the newly elected Members of the Council Committees, and I wish you and them all of the best of life and success.

As Ambassador of Iran and also currently Chair of G77, I am not going to just emphasize one issue. My point reflects the different speeches being done by many representatives, ambassadors, ministers. Everybody was talking about relations between hunger, violence and those things. Everybody was focusing on the issues and it looks our responsibility is so huge and we should think seriously about that point.

In this line, I wish to emphasize the fact that we need more technical collaboration among different Regional Groups, in particular in the case of priority areas. Focusing all of the Regional Groups to work more closely to combat hunger which is the prime cause of violence. Again, food loss, which G77 added in their statement, is the key as the database was talking about, 30 percent of cereal loss just because of so many things including technology.

We need to find an agreed mechanism to strengthen such technical collaboration among Regional Groups. I request, if you wish, you can initiate such an action and invite the Chairs of different Regional Groups and find all of those areas which is the priority for all countries working together and thinking about seriously on the solidarity of all Regional Groups and the unity is the key. Just I want to summarize my short talk. Solidarity is the key for FAO's success. I wish all of the success and solidarity among all FAO Member Nations.

M. Mohamed MELLAH (Algérie)

Je prends la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique pour exprimer nos sincères félicitations à l'ensemble des collègues qui ont été élus au niveau des différents comités, soit en qualité de président, soit en qualité de membre. À cette occasion, je tiens à leur exprimer, au nom du Groupe Afrique, nos vœux les meilleurs de succès dans leur mission et dans leur noble tâche. Nous leur faisons confiance, car ils ont des capacités, ils ont des compétences.

Il m'est également agréable de souligner l'esprit de solidarité, de compréhension et de respect mutuel qui a régné au long de ces élections. Je tiens à remercier à cette occasion, au nom du Groupe Afrique, l'Ambassadeur du Libéria, Monsieur Mohammed Sheriff, d'avoir retiré sa candidature afin de préserver la solidarité et l'unité au sein de ce Conseil. Je souhaite également me rallier aux collègues qui m'ont précédé pour promouvoir plus de femmes au niveau des comités, afin de respecter la règle de parité hommes-femmes au sein des organes de la FAO.

Sra. Mónica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)

Siendo mi primera intervención como Miembro del Consejo de la FAO, aprovecho la ocasión para reiterarle las felicitaciones de mi delegación para su nuevo mandato como Presidente Independiente del Consejo, asegurándole nuestro total apoyo en el ejercicio de sus funciones. Asimismo, deseo agradecer la membresía de la FAO y, en particular, a mi grupo regional, el GRULAC por la confianza expresada en endosar nuestra candidatura. Para el Gobierno de Nicaragua es de gran interés formar parte del Consejo de la FAO, del cual ha sido miembro desde el año 1991.

Teniendo en cuenta que su presencia en el referido órgano rector supone el compromiso de coadyuvar esfuerzos con los altos objetivos de la Organización, respondiendo de manera eficiente y eficaz a las necesidades de sus Estados Miembros. Deseo también felicitar y darles la bienvenida a los nuevos Miembros del Consejo, quienes han sido elegidos en la Conferencia, a los presidentes de los diferentes comités y miembros elegidos a los cuales deseamos éxitos en su labor.

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original language Chinese)

Mr Chairperson, on behalf of China, let me once again congratulate you on your re-election as the ICC. We stand ready to work with you under your professional, excellent and wise guidance, and we can work together with you to respond to the challenges that we face in the food security in the world.

I also want to congratulate the Members and the Chairpersons of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and CCLM. This is my first time I speak as China's Permanent Representative to FAO.

I worked for over 23 years in the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and while I was there, I witnessed the chronic shortage of food and other agricultural commodities in China and, due to our great efforts, now China can meet the demands for food and agricultural products with our own resources.

We have a very important reason for that. For the past 30 years, China has obtained great support from international organizations, especially FAO, and from many Member Nations of FAO. China's agriculture has made great progress and China's agricultural commodities can meet the demands of our own people and we would not achieve that without progress and the support of Member Nations.

I wish to take the opportunity today to appreciate your strong support to myself and, in the next stage, I will work together with all of you. We shall further collaborate and enhance our exchanges and we can jointly make contributions to addressing the challenges in meeting the global food security.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

Buenos días a todos los Miembros del Consejo, en especial, los que han sido electos en primera oportunidad, pero igualmente a los miembros del Consejo que han sido nuestros colegas en los últimos años y que han obtenido de nuevo la confianza por parte de los grupos regionales para que les representemos en este importante organismo. Igualmente, felicito a todos los miembros que han asumido las responsabilidades para conducir tres importantes comités, que deliberan en función de, precisamente, garantizar el trabajo que debe llevar adelante este Consejo, como lo son el Comité del Programa, el Comité de Finanzas, el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. Les deseo el mayor éxito a todos.

Quisiera hablar en este momento, porque creo que será el último Consejo en el que estaré hablando. Ya el próximo Consejo no estaré acá en esta hermosa Organización, la cual nos ha dejado mucho al paso nuestro por esta Organización hemos aprendido de todos ustedes, de usted, Señor Presidente, y de todos los colegas que nos han acompañado en el día a día, en la lucha que hemos llevado adelante en esta Organización. Pero me ha llamado la atención el debate y creo que no debemos perder la oportunidad de un debate que yo estaría encantada de proseguir cual es el debate de la equidad, de la paridad de género en los organismos que conforman este Consejo y que integran los otros comités técnicos en esta Organización. Y lo quisiera decir, porque en el caso nuestro, llevamos 16 años de Gobierno bolivariano afianzando el derecho que tiene la mujer a la igualdad, a tener una participación política protagónica en todas las organizaciones del poder, desde la máximas instancias, hasta la más pequeña de las comunas o de los grupos de las mujeres de barrio en cualquier parte de nuestro país.

Nosotros iniciamos este proceso en 1999 estableciendo una Constitución de la República que tiene un lenguaje de género. Eso hizo que lleváramos la Constitución a un número de páginas mayor que la que se pensaba originalmente porque está escrito explícitamente en todas y cada una de las circunstancias que sea necesario el lenguaje de género. O sea, la Asamblea Nacional la integran diputadas y diputados, los ministerios están integrados por ministras y ministros, de tal manera que el lenguaje de género lo cubrimos a todos los niveles y en todos los espacios. Nuestro país es un país que tiene todos los poderes públicos, excepto la Presidencia de la República en manos de la mujer. Hemos tenido presidencias y vicepresidencia de la Asamblea Nacional y la Constitución garantiza los servicios de planificación familiar, la asistencia de la madre, que no haya discriminación en base a sexo, protege la equidad entre esposas y esposos, amplía los beneficios de seguridad social para las amas de casa porque la mujer es protagónica y porque la familia es la base fundamental de nuestra sociedad.

Creo que es importante indicar que en el 2006 se aprobó una Ley Orgánica sobre el derecho de las mujeres a una vida libre de violencia y en esa se tipifican 19 formas de violencia contra la mujer y establece mecanismos de defensa, acción y protección. Venezuela alcanzó antes del tiempo establecido la Meta del Milenio de Naciones Unidas en cuanto a promoción de equidad de género y empoderamiento de la mujer y diferentes misiones se han establecido para darles la protección, en especial, a las más débiles y a las que viven en pobreza extrema.

Doce ministras existen en el gabinete ejecutivo y yo quisiera, en definitiva, indicarles que, acorde con decisiones previas que ha venido tomando el sistema de Naciones Unidas, creo que nosotros deberíamos trabajar y recoger las palabras que muchos de los que me antecedieron, las cuales comparto, han indicado en términos de salir de la retórica y hacer en concreto algo por el tema de la mujer. Somos iguales, tenemos el derecho de seguir construyendo esta organización desde papeles relevantes y creo que es muy merecido de que eso sea así porque estamos en el día a día de la lucha del trabajo, al igual que ustedes, al igual que todos los hombres estamos de hombro a hombro trabajando todos los días en el beneficio de la erradicación del hambre, de la seguridad alimentaria, del a nutrición y del trabajo que desarrolla durante los 365 días del año esta Organización. Muchísimas gracias, Señor Presidente y auguro lo mejor para su segunda gestión y para todos los colegas que quedaron electos. Muchas gracias y espero, pues, éxitos en adelante para que esta Organización siga consolidando a la FAO.

Mr Abreha ASSEFA (Ethiopia)

The Ethiopian Delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the Africa Region. The Ethiopian Delegation further joins others in congratulating you for re-election as Independent Chairperson of the Council.

We further join others in congratulating the members of the three Council Committees and wishing them success in their future work. We also share the disappointment expressed by Members with regard to the fact that women are not elected to the committees. We remember that, during the last two terms, the Programme Committee was ably led by Ambassador Cecilia Nordin Van Gansberghe of Sweden. Not only that, there were other very active and able lady members of the Programme Committee as well. And we share the view expressed by the Ambassador of France that it was up to the regions to elect women and men and not for FAO to do that.

Mr Bandar A. SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to endorse all previous speakers' comments, especially with respect to the congratulations extended to you, Mr Chairperson, on your election as Independent Chair of Council and you are very worthy of that office. I would like to wish every success and thank all of those who have been elected to chair or to be members of the Council Committees. I hope that those who were not elected this time will be more fortunate next time. We, as other members of the Council, have said and we agree with them, we are worthy of your trust. We will cooperate with you and all the Members of Council and the committees. This cooperation will be productive and worthwhile and we wish everybody success.

Moreover, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for our colleague, the Ambassador of Venezuela to FAO, and I wish her every success in her future endeavours. We have learned a great deal from her, not just regarding FAO. She has also worked with us in IFAD and the WFP. So I wish her every success in the future.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Observer for Sweden)

Sweden strongly supports the statements made by the European Union, the Nordic Countries, Liberia, and others. We wish the newly elected Committee Members all the best in their important work.

Sometimes, the mission can seem a tough one but it is well worth the effort and the Council is grateful for that. However, as it is still a fact that the two halves of humanity live in different worlds, we are worried that the present composition of the Committees, representing almost only the male half, will lead to important aspects being overlooked. We the Members and the Secretariat must redouble our efforts to include all dimensions, male and female, in our work to be able to serve FAO's Members. Thus, the report from this Council should make this commitment explicit.

Finally, I look forward to seeing further increased work on gender as I know the elected Committee Members are firm champions of this common goal: equal opportunities for women and men.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for your constructive statements, and particularly your remarks on gender balance. I will encourage all the Members to be sensitive on this issue. I am ready to support you through consultations with the Regional Groups on this endeavor if you wish.

We have come to the end of the agenda items regarding the election of the Chairpersons and the Members of the Council Committees. Before we move to item 6, I should like to recognize with appreciation the excellent work done by the outgoing Chairperson of the Programme Committee, Ambassador Cecilia Nordin of Sweden, of the Finance Committee, Mr Mougui Médi of Cameroon, and the CCLM, Ms Mónica Martínez of Ecuador, for their outstanding work. This recognition extends also to the members of all three Council committees for their contribution to the work of the committees.

Item 6. Matters Arising out of the Conference Session

Point 6. Questions découlant de la session de la Conférence

Tema 6. Cuestiones planteadas en el período de sesiones de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to item 6, *Matters Arising out of the Conference Session*.

Ladies and gentlemen, the matters arising from the Conference will be handled by the relevant Committees or the Secretariat, and Council will follow up on their implementation.

Nevertheless, as regards the "Assessment of the Independent Review of FAO Governance Reforms", which was approved by the 39th Session of the Conference, Council will play a particularly important follow up role. Of course we will now need to compile a Road Map of actions for the next two years in order to act on the recommendations and suggestions contained in the matrix approved by Conference in document C 2015/26 Rev.1. I look forward to working with the Members in this regard.

Does any Council Member wish to take the floor and make comments under this item? As there are no other issues to discuss under item 6 we can move on.

- Item 7. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2015-16**
Point 7. Calendrier 2015-2016 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales
Tema 7. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2015-16
(CL 152/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to item 7, *Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions 2015-2016*, the relevant document is CL 152/2 which has been prepared to avoid clashes with the dates of IFAD and WFP Governing Body sessions.

The dates given for the sessions in 2016 are for information only at this stage as they will be submitted for approval at the next Council Session in November-December 2015.

Are there any comments?

Ms Akiko NAKANO (Japan)

The Government of Japan is grateful for the unprecedented achievement last Council has reached, together with the unanimous support of the Conference. We recognized it as epochal progress in coping with the tough negotiation. They are the evidence of the need for vigorous action and the continuous effort for reaching effectiveness, the importance of which is indeed incalculable. This leads us to ask the Secretariat to consider that the substantial agenda of Programme of Work might be placed in next 40th Conference in 2017.

We believe this would allow Distinguished Delegates attending the Conference to contribute more fruitfully to the discussions. From this standpoint, we hope the Organization to take the lead with its Members, including Japan, as we take our seat among the members of Programme Committee. Our government therefore solemnly renews its strong commitment to the Organization through completing full payment of assessed contribution this year today. This has given us all the more cause to believe this Organization would move ahead as the forward thinking body, together with the expectation for strengthened re-elected leaders.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

First of all, we would like to congratulate you on your re-election to this important office and to serve with satisfaction.

As regards this agenda item, we would like to express gratitude for that being taken over our comment at the last meeting with respect to the inclusion in this timetable. We would like to refer to 2016, a very important event for our region, that is the European Regional Conference, which will be held from 2 to 5 May. On 1 May we will have the Orthodox Easter and it is a holiday in many countries, which means that the delegates will have to fly to the Regional Conference event on that holiday, and it would be desirable to avoid that sort of clash in the future.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. That will be taken into consideration in the future.

Mr Bandar A. SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

In the light of what the colleague from the Russian Federation has said, I would like to remind the Secretariat that there was a decision adopted by the United Nations General Assembly to respect festivities and holidays and perhaps we should review the calendar, especially in the light of the Muslim calendar, in order to avoid any overlapping with Muslim holidays, as we are not be able to attend meetings. We would ask the Secretariat to take this into consideration.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Saudi Arabia, for that advice.

I take note that the next session of Council will take place from 30 November to 4 December 2015.

- Item 8. Provisional Agenda for the 153rd Session of the Council (November-December 2015)**
Point 8. Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent cinquante-troisième session du Conseil (novembre-décembre 2015)
Tema 8. Programa provisional del 153.º período de sesiones del Consejo (noviembre-diciembre de 2015)

(CL 152/INF/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move to item 8, the *Provisional Agenda for the 153rd Session of the Council*, which we have just decided will be held from 30 November to 4 December 2015.

An information document has been tabled under this item, namely CL 152/INF/2. Are there any delegations who wish to take the floor under this item?

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan appreciates your leadership and will cooperate fully with your important roles during your second term. I have two comments on CL 152/INF/2. One is with respect to Agenda item 17, *Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO*. We would expect that under this item priority should be given to the outcome of the UNGA on SDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda as well as the International Conference on Finance for Development which takes place next month. We hope this will be on the top of the list.

My second comment is with respect to Agenda item 7, *Independent Review of Decentralized Offices*. I understand that this is in response to Recommendation 1 of the Synthesis Report that the Conference discussed. But the Conference said that this will come through the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committee to the Council. So if it is included in the Report of the Joint Session, then why are we having an independent item? In addition, the Joint Session proposed and the Council agreed that the evaluation unit will also prepare the common critical issues and that will also come to the Council through the Report of the Programme Committee. So I would like to find out what is the reason for having item 7 as an independent item.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The point raised by Afghanistan is very pertinent, as usual. It is not the first time that we have independent items on the Council Agenda although the same subject matter may have been discussed already in the Council Committees. Often this is due to the significance and wide-ranging importance of the subject.

One way to organize the work of the Council, would be to include this subject as a sub-item, of the report of the Chairperson of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees to the Council. All the interventions on this subject would be referred to the sub-item.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. As we still have some months for the Council to take place, we will reflect on the issues you have raised. We have concluded item 8.

- Item 10. Working Methods of the Council**
Point 10. Méthodes de travail du Conseil
Tema 10. Métodos de trabajo del Consejo
 (CL 152/INF/4)

CHAIRPERSON

We can now pass on to item 10 of the Agenda, *Working Methods of the Council*. I will give the floor to the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I am very pleased to report that, as requested by Members during the last session of Council, the Conference documents web page has now a new template and a mobile-friendly layout. The web page

also provides Members with the possibility of downloading documents. To explain more practically: if you go to the web page, you will see that there is a column on the right-hand side of the page where you can “tick” the documents that you wish to download. Documents selected will be downloaded as a ‘zip’ file. These new features have been implemented to enable easier consultation of meeting documents by Members also using smart phones and tablets.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon. If there are no comments from Members I will take it that item 10 can be concluded.

Item 11. Any Other Matters

Point 11. Autres questions

Tema 11 Asuntos varios

CHAIRPERSON

We can now pass on to item 11, *Any Other Matters*. Does any member wish to take the floor? I see none. Item 11 is closed

Item 9. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO

Point 9. Évolution des débats au sein d’autres instances intéressant la FAO

Tema 9. Novedades en foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO

(CL 152/INF/3)

CHAIRPERSON

Our last item this morning is item 9, *Developments in Fora of Importance for the mandate of FAO*. The relevant document is CL 152/INF/3.

The Council will be provided through the following presentations with information on important debates taking place in other international fora which are of importance to FAO’s mandate, namely:

- Outcome of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research Centres Fund Council, which was held in Bogor, Indonesia, from 28 to 30 April 2015;
- Eleventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, which was held in New York from 4 to 15 May 2015;
- FAO’s role in Pesticide Risk Reduction in International Fora; and
- Outcome of the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (COP-7), which was held in Geneva from 4 to 15 May 2015.

In the interest of good time keeping I propose that questions from the floor be taken after all the speakers have made their presentation.

I will now ask Mr Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department to introduce the first presentation under this item: Outcome of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research Centres Fund Council.

Mr Ren WANG (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

It is really a great honour to be here to make this report. As many of us know, the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research is a network of 15 International Agricultural Research Centers which bears significant importance and also relevance directly to FAO's mandate and mission.

In 2009, the CGIAR concluded the review and reform of its structures and formulated a completely new structure with two pillars as shown in this slide that a consortium with legal status representing the 15 international centers were formulated and also a separate fund governed by a Fund Council to represent the donor side was established. Each of these two pillars was supported by a supporting office.

Now, after almost four years of implementation of the new structure, it was reportedly identified that there are certain problems, as identified by a mid-term review of the CGIAR system which was concluded in 2014, that this new structure although resulted in almost doubling the annual revenue of the system. It has ambiguity in accountability among the components of the system and also an unclear role of the particular consortium in its facilitation role for the 15 centres as well as a regulator role accountable to the donors or to the funders. Those problems have again reportedly resulted in inefficiency and also more bureaucracy of the system.

As a result, the 13th Fund Council Meeting held in Bogor made a series of decisions which I am going to briefly highlight here.

First a new strategy and results framework for the year 2016-2030 was agreed for submission to the funders' forum and these are targets to be achieved in line with FAO's Strategic Objectives. This is from FAO's perspective and those will provide strategic direction for the second call of CGIAR research programmes or the CRPs.

And here is a table just to highlight some key decisions from the changes that will take place from the current setup of the governance structure to some new forms. The CGIAR Consortium, with fifteen centres, served by a consortium office which is the current form, will be sort of consolidated. The CGIAR system organization with a unified governing council with subordinate committees will be established.

The CGIAR Council will be consolidated – the Fund Office will be consolidated with the new system office which will continue to be located in Montpellier, France and the World Bank will be asked to Chair the new system council.

The decision by consensus of the Fund Council which is the current mechanism for decision-making for the Fund Council will be changed slightly so that there will be reduced Fund Council membership from the current twenty-two to fifteen, and also there will be a voting mechanism introduced in the event when consensus is not reached.

FAO continues to host the two system offices which is the Secretariat of the Independent Science and Partnership Council and also the Independent Evaluation Arrangement as currently is the case.

By the way, FAO now contributes about USD 1.35 million to the ISPC budget and also there is an agreement at FC 13 that the ISPC, the Independent Science and Partnership Council, will be strengthened and new arrangements and reporting lines to be developed during the transition phase to fit the new structure.

Finally but not least, another key decision of the Fund Council is that the financing of the core operations of the CGIAR gene banks agreed through the Global Crop Diversity Trust and also the Fund Council Meeting agreed on a transition arrangement. The goal is to establish the new CGIAR system organization by end of July 2016 and also the first system council meeting will be held in October/November of next year.

A new Executive Director will be appointed by the Council. So the next steps will include the establishment of this transition team and also the preparation of a transition plan which is supposed to be submitted to the Fund Council now basically. So we have not received a copy of that and the transition plan and the associated budget to Fund Council for approval will be submitted again before the end of July this year.

As we see from the Secretariat, there are certain important relevance or implications for FAO. We see that the new CGIAR and the Strategy and Results Framework is highly relevant for aligning international agriculture research with the strategic development objectives of FAO and also the likelihood of reduced influence and role in decision-making by FAO and other international organizations including the Global Forum for Agriculture Research, GFAR, in the CGIAR system governance.

This is because not only will the international organizations be treated as quote, "active observers" on the Fund Council who will be able to propose agenda items and join discussions, but will not have voting rights if or when the event is taking place.

And there is a specific sort of risk of weakened linkages with the development activities of FAO because of that and the FAO needs to follow up closely with the CGIAR's transition to the new system while minimizing potential interruption of the CGIAR research programmes and the public goods research.

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move to the next speaker, Mr Eduardo Rojas, Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department, who will make a presentation on the Eleventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

Mr Eduardo ROJAS (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

It is a pleasure to address the Council and to report on the progress of the recent Eleventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests held in New York in the first half of May.

As you may recall in Rio 92, there were four conventions expected. The fourth on forests did not succeed and the process was conducted in 2000 by the establishment of the United Nations Forum on Forests under ECOSOC and its Secretariat in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

After 15 years, in 2015, this United Nations Forum on Forests was still to be reviewed and the basic review was focusing on the so-called International Arrangement on Forests and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests.

The review had also as its aim to analyze the contribution of forests to international agreed development goals including the MDGs, to decide on the future international arrangement on forests and it was in the previous two years, intersessional activities included two ad-hoc working groups, two country-led initiatives in China and Switzerland, and an independent review.

The outcomes of the Eleventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests were basically two elements, the ministerial declaration and an ECOSOC resolution. The Ministerial declaration was focusing on implementing sustainable forest management to integrate it into poverty reduction strategies and national sustainable development strategies and strengthen and make more effective the post-2015 international arrangement on forests in support of the collaborative partnership on forests.

The second outcome, the draft ECOSOC resolution, was focusing on how this international arrangement on forests should look like beyond 2015. If you compare this outcome with the independent review, you would see that there is a big difference. The independent review went very far and eventually the present overloaded international agenda with COP21, SDGs, the Addis Abeba Conference, and so on, was not the best frame for our very ambitious focus.

So the basic agreements that are now under the review of ECOSOC – but it is normally expected that ECOSOC would just confirm them – extend the mandate of this arrangement in the same form with small changes, to 2030 with a wish to strengthen it. It changes the biannual UNFF sessions to annual sessions with an alternative focus on policy and technical discussions, establish a strategic plan for the next 15 years including the drafting period from 2015 to 2017, and establish a mid-term review in 2024, so in nine years, where the full range of options that are still contingent and open would be reviewed in basically a globally binding agreement and a voluntary global forest fund or similar arrangement. It also extends the timeline of the global objectives on forests as well to 2030, aligning it with the SDGs and strengthening the so-called facilitative process to the global forest finance facilitating network.

Those decisions that are much more relevant for FAO as the collaborative partnership on forests was identified and strengthened to support the implementation of the non-legally binding instruments and the contribution of forests to the post-2015 development agenda and also this non-legally binding agreement was changed in its name to forest instrument.

The collaborative partnership on forests was recommended as a way to strengthen its input, basically to establish an MOU between its 40 members. There was a call to governing bodies of the CPF to support the work of the CPF and FAO, as Chair of the CPF, was enabled to continue its role.

The guidance that we request from Council is basically to acknowledge the contribution of the renewed international arrangement on forests, to recognize the elite role of FAO in the CPF, so implementing the decisions of several COFO sessions to the 150th session of the Council, and the recent Conference will need to review the COFO report, to strengthen the support to the implementation of the forest instruments, the previously non-legally binding instrument, and to support and streamline monitoring and assessment of forests and reporting through the FRA process, avoiding a duplication in this area.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now give the floor to the next speaker, Mr Harry van der Wulp, Senior Policy Officer, Pesticides Management Division, who will make a presentation on FAO's role in Pesticide Risk Reduction in International Fora.

Mr Harry VAN DER WULP (Senior Policy Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division)

The purpose of this brief presentation is to provide an update of progress since the 131st Council, with special attention to requests made at the time to incorporate the strategic approach to international chemicals management into FAO's work on pesticide risk reduction and to specifically address the problem of highly hazardous pesticides.

In the first slide I will dedicate to give you an idea of the progress that has been made in general since this 131st Council. We revised the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and the code now also has been formally adopted by the World Health Organization and it now covers all pesticides. Originally it focused on agriculture pesticides. Now it covers the whole range of pesticides.

We published eleven technical guidelines in support of the Code of Conduct that elaborate on specific elements of the code. We assisted over sixty countries in strengthening regulatory control of pesticides. We broadly promoted IPM as a pillar of sustainable pesticide management and we removed over five thousand tonnes of obsolete pesticides from around thirty countries.

More specifically on highly hazardous pesticides, these are now defined and addressed in the Revised Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and the FAO/WHO joint meeting on pesticide management developed criteria for highly hazardous pesticides and is now finalizing guidelines to provide guidance on how to deal with this issue to governments and other stakeholders.

Specific attention is consistently being given to highly hazardous pesticides in FAO workshops, meetings and projects. So this is pretty much being mainstreamed now in all of the activities we undertake related to pesticides.

Let me briefly recapitulate why highly hazardous pesticides need special attention. Highly hazardous pesticides can present high acute human toxicity, chronic human toxicity, and for instance carcinogens are the one most people are most concerned about, or it can present severe environmental hazards.

Most farmers are not able to meet safety requirements for highly hazardous pesticides. That is a big problem. As a result of that, there is a very high incidence of pesticide poisoning and over 95 percent of those poisoning cases happen in low- and middle-income countries.

Now a small group of these highly hazardous pesticides is actually responsible for a very high proportion of poisoning. Another thing is that the concerns about food safety and long-term health are increasingly attracting attention and the last point is good news. There are in most cases alternatives available.

Now what has been happening in SAICM, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, SAICM stakeholders are calling for greater attention to highly hazardous pesticides. In response, FAO, together with WHO and UNEP was invited to develop a proposal for addressing highly hazardous pesticides and this has involved the multi-stakeholder process with inputs from NGOs, private sector and trade unions.

This proposal will now be up for approval at the fourth International Conference of Chemicals Management which will take place in September.

The key elements of the proposal are assistance to countries to help raise awareness about highly hazardous pesticides, facilitate the identification of highly hazardous pesticides in use, empower national regulatory authorities to deal with highly hazardous pesticides, and to enhance information sharing on viable alternatives.

The role of FAO in all of this is to develop guidelines within the context of the Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management to support Member Nations in addressing highly hazardous pesticides through guidance, workshops, meetings, projects, and to facilitate the sharing of information and experience, and finally to provide leadership to the further development and implementation of the plan that is based on our experience.

If this proposal gets approved in September at the ICCM 4, the proposal will provide a framework for concerted international action and promote collaboration among a broad range of stakeholders including international organizations, governments, academia, civil society and the private sector, and it will provide an opportunity to scale up ongoing work on highly hazardous pesticides and to leverage our resources.

CHAIRPERSON

Our last speaker is Ms Christine Fuell, Senior Technical Officer, Rotterdam Convention, who will make a presentation on the Outcome of the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (COP-7).

Ms Christine FUELL (Senior Technical Officer, Rotterdam Convention, Plant Production and Protection Division)

It is an honour for me to provide you with a brief overview on the outcome of the seventh meeting of these conventions and I will go immediately into some details.

The Rotterdam Convention Conference of the Parties had its seventh meeting convened back-to-back with the meetings of the Conferences of the Stockholm and the Basel Conventions from 4 to 15 May in Geneva this year.

They had joint sessions and also individual sessions to respect the legal entity. The overall theme was from science to action, working for a safer tomorrow, and this theme was also reflected in a three-day science fair as well as in over thirty side events and the coverage of 130 articles approximately about the Conference.

We had almost 1,200 participants from 171 countries. The Secretariat arrangement, as you know, for Rotterdam is such that there is a Joint Secretariat provided by FAO and by UNEP, the FAO being responsible mainly for the pesticides under the Rotterdam Convention and UNEP being mainly responsible for industrial chemicals. This is captured and laid down in a memorandum of understanding signed in 2005.

The other two conventions, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Basel Convention on Hazardous Waste in Transboundary Movements, are purely UNEP administered conventions. However, the Rotterdam Convention is a very unique example of the good cooperation between two international organizations and we are increasingly working together also with the other two conventions.

The management of chemicals and waste is an essential element of sustainable development and this was also recognized by the Conference of Parties, by all three of them, and in fact the Secretariat has provided some input to the document that will now be consulted during this year and the Conventions are actually addressed in goal 12 under that document, stating that the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their lifetime is an essential element.

So the Secretariat, represented by the Secretaries, will actively contribute to the further negotiations of this document and in particular on the indicators and the financial criteria.

I would like to remind that the PIC Procedure, the listing of substances under the Rotterdam Convention, is not constituting a ban. A ban we have under the Stockholm Convention. Under the

Rotterdam Convention, we make the substances listed in the Annex only subject to the PIC Procedure. This is a procedure by which parties make a decision whether they are able to manage the risk attached to these substances on the list in Annex 3. And by that, making a decision, they will be able to avoid unwanted trade so they can also prohibit the import of these substances into their country. But the substances themselves may be produced, used, traded and exported to those countries which consent to the import.

The Conference of Parties of the Rotterdam Convention took mainly four key decisions among others. One being the listing of pesticides in Annex 3. We had two pesticides and two severely hazardous pesticide formulations on the agenda and one industrial chemical. Unfortunately, we could only list one pesticide, methamidophos. The pesticide trichlorfon as well as the two severely hazardous pesticide formulations, perquat dichloride and fenthion, and I should say also the industrial chemical were deferred to further discussions in 2017 by COP 8.

Since the inclusion was objected to by only a very small number of countries, it was agreed that intersessional work would be necessary to better understand the concerns of these few countries with the view to hopefully list the substances in 2017.

The Conference of Parties complimented the Secretariat on its technical assistance provided during the current biennium and encouraged them to continue assisting parties, in particular by identifying alternatives to pesticides already listed and also candidate chemicals that have been now under discussion to find alternative approaches, methods, and maybe also less hazardous pesticides for agricultural uses.

All of this work is done in an integrated way contributing to FAO's Strategic Framework. The delivery of the technical assistance is also very much cooperation between the staff in the Secretariat with the staff in the decentralized offices.

The third key decision was the compliance. We could not reach a final conclusion on that. It is a longstanding item on the agenda but good progress was made. Revised texts of compliance procedures and mechanisms have been prepared with the hope to be able to adopt this after more discussion at COP 8 in 2017. Also for that item, intersessional work is foreseen and the Rotterdam Convention Bureau is asked to work together with parties to facilitate such an adoption in 2017.

Finally, the Conference also adopted a Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-17. The overall budget will be around USD 12.9 million, USD 7.2 million approximately from assessed contributions and around USD 5.7 million in voluntary contributions.

The voluntary contributions, this is actually the amount we are trying to fundraise for. This is not the budget we have in our pockets. The FAO is encouraged to continue the support they are giving to the Secretariat and to the Rotterdam Convention overall.

The final report will be available soon on the Rotterdam Convention website. It is actually a clearing house mechanism where you can easily get also to Stockholm and Basel and the synergy page so you have all of the decisions and all of the conventions at one glance. It will take approximately three to four weeks until the final report is available.

What is already clear at this point is that COP 8 will take place in 2017 again in Geneva, 23 April to 5 May.

Mr Antonio Otavio SÁ RICARTE (Brazil)

Let me start by congratulating you on your re-election and expressing our appreciation for the reports that have been given to us by several staff members of the Secretariat. Brazil believes that the role of FAO with regard to the subject matters that we have been informed about is essential for the continuation of UN-coordinated activities in these fields. I would like particularly to praise the support FAO has been giving to the SAICM as well as the Rotterdam processes and encourage the Secretariat to continue to do so, particularly with regard to the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention.

I would also like to highlight the importance that, in preparation for SAICM 4, FAO continues to give its full support to the implementation of the recommendations that came out of SAICM 3 as well as to the continuation of the Quick Start Programme funding activities.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

Puisque c'est la première fois, depuis la semaine dernière, que nous prenons la parole ici, nous voudrions dire d'abord combien nous sommes heureux de vous savoir à nouveau Président de ce Conseil pour un nouveau mandat. Nous voulons également saisir cette occasion pour féliciter tous les membres des Comités du Conseil qui ont été élus au cours de cette session, et nous leur souhaitons bon vent.

Pour ce qui concerne le sujet à l'ordre du jour sur l'évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO, permettez-moi d'entrée de jeu de féliciter tous les présentateurs sur des questions combien importantes, à partir desquelles nous sommes informés de ce qui se passe par ailleurs et qui ont un intérêt pour notre Organisation.

Je voudrais revenir sur une question, je ne sais pas lequel des intervenants va y répondre, sur le rôle que la FAO joue dans le contrôle des risques dus aux pesticides ou alors la réunion de la Convention des Parties à la Convention de Rotterdam. Nous avons appris, c'est déjà un fait connu par tout le monde, que le glyphosate est sorti et qu'il est désormais un produit banni. Quel est le rôle que les uns et les autres ont joué dans cette décision, et comment entend-on gérer les stocks puisque certains pays, comme le mien, ont longtemps utilisé certains produits à base de glyphosate, pour nous herbicide de tous les temps, et que nous en avons encore de grandes quantités; bien entendu cela pose des problèmes, comment les sortir totalement du circuit, comment cela va-t-il se faire, quelle est la procédure qu'il faut entamer dorénavant pour ce faire? Voilà une interrogation, qui certes n'a rien à voir avec les réunions qui ont eu lieu, mais c'est un peu sur le rôle que la FAO peut jouer dans ce contexte précis.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We appreciate all of the presentations. I have one question to raise - another clarification to ask. The ADG for Agriculture and Consumer Protection, when he was talking about the restructuring of the CGR, said the new structure will be closely aligned with FAO Strategic Objectives. Could you please explain how?

Sr Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

Mi delegación hace uso de la palabra por primera vez en el día de hoy y quiere resaltar lo grato que es verlo a usted presidiendo esta sesión del Consejo luego de su reelección por aclamación. En cuanto a lo que nos ocupa en este momento, la delegación argentina quería agradecer las cuatro presentaciones que se han realizado y quería avanzar una pregunta, realizar una pregunta a la Secretaría del Convenio de Rotterdam relativa a si existe o han pensado en la posibilidad de ejecutar, realizar actividades de capacitación en Roma.

Mr Ren WANG (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

Thank you, Afghanistan. Let me clarify that. What I was presenting was that we believe that the newly approved Strategy and Results Framework is very much aligned with FAO's SOs rather than the new governance structure. So we believe that the new SRF is indeed very much aligned to the FAO mandate mission and SOs. I will not go into the details, but the governance structure, actually, we submitted our written comments, before the final Council meeting in which we expressed actually our concerns.

Mr Harry van der WULP (Senior Policy Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division)

Let me try to answer your question about glyphosate. It was the International Agency for Research on Cancer, which is the research arm of the World Health Organization, that regularly reviews pesticides, and they found that glyphosate was probably carcinogenic. There was limited evidence of carcinogenicity in humans for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. What this really means, I think, is not really clear yet. There will be more work done to see in real situations the actual volumes that are being used

and what the actual hazard is. So I think this basically has been a point where a red flag was raised and that initiates now much further research to determine what the actual hazards are before measures can be taken. I do not think for everyone who has been using glyphosates there is a big reason now to have a big panic, but we should be waiting for the results and then take action based on those results.

I also would like to use this to illustrate the problem we have with pesticides because pesticides tend to have sort of a ten-year cycle. When they get invented, they are proclaimed very safe and the best thing, the newest, the good alternative, and then after a certain period of time, very often there is a problem. We have seen this with glyphosates. Glyphosate was presented to the world as one of the safest things you could have – safer than table salt, Monsanto told us at that point in time. After it then gets used a lot, you eventually get these types of problems. It gets researched and you get issues. So, therefore, it is really important that the UN Agencies – WHO, FAO, UNEP – continue to monitor very closely all these pesticides to see when new issues arise and then to take action on that. But I think we have now established that there is an issue, but the action has not yet been established and that will probably be coming pretty soon.

Ms Christine FUELL (Senior Technical Officer, Rotterdam Convention, Plant Production and Protection Division)

It regards the training and capacity-building of parties. We work under different mechanisms. We provide technical assistance on a national basis upon request. If countries are asking directly that they want to have a certain technical assistance for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, and we try to address that together with them to understand their particular needs. We also do technical assistance on the more regional level in order to enhance also the cooperation within the region, the cooperation of our designated national authorities, because communication among the different ministries is key and the coordination helps very much in the region to implement the Convention and also to provide a sort of South-South Cooperation from one country to another if you so wish. We try to enhance the efficiency also in that way and to focus on a stronger regional delivery.

We also provide webinars in a regular timeframe. You can find forthcoming webinars on our website on particular issues. These vary - now there will be a webinar on the outcomes of the Conference of Parties but there are also dedicated webinars on particular issues like submission of notifications, etc. We have on the website, which I mentioned already, a huge source of information. We have a resource kit that includes an e-learning programme which enables parties to also go into and go through the e-learning and get a first basis on how to implement the conventions, which is quite important when there is a change of designated national authorities, a change of personnel, and then we have to retrain people.

We are meeting end-June with the decentralized offices here in headquarters and there we will also talk about the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention in the regions and how to work still better with the decentralized offices where our cooperation is already very good. So all together we have a combination of provision of technical assistance in a face-to-face mode as well as in a virtual mode.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes item 9 of the agenda. The list of presentations will be included in the Council Report. In addition, the Power Point presentations we have just seen will be posted on the Members Gateway at the end of this meeting.

Debriefing on Field Visit to Uganda (12-19 April 2015) by Senior Officials of Rome-based Permanent Representations

Compte rendu sur la visite de terrain effectuée en Ouganda (12-19 avril 2015) par des hauts fonctionnaires de bureaux de représentants permanents sis à Rome

Informe oral acerca de la visita sobre el terreno realizada por altos funcionarios de las Representaciones Permanentes en Roma a Uganda (12-19 de abril de 2015)

CHAIRPERSON

I now welcome to the podium His Excellency Crisantos Obama Ondo, Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea to FAO, and Mr Damien Kelly, Permanent Representative of Ireland to FAO, to debrief the Council on the field visit to Uganda which took place from 12 to 19 April this year.

Sr Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Aprovecho esta ocasión para felicitar a los nuevos Miembros elegidos de los diferentes órganos de la FAO y, Señor Presidente, mis felicitaciones por la forma en que conduce los trabajos de esta sesión del Consejo de la FAO. Hay que indicar, efectivamente, que la visita de los sectores permanentes y grandes oficinas sobre terreno sigue siendo crucial para los Miembros de la Organización para conocer de cerca el trabajo que la FAO hace sobre todo y sobre todo comparar todo lo que dijimos aquí, en Roma, y todo lo que se hace sobre el terreno. Por lo tanto, el pasado mes de abril posiblemente, hubo un grupo de miembros de esta institución pudo visitar Uganda. Uganda es un país enclavado en el África del Este. En principio, habría que indicar que la visita fue planificada en un primer momento, para visitar Uganda y Kenia; pero en los últimos minutos, la visita tuvo que ser cancelada por problemas de seguridad, por lo cual, efectivamente, aprovechamos esta ocasión para agradecer a nuestra compañera, a la embajadora de Kenia, Representante Permanente de Kenia y a todo el pueblo de Kenia porque, efectivamente, tomaron todas las instancias necesarias, todos los preparativos necesarios para acoger nuestra visita. Por tanto, lamentamos que no pudimos visitar Kenia, por razones de seguridad, según los protocolos de Naciones Unidas.

Pues que cabe indicar que la misión tiene como objetivo, pues, conocer de cerca el trabajo que la FAO realiza sobre el campo, conocer de primera mano la importancia de la agricultura en Uganda. Básicamente, hay que indicar que en Uganda, la agricultura representa el 66 por ciento de su mano de obra. Según datos de 2012, pues, este sector contribuyó en un 22 por ciento de su GIP y las exportaciones fueron representadas en un 40 por ciento, por lo cual es un sector importante para Uganda. Brevemente, aca vemos a los participantes de la misión, fueron ocho Representantes Permanentes, otros temporarios que visitaron Uganda sobre la base de una mezcla de gente proveniente de diferentes subregiones de esta institución.

África fue representada por su servidor, el Embajador Guira Cotuliedo, Asia fue representada por Agmat Farú de Paquistán, Europa fue representada por la señora Florence Bucher de la Unión Europea y el señor Damien Kelly de Irlanda. GRULAC fue representado por Raúl Salomón Tabarez Albaje de República Dominicana, mientras Oriente Próximo fue representado por el señor Anaza Adi de Egipto y América del Norte fue representada por el señor John Nuri de Estados Unidos y la señora Mitt Unguayen de Canadá. La preparación de la misión, pues, fue con todo el apoyo de la señora de Estephan Caya Bintian de la OCD, que también acompañó a los miembros de las misiones permanentes a esta visita de terreno, por lo cual su apoyo fue excelente y apreciamos muchísimo toda la asistencia que pudo dar a los miembros de la misión. Esto es, como he indicado anteriormente, los primeros elementos que podemos hablar sobre esta visita, pues, visita del campo, objetivos y los participantes. Voy a dejar paso a mi colega, Damien para que pueda entrar de lleno en las diferentes cuestiones de esta misión de terreno. Señor Damien.

Mr Damien KELLY (Ireland)

Indeed, it is a great honour to be here to represent the members of the trip and to be here with Ambassador Obama. He had the unenviable position of being head of our Delegation, and on many occasions at projects he was asked to speak on behalf of the Delegation. It was often very difficult, but he always managed to find the right words, so I thank him for that.

So the mission preparation, we had a briefing here in Rome before we left and we thought maybe if we had more field visits actually visiting projects, that would be useful. FAO responded to that and we had more visits and, in particular, we visited a food market which was quite interesting. Looking back, we think that the on-site briefing which we had was very useful. In the future, it might be useful if those briefings drilled down into exactly what FAO does and specifically how it works with its partners in the projects that it runs. Another point that we thought might be useful is that, if post trip briefings are scheduled in advance. We found that we all struggled to find time to have a briefing when we got back here in Rome and to get together. And when we did, some of the detail was getting a little bit foggy.

Moving on to the actual projects that we saw. So we arrived the first day, the second day we had a briefing with the Minister for Agriculture, and then we went to see some projects. These projects were under the theme Adaption to Climate Change and they were funded by the European Union with funding from Ireland and Belgium. The first one we drove about an hour and a half north of Kampala, the capital, to the Luweero District, and we saw this little coffee nursery where basically they were growing these wilt-resistant coffee plants in the shade. So you can see the shade there above the plants.

The FAO had supplied some materials here, potting materials and some more advanced materials to supply shade, and also advice with partners. So you can see where there was polythene supplied there down on the left to cover some of the seedlings, and we also saw a garden where some of the parent plants were being stored there for transplanting. So on the same site, the second project that we saw was an example of a farmer field school. This is an initiative FAO has in many different countries. And in this instance, this particular farmer field school displayed the kind of initiatives that they are working on. So on the left there you can see a stove which is more efficient and some new techniques for making charcoal using maize husks. And there was a display there under the tents outlining techniques for adaption to climate change.

So the third project we saw was about a half an hour's drive away from there again and this was again under the theme of Adaption to Climate Change, the same funding, and this was an area of forest being deforested. You can see the old forest behind and the new forest is here, eight acres of eucalyptus, and the idea here was to supply firewood and materials for building as a substitute for cutting down the old forest. This was a really amazing site. The old forest was right there and you could hear the monkeys chirping in the background.

So the next full day – day three – was a day of meetings, really. The first meeting we had was with the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change. This was in the Climate Change Resource Centre. FAO also participated in instating this Resource Center. The next meeting was with the Prime Minister, and in particular it was interesting because he had a particular focus on how agriculture can drive nutrition, increased earnings on farms, and he had a particular focus on value addition in agriculture which was interesting. We met with the UN Resident Coordinator who spoke about coordinating all the UN Agencies in Uganda. We also that day had a meeting with the World Food Programme coordinator in Uganda.

So the next day, before we flew out later that evening, we visited a food market. This was interesting just to see the range of food and vegetables that were available, and also what struck us was the potential for food waste. A lot of these foods, with the growing seasons, they all become available at the same time. We found that quite often there is quite a bit of waste at the market. The options for processing this extra produce just is not there and the markets are not there for that. So the final project that we saw was a small project in a girls' school just outside Kampala and funded through the TeleFood Project, and FAO here supplied some materials for a greenhouse, for example, and some piglets and advice as well for the growing of bananas. These girls were very engaged. For them, it was very interesting to get involved in agriculture because there was a perception that agriculture led to poverty. So this project was trying to reverse that perception and instil the knowledge so that these people were aware that agriculture could be really productive.

Finally, we had a debriefing back at the country office in Kampala and we had a round table sharing our impressions of the visit. That is just a snapshot of the people who were there. The country

representative is in the middle with the waistcoat, Alhaji Jallow. I have to say, all of the FAO staff worked really hard to make it a very interesting trip. So just discussing some of what we saw, we talked about the balance between meetings and field visits for future visits. We could say that there would be a possibility to merge some of the meetings and that could be a general theme. But, on the other hand, the meeting with the Prime Minister was very interesting and he had a lot of emphasis on agriculture as a driver for the economy and nutrition. And then as well, it was interesting when we met the Minister for Agriculture before we went on the visits that day; before we saw the projects, he signed the new Country Programming Framework. This was a very nice occasion to give emphasis to this document. So that was quite useful. As a general theme, in Uganda, the regions that are most in need are very far north. And when we go to the capital, we are not in easy reach of those areas. So the areas we visited are not the areas that were most in need, so it is difficult to find projects in those areas. This is something to think about for future projects. When time is short, it is difficult maybe, if it is a big country and those areas most in need are far away, it is difficult to get to those places as well as visiting the capital and doing the meetings.

So, in general, the visits were really useful. We saw a great example of how farmer field schools work and they are really useful. We would say, in general, that exactly the precise work that FAO does with regard to projects is not immediately obvious to us, even when you look at the data sheets and everything. It is not obvious what partners FAO is using and what the exact intervention was. What kind of advice? How much advice? What value is that advice? Which partners did FAO use to give that advice? And you cannot always ask these questions when you are at the project because you have the recipients there and so on, so it is not appropriate to ask all those questions.

So just some of the main themes. On decentralization, we could say, in general, having spoken to everybody, we got the feeling that there is potential for modernizing the procedures for communication and consultation between the country office and HQ and the regional office. The country offices are very dependent on voluntary contributions; 98 percent of the budget for the country office comes from voluntary contributions. So both of those, the above first two points, they make the management of the finances and the human resources in a country office quite difficult. Some more themes – challenges and mechanization. We saw some very basic mechanization. For example, this was a tool for making bales of hay with preserved dry grass. This was a very slow procedure. So there is lots of potential for improving mechanization.

We can see how influential the farmer field schools are in influencing the government about the future of their extension services. In fact, the government of Uganda is undergoing a review of their extension services and it seems that the future will be based on the farmer field schools. So FAO has been quite influential there.

Value addition of products, as I said before, is a big issue and you can imagine the amount of waste and processing of these products is very necessary. Gender is a theme. Gender was well integrated into the projects and the staff. There was great evidence of women being involved in the farmer field schools and, again, the focus on the girls' school was very interesting from a gender perspective. There are some of the girls with the tomatoes that they grew themselves.

The new Country Programming Framework has mainstreamed gender and the use of sex-disaggregated data. There are some gender gaps and there is still a requirement for an increased focus, for example, on adolescent girls in the country policy.

So as regards partnerships, we met the resident coordinator and there is a new vision 2040 and Delivering as One, and we were impressed with that. The World Food Programme representative spoke about the Purchase for Progress initiative and FAO has worked with the World Food Programme on that in the north of the country, in the Karamoja region.

We saw a great partnership with the government ministries through the meetings, NGOs, and donors, and we had a meeting with the donors. This donor meeting was very useful. A broad number of countries were represented from their embassies in Kampala, so we got a broader view of the work that is going on apart from the FAO in Uganda.

We asked ourselves could FAO do more in coordinating these donors? And we were not sure exactly always of the relationship between the FAO and these donors. It is clear that the EU and European countries are the main FAO partners in Uganda but south-south and triangular cooperation is progressing.

As regards private sector involvement, there were some projects to involve the private sector but it is on a small scale as something that maybe needs to be emphasized. As regards policy support, the FAO has had a potential role in advising the government through its new Country Programming Framework and when we saw the projects with regard to adoption to climate change, it was not clear if FAO had a role in policy advice aside from those projects.

Again, the farmer field schools are very influential and we thought again, on value addition, FAO could have a greater role in policy advice.

Again we discussed the targets of the Maputo Declaration which Uganda as a country is trying to achieve, 10 percent national budget investment in agriculture. So the country office administration are planning for a budget of USD 100 million for the next four years and, again, this all has to be mobilized when you consider 98 percent of that budget must come from extra-budgetary funding.

In general, we were very impressed with the FAO individuals we met. They were very skilled and experienced country representatives and senior staff and it was clear they had good relationships with government representatives.

Some other issues. Land tenure. We met the Chairman of the district that we visited and that is him there and, on the wall behind him, there was a case study about land tenure. So it is clear that the land tenure rules within communities are quite complex and there is a dispersal of land parcels, so it is something that maybe FAO could help with. But in general, FAO's role as a multiplier and a catalyst was very evident.

So, once again, it is a great honour to represent the group here and I will pass you back to Ambassador Obama for conclusions and recommendations. Thank you.

Sr Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

En conclusión, la primera conclusión importante que habría que destacar aquí es la importancia de esta visita para conocer realmente lo que la FAO hace sobre el terreno. También es importante reconocer aquí la necesidad de racionalizar las acciones de la FAO sobre el terreno, lo cual nos lleva a definir unas pequeñas preguntas. ¿Cómo puede ser ampliado el trabajo de la FAO? en otras palabras, ¿quién se hace cargo de ampliar los proyectos que resultan exitosos? La selección del proyecto debería incluir un análisis de su potencial de ampliación, efectivamente, si queremos llegar a impactos positivos de las acciones, efectivamente, hay que analizar cómo ampliar las acciones, cómo aumentar la escalas de los proyectos. Un país como Uganda que tiene aproximadamente 200 000 Km², con una población de 34 millones de habitantes. Si elaboramos un proyecto que solo ocupa 3, 4 comunidades, el impacto real de esas acciones sobre el país será siempre mínimo. Por lo tanto, habría que estar analizando cómo ampliar los proyectos exitosos a nivel nacional, es una conclusión principal, lo cual nos lleva a decir otras conclusiones más. Por ejemplo, a nivel de Uganda se ha comprobado que el Gobierno de Uganda tiene bien definido sus prioridades en materia agrícola.

De hecho, el Primer Ministro, es el responsable técnico sobre el tema de nutrición, lo cual, efectivamente, da valor a lo que el Gobierno acorde importancia relativa a la agricultura. Parece, efectivamente, que el papel de la FAO como socio estratégico, está bien confirmado sobre el terreno. Pero existe un problema de comunicación que es una de las consideraciones más importantes de este estudio que la FAO, efectivamente, intente buscar mecanismos, estrategias nuevas que hagan mejorar la comunicación de la información entre sus miembros, su staff técnico y el pueblo, los socios nacionales que trabajan cerca de la institución oficial.

En general, el rol se explica, por las reuniones explicativas no corresponde muchas veces con la real actividad del campo. A veces, explicamos objetivos estratégicos, pero cómo esos objetivos estratégicos se traducen en acciones concretas, cómo los materializamos a través la acción de los proyectos del campo. También se pudo comprobar que la relación de ONGs y socios titulares, parece

abstracta sobre el terreno. A veces se habla de colaboración, de colaboración con ONG, con organizaciones de la sociedad civil, con el sector privado, pero sobre todo, lo mismo parece que la relación es abstracta, es ambigua básicamente. Y por lo general, cabe indicar que como decía antes, el papel de la comunicación es importante, aquí hablo también de la descentralización. Debemos seguir trabajando para que la descentralización sea una asignatura que lleguemos a resultados concretos. La descentralización no debe quedarse como una actividad teórica aquí en la FAO, sino que debemos trasladar las recomendaciones de estas cuestiones de descentralización sobre el terreno para que, efectivamente, todas las sociedad subregionales tengan capacidad personal, recursos suficientes para rendir efectivamente sus acciones sobre el campo. Por tanto, con ello, hablamos de la exactitud del papel de la FAO.

La FAO no es una agencia financiera, como todos lo sabemos, ofrece asistencia técnica, moviliza recursos, implementa proyectos en el campo. Por lo tanto el rol de la FAO de apoyo a las políticas no está muy bien claro. Cómo la FAO apoya el desarrollo de las políticas de Estado, no está bien claro sobre el terreno, por tanto, concluyo diciendo, efectivamente, que la FAO ganaría mucho mejor si mejora un poco su comunicación estratégica. Su rol, en particular con respecto a los socios.

Por tanto, yo creo que con esto, no me queda más que agradecer a todos los que pudieron hacer esta misión sobre el campo y parece que aprovecho agradecer a la FAO por haber apoyado la realización de esta misión, a la señora Bintia de OCD, por toda la asistencia y apoyo que brindó a lo largo de la misión, a nuestro compañeros Robert Sabeti, de Uganda, que también pudo acompañarnos, pudo asistirnos sobre todo en su país, al Gobierno ugandés por toda la asistencia. Hay que destacar que Uganda es un país maravilloso, pues, el lago Victoria que acompaña a la ciudad de Entebbe es una maravilla y desearíamos que cualquier miembro de esta Organización que tenga un espacio libre que visite Uganda, que visite Kampala, que visite Entebbe, que son ciudades maravillosas, la gente es maravillosa y el Gobierno trabaja también para su agricultura.

Mr Paddy ZHANDA (Zimbabwe)

Once again, congratulations on your elections. We have asked for the floor on behalf of Uganda and would like to hand over the floor to them.

Mr Robert SABIITI (Observer for Uganda)

Let me take this opportunity to first of all congratulate you upon your resounding re-election as the ICC Chair for another two-year term. We assure you of Uganda's total support and likewise we congratulate all of the newly elected Chairpersons and Members of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and CCLM, and pledge our total support to their leadership.

Regarding the field trip to Uganda, I on behalf of my country would like to first of all express our profound heartfelt gratitude to all of the delegates who participated in the trip. It was a great honour for our country to host the delegations. We appreciate the honour and confidence that all regions in general and countries of origin of the delegates in particular bestowed onto our country. Let me pleasantly state that all of the regions were 100 percent represented.

I would like also to express our appreciation to the FAO Office for Decentralization for supporting the team and participating in the field trip. We appreciate the excellent work of the FAO Uganda country office in supporting smallholder farmers in different aspects of food security and nutrition.

We also greatly appreciate all development partners that are contributing to these efforts. Having participated in the same trip, I have no doubt in my mind that the field trips are very useful as has been demonstrated in the presentation.

Allow me to state that the trip would have been even more exciting if it was a little longer. We appreciate the kind words with which the delegates through Ambassador Obama have talked about our country.

Mr Antonio Otavio SÁ RICARTE (Brazil)

I also would like to express our appreciation to the presentations made by the distinguished Representatives of Equatorial Guinea and Ireland and to all of those who participated in this field visit.

I am sure that those who have participated have enjoyed thoroughly their experience. There is no doubt in my mind about the usefulness of such initiatives. Eastern Africa has been visited several times by the members of the Security Council on other matters. It is only positive that a few visits be organized by development organizations to support the efforts of the UN System in the field in order to bring forward sustainable development to the countries where they operate as development assistants and partners.

I myself come from Nairobi where I was for five years and having been accredited as a diplomat to the government of Uganda, I can only commend and agree with the views that have been expressed by the two speakers.

It is unfortunate that the mission could not fulfill their plans to visit Nairobi itself where the FAO Regional Representative Office is based and where you could have extensive conversations with the Regional Representative Mr Luca Alinovi about all of the initiatives that FAO is undertaking not only in Uganda but in Eastern Africa as a whole.

My country has been particularly keen on extending cooperation with the government of Uganda and with the governments in Eastern Africa. Unfortunately given the time constraints, I would not be able provide more details to present this experience. However, I do believe that it would be useful in the future if we share some briefing on our experiences in collaborating with FAO that provides technical assistance and helps governments to develop policies in favour of agriculture, food security, as well as forestry.

I believe that the initiative that is on the review right now is to be considered as one step forward. I very much congratulate the participants on their willingness to witness the efforts being undertaken in Eastern Africa and Uganda in particular.

One conclusion that I will take note back home is that it is needed to better inform about activities undertaken by FAO that provides assistance to requiring governments that asked to be assisted. It is true that dissemination of information is part of the design of many projects, but sometimes it is more shifted towards Headquarters rather than to the development assistants that are in the Field.

It is not easy to build bridges with local institutions and I am sure that FAO will be increasing its efforts to build these bridges in Eastern Africa.

M. Serge TOMASI (France)

Je voulais moi aussi remercier nos collègues pour leur excellente présentation et je m'interrogeais sur quelle suite on peut donner à leurs conclusions et à leurs recommandations, parce qu'il me semble qu'ils ont posé des questions assez lourdes dans leurs conclusions.

Damien, par exemple, s'est interrogé sur le rôle de la FAO dans la communauté des donateurs et dans leur coordination. L'Ambassadeur Obama a souligné qu'il y avait différentes vues sur la contribution que la FAO peut apporter à l'élaboration de la politique nationale.

Je trouve que ce sont vraiment deux questions extrêmement lourdes: pour la coordination, vous le savez, il y a eu une énorme fragmentation de l'aide; dans un rapport, l'OCDE avait montré que dans un pays comme la Tanzanie, il y avait plus de 400 projets financés par différents partenaires, ce qui pose des problèmes énormes de coordination. Et sur l'élaboration des politiques nationales, il me semble que la FAO a un rôle extrêmement important pour faire le lien entre les enjeux globaux et leur déclinaison au niveau national.

Donc ce rôle de la FAO dans l'appui à l'élaboration des politiques nationales et l'aide aux autorités nationales pour mieux coordonner l'action des différents partenaires me semble assez fondamental et mériterait que l'on creuse cette question.

Mr Fabian Sumba MUYA (Observer for Kenya)

Since it is the first time Kenya is taking the floor, we would like to congratulate you for your re-election to the second mandate in the performance of your duty as Independent Chair of the Council. We wish you success in your work.

Today we have elected Chairman and Members of the Committee of the FAO Committees. We also take this opportunity to congratulate them and wish them success in their work.

As it comes to the trip to Uganda, we are also grateful for the presentation that has been made by the two participations of the tour. We only say that Kenya's part was not taken because of one or two issues that arose while the trip was being prepared.

As many of us may recall, it was on the third of April when there was a shooting incident in Kenya when we lost some one hundred and forty-six students that were at the university. After that, the government of Kenya took serious steps to restore security in that area by mobilizing all security forces to ensure that security comes back to order.

During that time, the government had prepared some various sites to be visited by the team and these areas were away from the area where the incident of the shooting had taken place. When the preparation continued, the cancellation of the tour to the Kenyan portion was communicated to the capital so fast that the embassy was not informed of this cancellation and up until now we are still waiting for a formal communication for the cancellation of the trip.

As one delegate from Brazil has said, Kenya holds a number of UN bodies like UNEP, Habitat and other international agencies, plus UN bodies that are operating from Nairobi, as this has been testified by the delegate from Brazil.

Kenya is a peaceful country. So far security has been restored and is enabling the citizens of Kenya to undertake their development activities in order to achieve our desired goal of achieving food security, treating the people in the country, and eradicating poverty and malnutrition in the Republic.

Mr Chairman, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity and we are hoping that possibly for the next visit, Kenya will be considered to see what work the country is undertaking.

Ms Maria-Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director General, Natural Resources)

First of all I would like to thank Ambassador Obama for his presentation and, through him, all of the Members of the delegations visiting Uganda. We consider the report very useful with very sound comments and recommendations. We took note and will try to improve either the preparation of such missions and improve the areas as was suggested and requested.

Maybe two comments. The first is the role of FAO as coordinator. Usually in other countries, and I am speaking from my experience as FAOR, we have the agriculture group or food security group. It depends on the country and it is chaired by FAO and the government. Some is in a turning basis.

I do not know what the case is in Uganda, but I fully agree that FAO should play a leading role in supporting the functioning of such a group and providing technical support. I believe the technical support is a comparative advantage FAO can bring to those kinds of groups and technical groups.

Second is regarding the support on national policies. Again it is an area where FAO has a comparative advantage and usually we work with the Minister for Agriculture and others – let us say the agriculture sector – in providing support and policies in improving and coordinating the work of the government and FAO has usually the convening power in putting all of the ministries together and have a cross-cutting approach which is always very commended by the countries and the governments.

Regarding the Representative of Kenya, it is really unfortunate that we had a miscommunication. I took note and I will transfer it to my colleagues who prepared the mission. But, as you know, Kenya was on the first plan of FAO, but for the reasons mentioned here, especially for security reasons, we could not have these two legs from Kenya and Uganda.

But it is unfortunate, as you mentioned that the country was not informed. I do not know what happened but I took note and I will report to my colleagues and I am sure they will explain to the Government and to the Embassy here the reasons why we had this miscommunication.

Again, thank you for your support. Thank you for those kinds of visits. We consider them very useful and will implement all of the recommendations coming from the report and I am sure we will report on the status of the implementation.

CHAIRPERSON

I want to thank Ambassador Obama Ondo and Mr Damien Kelly for their thorough debriefing of the field visit which was made to Uganda and I also wanted to thank the members of that group.

The interventions from the floor have been very useful and I hope issues which have been raised by the field visit as well as members will be looked into by FAO as the Deputy Director-General has said. Also in our informal consultations through the Regional Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons in the other groups, we will look into the conclusions which have been made from this field visit and in particular also to improve on our organization for the field visit as well as see areas which need to be taken up.

This concludes the work of this 152nd Session of the Council. Our next session will take place from 30 November to 4 December 2015. Before closing the session, I would like to express thanks to those who are about to complete their diplomatic tour and to wish them well for their future endeavors.

I should also like to recognize the continued good support of the Secretariat, the translators, interpreters, meetings, management, and facility staff as well as the Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General, the reports office and the verbatim team, security guards in the room, and messengers for their very much invaluable facilitation in our work.

For those traveling back to their countries, I wish them a safe journey home. The meeting stands as adjourned.

The meeting rose at 13:39 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 39

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.39



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