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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-seventh Session -
Cent cinquante-septième session - session - 157.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 10 July 2017
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Rome, 10 juillet 2017
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

**Roma, 10 de julio de 2017
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL
CONSEJO**

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Fifty-seventh Session Cent cinquante-septième session 157.º período de sesiones
Rome, 10 July 2017 Rome, 10 juillet 2017 Roma, 10 de julio de 2017
FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
10 July 2017

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.39 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 39
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.39
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the first meeting of the 157th Session of the FAO Council to order.

I wish to welcome Council Members and observers to this session.

This is the first Council meeting after the Conference and, in accordance with the items on the Provisional Agenda, it is traditionally a one or even a 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 particular cordial welcome to Council Members who have begun a new term at this Session of the Council, namely Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Estonia, Finland, Italy, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Venezuela.

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

Further, I am thankful to all Member Nations of FAO for electing me as the Independent Chairperson of the Council. I feel very honoured and as required by the Mandate of the ICC, I will discharge my functions in an objective and neutral manner and work towards a proactive facilitation role to enable the Council to discharge its role in governance and to achieve consensus among Member States.

This responsibility I will take very seriously not only by listening to what is said in Council discussions but also through contact between sessions. I will always welcome your ideas, advice, and inputs which I am convinced are very important for the successful delivery of the ICC's Mandate and the successful working within FAO.

I will also work to facilitate greater openness, solidarity, and enhanced cooperation among the Members as well as to build strong synergies with the Secretariat. The objective will be that of moving together so that FAO can deliver the programs and policies approved by Members in an effective manner.

I look forward to working with you all for the common cause of realizing the goals of the FAO.

In concluding, let me take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Ambassador Wilfred Ngirwa, for his leadership and the example he has set in always bringing unity and consensus in the Council. I wish him a successful future.

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

SECRETARY-GENERAL

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. The Statement of Competence and Voting Rights submitted by the European Union and its Member States is contained in information document CL 157/INF/1.

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.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

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 12 June 2017, whereas the calendar of Governing Bodies sessions was published by the deadline.

- Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable**
Point 1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier
Tema 1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario
 (CL 157/1; CL 157/INF/1)

CHAIRPERSON

The first item we have before us is the Adoption of the Agenda as set out in document CL 157/1. Can I take it that the Council wishes to adopt the Agenda? As set out in this document.

I see no request for the floor. 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 Abdul Razak Ayazi from Afghanistan; Mr Imed Selatnia from Algeria; Mr Vlad Mustaciosu from Romania.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any objections?

I wish to congratulate the three Vice-Chairpersons on their election.

Applause

Applaudissements

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 157/3; CL 157/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, as set out in paragraph 4 of document CL 157/LIM/1, there is only one candidate for the post: Mr Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands).

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 therefore that the Council wishes to elect Mr Hans Hoogeveen as Chairperson of the Programme Committee?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It is so decided.

I congratulate Ambassador Hoogeveen on his appointment as Chairperson of the Programme Committee. Please accept 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 notification has been received from the Permanent Representation of Bangladesh to FAO that Bangladesh wishes to withdraw its candidature for Membership of the Programme Committee, there are now two seats to be filled and two candidates for the regions of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Near East.

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 (Congo) and Mr Kanga Kouamé (Côte d'Ivoire).

For Asia and the Pacific: Mr Toru Hisazome (Japan) and Mr Muhammad Rudy Khairudin Mohd Nor (Malaysia).

For Europe: Mr François Pythoud (Switzerland) and Ms Terri Sarch (United Kingdom).

For Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms Maria Cristina Boldorini (Argentina) and Ms Claudia Elizabeth Guevara de la Jara (Peru).

For the Near East: Mr Shahin Ghorashizadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Mr Fiesal Rasheed Salamh Al Argan (Jordan).

For North America: Ms Jennifer Fellows (Canada).

For Southwest Pacific: Mr Matthew Hooper (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

Applaudissements

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 157/3; CL 157/LIM/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We continue with item 4 of our agenda, Election of the Chairperson and Twelve Members of the Finance Committee, and I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As Bangladesh has withdrawn its nomination for the post of Chairperson of this Committee, we have now one candidate for the post of Chairperson of the Finance Committee: Mr Lupiño Lazaro, Jr. from the Philippines.

CHAIRPERSON

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 Lazaro as Chairperson of the Finance Committee?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It is so decided.

Congratulations to Mr Lazaro 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 again.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As notification has been received from the Permanent Representation of the Philippines to FAO that it wishes to withdraw the candidature of the Philippines for membership of the Finance Committee, there are now two candidates for two seats to be filled for the regions of Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean and the Near East; and there is one candidate and one post to be filled for the regions North America and Southwest Pacific.

I will now read the names of the candidates.

For Africa: Mr Carlos Alberto Amaral (Angola) and Mr Mateo Nsogo Nguere Micue (Equatorial Guinea).

For Asia and the Pacific: Mr Mafizur Rahman (Bangladesh) and Mr Xie Jianmin (China).

For Europe: Mr Heiner Thofern (Germany) and Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov (Russian Federation).

For Latin America and the Caribbean: Mr Antonio Otávio Sá Ricarte (Brazil) and Mr Benito Santiago Jiménez Sauma (Mexico).

For the Near East: Mr Khaled El Taweel (Egypt) and Mr Sid Ahmed Alamain Hamid Alamain (Sudan).

For North America: Mr Thomas Duffy (United States of America).

For Southwest Pacific: Ms Cathrine Stephenson (Australia).

CHAIRPERSON

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

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Thank you, it is so decided. I wish to congratulate the countries elected to the Finance Committee.

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 157/3; CL 157/LIM/3 Rev.1)

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 157/LIM/3 Rev.1, we have two candidates for the post of Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters: Mr Mohammed Sheriff from Liberia and Mr Godfrey Magwenzi from Zimbabwe.

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

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

Monsieur le Président, toutes nos félicitations à l'occasion de cette 157^{ème} session, qui constitue votre baptême de feu en tant que Président indépendant du Conseil. Le Cameroun et le Groupe Afrique tout entier seront à vos côtés pour vous accompagner dans l'exécution de votre tâche.

Je parle maintenant en qualité de Président du Groupe Afrique. Nous avons la douleur de mener le Conseil à ce stade, car tout ce que le Groupe Afrique a pu tenter pour sortir de cette situation n'a pas porté ses fruits.

Le Président du Comité de candidature du Groupe Afrique, l'Ambassadeur de l'Angola, s'est largement investi pour éviter d'en arriver à ce point, malheureusement, les faits sont là. Nous sommes obligés de soumettre le Conseil à cet exercice douloureux pour tous, y compris pour le Groupe Afrique.

Nous avons préalablement pris nos responsabilités au sein du Groupe en discutant de cette question, en plénière, et nous avons fait connaître la résolution à l'issue de cette réunion plénière du Groupe: la décision prise par consensus général du Groupe Afrique est de soutenir, exclusivement et entièrement, la candidature de l'Ambassadeur Godfrey Magwenzi.

Nous n'avons pas changé d'avis et en appelons ici aux Membres du Conseil à être solidaires du Groupe Afrique en soutenant la candidature de l'Ambassadeur Magwenzi.

Mr Mohammed SHERIFF (Liberia)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I wish first of all to congratulate you for your election as Independent Chair of the Council. I listened to the support that has been expressed.

This very body is fully aware that in 2015, Liberia stepped aside for the European Union for consensus building for us to speak with one voice in this body and during that time, European Union presented a candidate and Liberia took upon herself to step aside, announcing in 2015 to present the candidacy in 2017.

I think in this unique body, we believe in consensus building. We believe in gentlemen's agreements. We believe when we say one thing, we should live up to it. I believe other Members of Council applauded the decision that was made in 2015.

Based upon that, the candidacy of myself was presented. And I have served for four years on that Committee and two years as a Vice-Chair. I do not want you to do a painful task, but if there is no consensus because Liberia – I am from Liberia and Liberia is in Africa in the continent of Africa, and if you say consensus, it means every individual country should agree. And if my presence as a candidate is there, it means that there was no consensus.

I will leave it up to the conscience of the Council.

CHAIRPERSON

Given that all candidates wish to stand we shall proceed to a secret ballot.

Under Rule XII paragraph 3(a) of the General Rules of the Organization, the required majority for the election shall be a majority of the votes cast.

The Secretary-General will provide the relevant information regarding the voting procedure.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates will be called in English alphabetical order to the voting area, where they will receive a ballot paper with the names of the candidates.

Delegates are invited to indicate the candidate they wish to vote for with an 'X'. Delegates are required to vote for one candidate. Ballot papers which bear more than one cross will be considered invalid.

In accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 4 (b) (iii) of the General Rules of the Organization, any ballot paper left blank will be recorded as an abstention.

It should also be noted that, in accordance with the same Rule, ballot papers shall carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote.

Under the same Rule, should any delegate invalidate his or her ballot paper, he or she may request a new blank ballot paper from the elections officer before leaving the voting area. The invalidated ballot paper shall remain in the custody of the elections officer.

CHAIRPERSON

I am assured that there is a quorum so voting may commence.

I now invite the delegates of Italy and China to act as tellers and to proceed to the voting area.

Finally, may I draw your attention to paragraph 14 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.

The Secretary-General will now call the voters to the voting area.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRPERSON

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

The meeting was suspended from 10.16 to 10.36 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 16 à 10 h 36

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.16 a las 10.36

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, please return to your seats. We will now continue with item 5, *Election of the Chairperson and Seven Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*.

The Secretary-General will read the result of the ballot.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will now read the results of the ballot for election of the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. Ballot papers deposited: 46; abstentions: 3; defective ballots: 3; votes cast: 40; majority required: 21.

Elected: Mr Godfrey Magwenzi with 33 votes. Not elected: Mr Mohammed Sheriff of Liberia with seven votes.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 1	Election of the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters Election du Président du Comité des Questions Constitutionnelles et Juridiques Elección del Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos 2017-2019
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	46	3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	3
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3	4. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	40

5. Majority Majorité Mayoría	21
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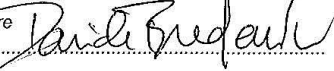
Elected - Élus - Elegidos		Not elected - Pas élus - No elegidos			
Mr Godfrey Magwenzi (Zimbabwe)	33	Mr Mohammed S.L. Sheriff (Liberia)	7		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Mr XIE Jianmin (CHINA)

Signature 
Firma

Mr Davide Bradanini (ITALY)

Signature 
FirmaDate
Fecha

10/07/2017

Ms Gabriella Piacentini


.....Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

I congratulate Godfrey Magwenzi on his appointment as Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and wish him success with the work 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 157/LIM/3 Rev.1, there is one candidate for one post to be filled for all regions.

For Africa: Ms Lineo Irene Molise Mabusela (Lesotho)

For Asia and the Pacific: Mr Royhan Nevy Wahab (Indonesia)

For Europe: Ms Daniela Rotondaro (San Marino)

For Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms Monica Robelo Raffone (Nicaragua)

For the Near East: Mr Ali Albsoul (Jordan)

For North America: Ms Emily Katkar (United States of America)

For Southwest Pacific: Mr Luke Daunivalu (Fiji)

CHAIRPERSON

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

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Thank you, it is so decided.

I should like to recognize the work carried out by the outgoing Council Committees. To the members of the Programme and Finance Committees and the CCLM, for their contribution to the work of the Committees; and to the Chairperson of the Programme Committee Ambassador Tomasi and the Chairperson of the CCLM, Ambassador Ivanov, for the excellent collaboration we had.

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.

In addition, a specific, ad hoc matter arose during the discussion that took place in the General Committee regarding the sharing of mandates by Members nominated for Council seats.

At Conference, it emerged that there were some doubts as to whether this is strictly in line with the provisions of the Basic Texts, which foresee only terms of office of three years.

There have been recently a number of instances of sharing the Council seats, no doubt reflecting the commitment of members to support the Organization directly through membership of its Governing Bodies.

Accordingly, it is proposed that in the course of the forthcoming biennium the matter be reviewed and, possibly, that rules regarding tenure in the Council be reconsidered by the appropriate committee, namely the CCLM. But this matter would have to be addressed primarily by the Members and would require consensus among the Members.

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 2017-18

Point 7. Calendrier 2017-2018 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 2017-18

(CL 157/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 7, *Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions 2017-18*.

The relevant document is CL 157/2 which has been prepared to avoid overlaps with the dates of IFAD and WFP Governing Body sessions.

The dates given for the sessions in 2018 are for information only at this stage as they will be submitted for approval at the next Council Session in December 2017.

If there are no comments, I take note that the next session of Council will take place from 4 to 8 December 2017. We now move on to item 8.

Item 8. Provisional Agenda for the 158th Session of the Council (4-8 December 2017)

Point 8. Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent cinquante-huitième session du Conseil (4-8 décembre 2017)

Tema 8. Programa provisional del 158.º período de sesiones del Consejo (4-8 de diciembre de 2017)

(CL 157/INF/2)

CHAIRPERSON

Item 8 concerns the *Provisional Agenda for the 158th Session of the Council*, which we have just decided will be held from 4 to 8 December 2017. An information document has been tabled under this item, namely CL 157/INF/2.

Are there any delegations who wish to take the floor under this item?

I see no request. Item 8 is now concluded.

Item 10 Any Other Matters

Point 10 Questions diverses

Tema 10 Asuntos varios

CHAIRPERSON

We can now pass on to Item 10 of the Agenda, *Any Other Matters*. Does any member wish to take the floor? Thank you very much. Item 10 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 157/INF/3)

CHAIRPERSON

Our last item this morning is Item 9, *Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO*, a standing item on the agenda of Council. The relevant document is CL 157/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:

- International Conference on Halting Deforestation and Increasing Forest Area
- FAO and the work on migration in global fora: Global Migration Group (GMG), Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and the G7

I propose that questions from the floor be taken after all the speakers have made their presentation.

I will now ask Ms Eva Müller, Director of the Forestry Policy and Resources Division, to introduce the first presentation under this item: *International Conference on Halting Deforestation and Increasing Forest Area*.

Ms Eva MÜLLER (Director, Forestry Policy and Resources Division)

I do not have a power point so I will just talk to you briefly about this proposed International Conference. The Sustainable Development Goal 15 – *Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*, calls for halting deforestation by 2020 and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) in short includes reversing the loss of forest cover and increasing forest area by 3 percent worldwide by 2030. Those are very ambitious goals.

While the global rates of deforestation have decreased in the recent past, fulminant annual forest area loss of 7.3 million hectares in 2000 to 3.3 million hectares in 2015, this decrease has not been even across regions and deforestation rates in some regions especially in Africa and Latin America still are alarmingly high.

The greatest loss of forests has been in the tropical and low income countries. At the same time, these countries have experienced the great expansion of agriculture land. Between 2000 and 2010, the annual net forest loss in tropical countries was seven million hectares and the annual net gain in agriculture land was 6 million hectares. This illustrates that agriculture stood a main driver of deforestation and it is estimated that about 80 percent of forest loss is due to conversion to agriculture.

In view of an increasing global population and the need to feed nine billion people by 2050, halting deforestation by 2020 presents an enormous challenge. It will require political will and concerted action across sectors to achieve the transformational change at the scale it is required.

As you know in 2018, the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will review among others SDG 15 and its targets. The United Nations Forum on Forests is expected to provide substantive input to the HLPF review in 2018 on forests.

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) which is chaired by FAO and supports the UNFF process is proposing to hold an international Conference on halting deforestation and increasing forest cover with the objective to make recommendations through UNFF 13 to the HLPF review next year. The Conference is expected to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss the challenges of halting and reversing deforestation and to jointly explore ways to accelerate progress towards achieving in particular SDG target 15.2 and target 1.1 of the UNSPF.

More specifically, the Conference will review current key drivers of deforestation and the ways they are being addressed, identify key policy challenges to achieving the targets of halting deforestation and increasing forest cover, recommend ways forward including key actions by countries and international community and provide recommendations to UNFF 13 and the HLPF on further policy development and actions needed to upscale progress on the targets.

As most of the drivers of deforestation lie outside the forest sector, participants in the Conference will include representatives of Government ministries from different sectors including agriculture and livestock, environment, energy and others. The private sector has an important role to play in halting deforestation and representatives of key companies, private sector associations and small producer organizations will also be invited. And of course civil society organizations especially of indigenous people will participate in the Conference.

We are proposing to hold this Conference in FAO Headquarters in Rome in March 2018 in order to be able to report the outcomes to the 13th Session of UNFF that will take place in May. The recommendations of the Conference and of the UNFF Member States will then be channelled to the HLPF review through UNFF.

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move to the next speaker, Mr Kostas Stamoulis, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department, who will make a presentation on FAO and the work on migration in global for a.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Let me express my congratulations for your election as the Independent Chair of the Council. I have the fortune of knowing you about 25 years or more so I have had the opportunity to work with you in the past. Congratulations again.

Let me say a few words about migration. Now FAO is not a migration Organization but it has an important role to play in migration and I will explain that in a minute.

First of all, migration is linked, as you see on the transparency, in the FAO global goals and is an increasingly relevant area of work to FAO. In this revised Strategic Framework, FAO has renewed its commitment to work on migration issues, in particular migration resilience are part of FAO's integrated approach to rural poverty reduction and programme of action especially for Strategic Objective 3 - reduce rural poverty, but also for Strategic Objective 5.

FAO works to enhance evidence about labour migration and the impact on migration and resilience of rural livelihood, technical support and capacity development of Government and rural stakeholders, strengthen policy dialogue, more systematic contribution to existing global cooperation mechanisms. It does that with a number of partners.

Now migration and development are inextricably linked. The story of development is a story of migration at the same time. One can take them and look at them. I hope that most of you were present in the side event on migration and climate change where the Director-General of IOM and the Director-General of FAO told their stories about migration. It was pretty amazing. Some of the data that Mr Graziano, our Director-General, mentioned about the composition of resilient societies but also other societies in terms of migration.

However, recently we think to seeing due to the refugee crisis migration is a big problem. And so we forget as I said that the migration and development are closely linked whether this is called rural urban or cross border migration, migration constitutes a fundamental element of strategies of households including rural households to improve their livelihood. In spite of their strategies like they allocate labour to agriculture, to non-agriculture. They also support the migrant or to migrants to go out and invest in them and send remittances.

As far as those decisions concern rural and agriculture households, we are concerned as FAO. So the Organization works toward strengthening the positive contribution that migrants bring to economic growth, sustainable development, poverty reduction and food security. We also strive to assist countries to provide livelihood alternatives through agriculture and rural development so that migration decisions do not become a distressed decision but a real decision of choices among acceptable alternatives. We are not taking a position of migration whether it is a positive phenomenon or migration is bad. We are just trying to expand the choices that potential and other members of the household potential migrants to make their decision.

Now let us talk about the global fora. Since June 2014, FAO is a Member of the Global Migration Group (GMG). By joining the GMG, FAO gains access to the main body for dialogue on migration issues at global level. Being part of GMG is an effective channel to interact more systematically with other United Nations agencies including the Rome-based Agencies, WFP and IFAD. This visibility

and recognition are necessary to leverage our work in the thematic area which I said in the beginning is a work that has to be carried out with partners.

The GMG provides the Rome-based Agencies with a wider platform for collaboration to better mainstream agriculture, rural development and food security concerns in the global migration debate. FAO participates in relevant GMG meetings both at Managerial, strategic and technical cooperation levels because there are several working groups and our migration teams, some of which are here behind me and some of which are not here at this moment.

FAO participates in two GMG working groups namely the Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration in National Developing Policies and the Working Group on Data and Research. It was very inspiring that twice when the IOM Director-General was here he talked about the depth of information. Today we talk about migration and how this has to be filled and addressed. So we are in that group.

We participate. I personally participated in the biannual retreat of the GMG. It was very important because it outlined the role of the GMG towards the global compact on migration that will take care, hopefully its approval in September 2018 in New York. So the 2017 retreat focused on issues related to the global compact as I said, the future of the GMG itself because for a long time it has been accused of looking at itself and not outside, the GMG work plan, the role of the GMG implementation of the SDG Agenda and the efforts to fight xenophobia and the stigmatization of migrants.

In FAO we have a group that cuts across the Strategic Programme 3 and my own department which supports this kind of work. FAO has been appointed as a co-Chair of the GMG together with IOM for 2018. This is critical year. 2018 will lead to the Global Compact on safe, regular and orderly migration as well as the one on refugees. The GMG has technically contributed to the six thematic consultations organized in the presentation for the negotiations of the Global Compact on Migration. FAO has co-lead the development of an issues brief on the drivers of migration together with UNHCR and UNDP and it has also actively contributed to issues of migration and sustainable development.

FAO's co-Chair at the GMG opens up new room for collaboration with IOM as well as WFP, IFAD, and other organizations.

Now a Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is a voluntary, non-binding, end government lead initiative of the Member States to address the interconnections between migration and development.

The GFMD reflects the progressive acknowledgement of the limits of a strictly national approach to migration questions and implications on a global level in intergovernmental frameworks.

Civil society representatives and the private sector are also involved in this process.

The GFMD is an important partner of the Global Migration Group, particularly as regards to the process leading towards the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration.

The annual GFMD Summit is also a strategic opportunity for FAO to present its corporate approach to migration, given the presence of many representatives from developed and developing countries. This year's Summit, the Tenth GFMD Summit, has taken place in Berlin from 28 to 30 June under the co-presidency of Morocco and Germany.

The theme of the Summit towards global social contract on migration and development signalled the imperative to address the balance and balance the interests of migrants and countries of origin, transit and destination within the framework of safe, orderly, and regular migration.

During this GFMD, FAO has been introduced to the GFMD co-Chairs and as a co-Chair for the GMD for 2014. Too many acronyms. I hope I am not confusing you.

Finally, FAO has initiated a procedure to be a formal observer in the GFMD.

Last but not least is the G7 work. FAO, in collaboration with IFAD, WFP, and OECD and at the request of the G7 Presidency of the Republic of Italy have submitted a report that explores the linkages both direct and indirect between migration, agriculture, food security, and rural development.

The report brings forward a number of policy recommendations that address the challenges of contemporary migration to inform discussions of the G7 Agriculture Ministers.

The report calls for the Ministers of Agriculture to recognize and advocate for the linkages between agriculture, food security, and migration in international fora, including the Global Compact on Migration. It also underlines the need for multi-sectoral coherent and well-coordinated policies in destination countries.

Examples constitute measures to reduce the cost of remittances, seasonal employment schemes in agriculture, migrant skills development, and programmes to facilitate business partnership between migrant investors and entrepreneurs, et cetera.

Investment in the rural areas of developing countries can promote economic growth and employment, reducing the stress given migration. The four international agencies propose that the G7 actively support the implementation of CFS-RAI and the VGGT in order to facilitate responsible investment and inclusive growth. But those are only proposals. This report will be presented today at the first preparatory meeting of G7 Agriculture Ministers somewhere in Rome.

Mr Antonio Otávio SA RICARTE (Brazil)

Let me start by congratulating you on your election and pledging the full support and cooperation of the Brazilian Delegation to your tenure as Independent Chair of the Council. I am certain that we will have, in your leadership, a guiding – ensured conduction of business in the sessions of the Council as well as in the Informal Consultations that you will certainly have to conduct.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for briefing us on these events that are in one way or another, FAO is involved in conjunction with other fora. Let me ask something specifically to Ms Muller. The Conference that she has informed us about, as far as I understand, is an initiative of the Partnership on Forests and as such, I would say it stems from the Secretariat.

If I understood correctly, it is not an intergovernmental Conference. However, she referred to Representatives from Ministries. Let me just confirm with her if she meant participants from invited Ministries. I understood that the Conference is upon invitation. We would not wish to see a process that would, in a way, duplicate the Forum on Forests. If this Conference is to be held at the FAO Headquarters next year with the participation of civil society and private sector, I understand from the information that was provided to us that it will be a non-governmental Conference, kind of an expert meeting, and as such, the participants should be addressed as participants and not representatives.

Let me just confirm that with her. Otherwise if it was an intergovernmental process, we would have to have an intergovernmental mandate and somehow the Conference would need to be approved by the participants in the Forest Forum.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Before asking one question and making one comment, I would like to congratulate you by being elected as the Independent Chair of the Council. We know your leadership and hope good things will come out of the two years that you will be our Chair.

My question is on the International Conference on Halting Deforestation and Forest Care.

FAO is chairing CPF, so I presume this Conference will be by invitation but it should be by FAO. In that case, does FAO have the regular programme resources to fund this Conference, or is this still an open question of the funding coming through voluntary contributions? Because time is short, March 2018, so I presume the funding will be more or less settled.

On migration, we feel that SO3 needs to be further strengthened to bring migration more into the forefront as well as remittances. When you read the present text of SO3, these two issues are more or less side events on gender. So I hope that this could be done where you are making the adjustment in SO3 for the Council Session in December.

And also both remittances and migration is becoming an increasing problem for the RBAs. IFAD is leading, trying to get money remittances funding for funding programmes and so is WFP. On these two issues, the migration and remittances, collaboration with the RBAs is highly essential.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Observer for the Netherlands)

First of all congratulations for your appointments as Independent Chair of the Council. The Netherlands is looking forward to working close together with you.

Secondly, I would like to thank the presenters of this morning and I would like to ask some questions to the Director of the Forestry Department. I think we all noted that on 27 April 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and it is not only a strategic plan for Headquarters in New York but I think as it is stated, is a UN Strategic Plan. I hope that also the CPF Members, including FAO, recognize this Strategic Plan as their Strategic Plan because I was surprised that neither in the document, nor in the presentation Ms Muller referred to this UN Strategic Plan.

And also when you look to the substance, this Strategic Plan reviewed the key drivers, the current key drivers of deforestation. It identified key posed challenges to achieve the targets of halting deforestation and increasing forest recovery and also recommended the way forward.

So my question would be if that is already agreed by all the Member States of the UN including after discussion with the private sector and civil society, what will this Conference add to the Strategic Framework?

Secondly, I very much concur with what was said by both Brazil and Afghanistan. If organized within FAO Headquarters and done with funding of the FAO, how will the Membership of FAO be involved in this Conference? What is the role of the Counties - is it as participants or in any another manner?

And last but not least, I think we know that we have the discussion because of the report of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) during the coming CFS in October on forests.

How do we avoid the duplication of discussions at the CFS which is also going to focus on key challenges and discuss them with the private sector and civil society representatives? How do we avoid the duplication with the Conference which is going to be held in March?

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Observer for Hungary)

I do not know whether it is a right order because we are observers and it is regularly the case that Council Members speak first. But if you allow me to, I would like to raise a question.

Although firstly, I wanted to congratulate you, as an Independent Chair of the Council, and similarly other Chairpersons and Members of the Programme and Finance Committee as well as CCLM. I would like to assure all colleagues that Hungary would like to collaborate towards further progress.

My question relates to the second presentation on the migration and, in particular, on the chart showing the linkages with several SDGs and in this context, I always emphasize that there is a strong interlinkage with several SDGs.

In particular, I missed the reference to SDG 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions. I think that it is a precondition of having sustainable development in the place and to prevent migration.

Further, SDG 8 relates closely to FAO mandate. I think it is extremely important and we cannot miss the reference to the work and the economic growth. This is the one thing that has an extremely important role in preventing or slowing down migration, providing a livelihood for people. I simply missed and wanted to ask if there are any specific reasons not to have a clear reference to SDG 8.

Sr. Oscar PIÑEYRO (Uruguay)

En nuestra primera intervención durante su mandato como Presidente Independiente del Consejo, quisiéramos felicitarle por su elección y desearle una muy exitosa gestión. A su vez quisiera referirme también a la presentación sobre migración, en el sentido que los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible

que así se indicaron, no agotan todos los vínculos que el tema tiene con los demás objetivos. Quisiéramos obtener más información con relación a cómo se está trabajando con los vínculos con el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible 5 sobre igualdad de género. En este sentido creemos que lograr la igualdad entre los géneros, así como poner fin a todas las formas de discriminación contra las mujeres y niñas y empoderarlas es importante en sus vínculos respecto a la migración internacional, como a la migración de las áreas rurales a las ciudades.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

Let me add my congratulations to your election and service as ICC as other Delegations have done. My comments and questions are on the Forest Conference. First, I support all of the questions that have been raised by other colleagues. In particular, I would like to echo the concerns raised by Brazil on the legal character of the Conference and I look forward to the answers on that.

I would also like to echo the observations made by the Netherlands with the need for coherence with larger UN planning efforts and the need to avoid duplicating efforts in other fora, so I look forward to the answers on that.

I would also like to follow-up on the question raised by Afghanistan on the funding for the Conference and if I could get a better sense of exactly how the Conference will be paid for.

Mr Khaled EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

I would like to congratulate you on your election as ICC. We are looking forward to working with you.

I would like also to thank the two presenters. We appreciate the work that FAO is doing to put migration at the top of the International Agenda and to emphasize the link between migration and lack of food security.

On Friday, the Director-General stated that the FAO will be hosting a meeting of the G7 Ministers of Agriculture in FAO, 16 October. My question is about preparation for this meeting and the level of involvement of FAO and if you will also be consulting with non-G7 Members on preparation for this meeting, especially from Africa and the Near East which are now the major sources of migration.

We also suggest that FAO, using its extensive technical expertise, will continue to emphasize the cases of protracted crises and its effect on migration and the need for long-term solutions that will foster agricultural development as a way of discouraging illegal migration and reducing tensions.

Sra. Martha BARCENA COQUI (México)

Al ser nuestra primera intervención después de su elección como Presidente Independiente del Consejo, la delegación de México quiere extenderle la más cordial felicitación y asegurarle una continua colaboración con su presidencia, que seguramente será muy exitosa en los trabajos del Consejo, así como con los Comités.

La delegación de México también quisiera agradecer los informes presentados, tanto en materia de bosques y de forestación como de migración, y hacer particular énfasis en la importancia que México concede a la participación de la FAO en los diferentes foros sobre migración. Saludamos que la FAO vaya a ser el co-coordinador del Grupo sobre Migración de Naciones Unidas, junto con la Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM), ya que sumarán sus esfuerzos a los que estamos haciendo todos los Estados Miembros y en particular los co-facilitadores, México y Suiza, para lograr un pacto global sobre migración regulada, segura y ordenada. Como es de su conocimiento, a finales de este año en Guadalajara se llevará a cabo una conferencia para evaluar los progresos hechos hasta el momento en las negociaciones para este pacto global.

Saludamos también a la solicitud de observador por parte de la FAO al Foro Mundial sobre Migración y Desarrollo, que agrupa no solo Estados Miembros sino organismos de la sociedad civil. En este sentido le daremos todo el apoyo a la FAO en los trabajos sobre migración y hacemos nuestras también las solicitudes de Hungría y de Uruguay de vincular los trabajos de la FAO en materia de migración, seguridad alimentaria y desarrollo rural, no solo con los tres Objetivos marcados en la

presentación que tuvo a bien hacernos el Director General Adjunto (Operaciones), sino también con los Objetivos de Desarrollo 5 y 16.

Mr Pierfrancesco SACCO (Italy)

I would like to congratulate you publicly after having done the same personally for your election as Independent Chairperson of the Council. Just a few quick remarks. First of all, as holder of the Presidency of the G7 this year, Italy would like to thank FAO for the collaboration that is being provided together with the other Rome-based Agencies to the G7 this year. This is something not new but probably new in terms of intensity and of reciprocal engagement.

Second, I would like to express my appreciation for the excellent work that is being done on migration by FAO, also as an excellent opportunity to work together with the other RBAs. The issue is key. It is crucial. Maybe it is the issue of our time in conjunction with, of course, development as Mr Stamoulis just explained.

Third, I fully subscribe to what our Hungarian colleague has just said about the importance of also considering SDG 8 and SDG 16 in this framework.

Fourth, I wonder whether any concept or policy could be brought to the Council or even to the Joint Meeting of the Council with the two Boards of the other RBAs in the near future in order to engage this Council in this relatively new but increasingly important area of work for FAO.

Mr XIE JIANMIN (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to congratulate you for your election as ICC. I am sure that under your leadership, we will have very successful work and we will support you in your work. At the same time, I would like to congratulate the Chairpersons of the three Committees as well as the Members. I would like to thank all of you for supporting China as a Member of the Finance Committee. We will do our utmost to contribute to FAO's work.

We also thank Mr Kostas Stamoulis in the Secretariat for his presentation.

I have a question just to clarify concerning migration. Is it only the migration of people in the world or it includes also national domestic migrants, because FAO is the only comprehensive organization for farmers in the world. So maybe we should attach importance to the issue of farmers in countries. Therefore I wanted to have a clarification on migration.

Moreover, regarding the G7, on the issue of migration, I would like to know whether there are any other international organizations which have a relationship with us. For example, G7, G20. You know that a G20 meeting was held just days ago in Germany and one of the many issues was about development in Africa. So through the mechanism of G20, is it possible that FAO has a relationship with them and has a better contribution to this work?

Mr Md. Mafizur RAHMAN (Observer for Bangladesh)

I would like to congratulate you, Mr Mehboob, for being elected as the Independent Chairperson of the Council and I would also like to congratulate all of the Members and the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, Programme Committee and the CCLM, including Bangladesh, and we hope to work together in the different committees.

I would also like to thank both of the presenters for the beautiful presentations. I have actually one point and I am supporting what was stated by, particularly, Brazil, the Netherlands and Afghanistan. As was already said by Ms Müller, we are losing three percent of the forest. This is 2017 and actually this is not considering the increase of population. It was said that three percent will need to increase for the forest coverage but why is agriculture taking forest out because of the increase of population.

Now we say it was a quarter of a billion and it was said that by 2050 it will be nine billion. What will happen after one hundred years, two hundred years? And at one point, probably five hundred years later, we will have no forest.

Then actually we need to look also at that point, how we can minimize the increase of the population. Global leaders should also think that way and it is my understanding that not only to think on the

forestation. We need to also reduce the population. At least we can keep continuing what we have today.

Otherwise, the carrying capacity of the earth will be falling down 200-300 years later.

I can give you some good examples of what we are doing in Bangladesh to increase forestation. I will give three examples.

We have a very beautiful TV show in our country continuously running for the last 37 years and the prize of the winners of that TV show are given plant saplings. In the classroom from class one to intermediate, first, second, third boys and girls are given one sapling for each of those who reach this position and to ensure the plantation of the saplings. Each and every year in Bangladesh on 1 June, we observe the National Day for Plantation and it was said by the Government that at least each family would have to plant at least one sapling each year.

In that way, we have actually covered the social forestation in Bangladesh. Even then, we are cutting more than that because of our population increase and the need to produce food. So the deforestation is going on.

So my humble submission and also the question like the others, what value will be added by the Conference? It was also linked to the presentation by Kostas Stamoulis, another reason for migration is also this overpopulation.

This is simply a comment and we need to think about population control. I think global leaders, including us, can also think about it. Thank you to the Chairman for giving me the floor, and thank you all.

M. Imed SELATNIA (Algérie)

L'Algérie se joint aux voix qui se sont élevées pour vous féliciter au lendemain de votre élection. Félicitations! Je pense que les Membres vous ont donné une occasion pour mettre à l'épreuve vos qualités de «*consensus builder*».

L'Algérie saisit cette occasion aussi pour appuyer ce qui a été dit par les délégations qui nous ont précédé, particulièrement celle de l'Italie, et soutenir la FAO dans son entreprise, ses démarches, ainsi que les initiatives qui placent au cœur des débats la question des migrations dans toute son acuité; elle félicite également la FAO pour le choix de la thématique «Changeons l'avenir des migrations: investissons dans la sécurité alimentaire et le développement rural» pour la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation qui se tiendra le 16 octobre prochain.

Ms Eva MÜLLER (Director, Forestry Policy and Resources Division)

Let me first address the comment made by the Delegate of Brazil about the character of this conference which was also supported then by the Representative of the USA. I would like to confirm that this is not going to be an intergovernmental conference. It is going to be more like an expert conference as you rightly mentioned. So the participants from governments will be participants; they will not be official representatives of their governments. They will be participating more in their function as experts. There is no intention to duplicate the UNFF process. This is why the conference is scheduled to be organized before UNFF 13 takes place so that the outcomes of the conference can be channeled to UNFF 13 which is the Global Political Process on Forests. UNFF is also the official channel for forests to the High-Level Political Forum.

As regards funding, this conference will not be funded through FAO Regular Programme funds. It will be funded mostly by voluntary contributions from countries. We have confirmation from two countries that they will contribute, and we have strong indications from two others that they would be interested in funding the conference. In addition, as this is a joint effort by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, we also expect in-kind, and eventually some financial, contributions from other CPF (Collaborative Partnership on Forests) members as well.

Regarding the comments from the Delegate of the Netherlands, you mentioned in the beginning that the United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests is very important but is not mentioned. We fully recognize, of course, the importance of the United Nations Strategic Plan. We have also supported its

development. In a sense, the Strategic Plan is even in the title of the conference because it is not only on halting deforestation, which is the SDG target 15.2, but also on increasing forest area, which is one of the really important targets of the United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests. I may also recall that at its 12th Session, UNFF 12, Member States specifically welcomed this initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to organize such a conference.

Finally, how to avoid duplication of the discussion with the CFS. As I said, the Member States of UNFF welcomed this conference because the specific objective is to provide an input to the High-Level Political Forum discussion on SDG 15 next year. The outcomes of the conference will go to UNFF 13. They will be discussed there and then, from UNFF 13, UNFF will channel them officially to the High-Level Political Forum. So I do not think there is any duplication of other efforts. As I said earlier, the UNFF 12 specifically welcomed the conference.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

First of all, let me say that I mentioned SP 3 and SP 5, but, at the end of the day, the migration work in FAO is a corporate work. As you see on the first transparency, we talk about some of the other SDGs which are relevant to the work of FAO on migration. Now it was certainly an omission that we did not put in some of the SDGs which were referred by some of the delegates. It was just an omission. Let me give you an example, for instance, of the gender SDG. Migration has – and that is in our concept notes that we produced over the years on migration – very important intra-household effects: who migrates, the whole issue of women-headed households if men migrate. There are instances where women actually migrate, the integration of women into new value chains, etc. So, all of these issues that have to do with migration and the SDG 5 are also important.

I mentioned Strategic Programme 5 which underlines the fact that distressed migration also coming out of conflict and lack of peace is part of the purview of the work. So, as I said, it is an omission that we have not put in all of the relevant SDGs that we could have put on the first transparency. We should be more careful in the future and thank you very much for mentioning it.

Now it is also because, in our reading, the root causes of migration extend to a very complex set of reasons which we cannot always uncover because we do not always have the data, right? On the intervention of Italy, first of all, we want to thank Italy for praising our work on migration, but also some of our country-level programmes are supported by the Italian Government.

As I said before, some of this global *fora* gives us the opportunity to work closely with some of the key partners like the RBAs in preparing for them and taking common positions and pushing the role of agriculture and rural development and food security on this.

We certainly support the G20 process and here I am responding to a question of China. We do take into consideration in our analysis both the internal migration, that is the migration within borders but also cross border. I do not have the exact data with me but the bulk of migratory movements are within the same regions where the origins of migrants are.

Although the television pictures show some of the cross-border, cross-continental movements of migrants, we, the team that supports migration in FAO, is integrated with a team that also supports the youth employment as part of the work of Strategic Objective 3.

Mexico, as part of the Global Migration Group, will certainly contribute to the stock-taking conference in Mexico which will be a very important step towards the negotiations for the adoption of the Global Compact.

I think Laurent Thomas has one issue to just make sure about the importance of the work we give to migration. The World Food Day theme this year is on migration.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Direct General, Operations)

Just a few remarks to try to provide some information in response to the query from Egypt on the G7 Ministers Meeting and visit.

Basically this is a plan we have in the framework of World Food Day that we are still finalizing in the Organization, a very important World Food Day this year, the theme being, as Kostas Stamoulis reminded us, about migration, rural transformation and food security, important themes.

The Government of Italy has informed us that they are hosting the G7 Meeting of Ministers for Agriculture in Bergamo on 14 and 15 October this year just before World Food Day. So our plan is to take advantage of this high-level presence of G7 Ministers in Italy to maximize the synergies with our World Food Day ceremony, especially as this year, as Cardinal Parolin announced exactly one week ago at the session of opening at the Conference, World Food Day will be blessed by the presence of His Holiness Pope Francis and we believe that there is value in having G7 Ministers for Agriculture here with us at that time together with the Pope.

This is what I can say at this stage. We are still very much in the planning, in discussions, be it with the Government of Italy, be it with the countries of the G7, and I hope that we will be in a position to provide more information on this during the summer so you can get prepared and dialogue with your capitals.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes item 9 of the agenda. The list of presentations will be included in the Council Report. This concludes the work of this 157th Session of the Council. Our next session will take place from 4 to 8 December 2017.

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 endeavours. For those travelling back to their countries, I wish them a safe journey home.

Ladies and gentlemen, this meeting stands adjourned.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 11:52 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 52

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.52



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