

Rome, Roma, 2010



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

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

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session • Cent trente-neuvième session
• 139° período de sesiones**

**Rome, 17 - 21 May 2010
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Rome, 17 - 21 mai 2010
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

**Roma, 17 - 21 de mayo de 2010
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO**

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session
Cent trent-neuvième session
139.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 17 - 21 May 2010
Rome, 17 - 21 mai 2010
Roma, 17 - 21 de mayo de 2010**

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

17 May 2010

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.46 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 46
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 09.46
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier (CL 139/1; CL 139/INF/1; CL 139/INF/5)
1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario (CL 139/1; CL 139/INF/1; CL 139/INF/5)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare ouverte la cent trente-neuvième session du Conseil de la FAO et souhaite la bienvenue aux Membres du Conseil et aux observateurs de cette session.

Avant de commencer nos travaux, je donne la parole à Monsieur Mekouar, Secrétaire général de la Conférence et du Conseil, pour une brève annonce.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Merci, Monsieur le Président. L'Union européenne participe à cette session conformément aux paragraphes 8 et 9 de l'Article II de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO. La déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres, qui figure dans le document d'information CL 139/INF/5, est portée à l'attention des Membres.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Mekouar. Avant de passer la parole au Directeur général et d'arriver à notre ordre du jour, permettez-moi de faire quelques remarques préliminaires. Tout d'abord, je voudrais souligner le caractère innovant de cette session. En fait, c'est la première à mettre en œuvre les dispositions de la Résolution 8/2009 de la dernière Conférence qui a indiqué avec précision les missions de notre Conseil, en particulier dans la définition des priorités, la planification, la préparation du budget et le suivi de l'évaluation.

Enfin, je vous rappelle que nous sommes dans un biennium de transition en ce qui concerne le fonctionnement des organes de gouvernance. Trois sessions du Conseil nous séparent de la prochaine Conférence et donc chacune est toujours importante. Cette importance est renforcée par les dossiers que nous examinerons ces jours puisque nous discuterons notamment de la réforme de l'Organisation, de la réforme du CSA, du fonctionnement des groupes de travail sur l'efficacité des Organes directeurs et aussi de l'organisation de la réunion informelle sur les financements extra-budgétaires et la préparation de l'élection du Directeur général.

Notre ordre du jour est chargé et les enjeux sont majeurs. Comme je vous l'ai déjà écrit, lors de vos interventions je vous serais reconnaissant d'œuvrer pour que le fonctionnement du Conseil soit plus performant, je vous remercie de bien vouloir aller à l'essentiel, de proposer des solutions, des conclusions et d'éviter, si possible, les répétitions. Tout ceci facilitera ma tâche, notre tâche mais surtout aussi celle du Comité de rédaction.

Voilà les quelques mots que je voulais vous dire, et sans plus attendre, je passe la parole à Monsieur le Directeur général Jacques Diouf, que je remercie d'avoir bien voulu participer à l'ouverture de cette cent trente-neuvième session du Conseil.

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, J'ai le plaisir de m'adresser aux Membres du Conseil de la FAO et de leur souhaiter cordialement la bienvenue, en particulier à ceux qui ont fait le déplacement de leur pays jusqu'à Rome.

La présente session du Conseil est la première des cinq sessions qui se tiendront en 2010-11 dans le cadre du nouveau cycle des réunions des Organes directeurs, en application de la réforme de la

gouvernance découlant du Plan d'action immédiate pour le renouveau de la FAO (PAI). Elle fait suite non seulement aux sessions du Comité du programme, du Comité financier et du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques qui ont eu lieu en avril dernier, mais également à trois Conférences régionales qui viennent de se dérouler successivement au Panama pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes, en Angola pour l'Afrique, et en Arménie pour l'Europe. J'ai pris part personnellement à ces réunions, ainsi que le Président indépendant du Conseil. Le nouveau calendrier des réunions des Organes directeurs, au siège comme au niveau régional, devrait progressivement contribuer à une plus grande efficacité de la gouvernance de l'Organisation.

Par ailleurs, toujours au titre des réformes introduites par le Plan d'action immédiate, le Conseil est appelé à exercer des pouvoirs renforcés en matière de planification, d'établissement des priorités, de contrôle, de supervision et de suivi de la mise en œuvre des décisions de gouvernance. Il aura ainsi à le faire en examinant les divers points inscrits à l'ordre du jour de la présente session, notamment les rapports des différents Comités – Comité financier, Comité du programme, Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques –, mais aussi le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, dont la récente réforme permettra d'améliorer la gouvernance institutionnelle de la sécurité alimentaire. Vous aurez également à délibérer sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate, cette fonction a été spécifiquement confiée au Conseil par la Conférence en même temps qu'elle a conféré au Président indépendant des responsabilités accrues de facilitateur actif et intermédiaire impartial. Le Président indépendant du Conseil assure, en outre, la présidence du Comité de la Conférence chargé du suivi de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO. Ce Comité, qui a tenu sa première réunion cette année en avril et qui se réunira de nouveau en juin prochain, est également investi de l'importante fonction d'assurer la continuité de l'orientation et de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate.

Cette session du Conseil se tient dans le contexte médiatique pour la FAO du lancement par la FAO de la pétition mondiale «1 milliard d'affamés» (*1billionhungry*), la semaine dernière, dans cette même enceinte. Plusieurs d'entre vous ont bien voulu participer à cet événement et je les en remercie. Le nuage de cendres qui avait alors obscurci le ciel ne m'a pas permis d'être physiquement présent à cette cérémonie. J'ai pu néanmoins partager avec vous, par vidéo conférence, ces moments d'intense émotion et communion où, ensemble, nous avons exprimé le sentiment de révolte que nous éprouvons face à l'intolérable persistance de la faim d'un habitant sur six de la planète terre. Le sifflet jaune, en même temps qu'il répercutait symboliquement l'écho de notre indignation collective face à cette véritable injustice, est le signe de l'engagement renouvelé de la FAO à s'attaquer résolument à ce fléau. Je renouvelle donc ici mon appel, à toutes et à tous, à grossir les rangs des signataires de la pétition «1 milliard d'affamés».

Nous devons garder à l'esprit que, pour pouvoir nourrir les 9,1 milliards de personnes qui peupleront le monde en 2050, la production agricole mondiale devra croître de 70 pour cent et, pour atteindre cet objectif, il est impératif d'investir davantage dans l'agriculture. On estime ainsi que 44 milliards de dollars par an d'aide publique au développement devraient être mobilisés au profit des petits agriculteurs des pays pauvres. À cet égard, l'aide au secteur agricole dans les pays en développement sera à l'ordre du jour du Sommet du G8 le mois prochain au Canada. Mais, les budgets nationaux et les financements privés devront aussi apporter leurs contributions à cet effort global.

Je voudrais saluer beaucoup d'initiatives prises en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale par de nombreux pays ou groupes de pays au cours de ces derniers mois.

La FAO s'est engagée à jouer un rôle essentiel dans l'élaboration des plans nationaux et régionaux de développement agricole et rural afin d'assurer les financements nécessaires de manière coordonnée. Cela exige une collaboration étroite entre nos partenaires au siège et au niveau des pays.

Je remercie les Membres du Conseil pour leur soutien continu et je souhaite plein succès à cette cent trente-neuvième session du Conseil.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur le Directeur général et si vous me permettez, je voudrais aussi inviter l'ensemble des délégations des différents pays, comme vous le souhaitez, à être "acteurs" dans ces missions de communication et de mobilisation. Que la FAO se mobilise avec beaucoup de partenaires, c'est important et cela ne peut se faire qu'avec l'action permanente des différents pays. J'étais moi-même personnellement présent au lancement de la campagne, c'est un moment fort de mobilisation qu'il nous faut redistribuer sur l'ensemble de nos pays. Merci, Monsieur le Directeur général.

Avant de passer au point 1 de l'ordre du jour, je dois vous informer que la Bolivie ne siège pas au Conseil, en raison du montant de ses arriérés, et qu'elle est désormais considérée comme démissionnaire en vertu de l'Article XXII.7 du Règlement général de l'Organisation. En conséquence, la Bolivie est placée parmi les Observateurs et son siège demeurera vacant jusqu'au 31 décembre 2010.

Nous passons à l'adoption de l'ordre du jour provisoire et du calendrier de la session, respectivement les documents CL 139/1 et CL 139/INF/1.

L'ordre du jour vous a été à tous communiqué, en même temps que l'invitation à la présente session envoyée le 17 mars 2010. Je vous propose, avant de vous donner la parole, l'élimination du sous-point 11.1 (Invitations à assister à des réunions de la FAO adressées à des États non Membres) et du sous-point 11.2 (Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation), dans la mesure où aucune invitation n'a été adressée à des États non Membres, et aucune demande d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation n'a été reçue.

Je vous demande donc, si le Conseil accepte ces propositions, a-t-il des commentaires sur l'ordre du jour provisoire? Je donne la parole au Brésil.

Mr Luis ROSA DOS SANTOS (Brésil)

La délégation du Brésil aimerait savoir à quel moment de l'ordre du jour provisoire les informations sur la Conférence régionale seront données. Comme vous le savez, la Conférence régionale maintenant fait partie de la gouvernance et toutes les informations qui viennent de cette Conférence régionale doivent être considérées pour la formulation du programme et les considérations budgétaires. Comme vous savez aussi, l'Amérique latine a déjà fait sa conférence régionale et nous avons déjà défini les priorités de la région pour informer cette plénière. Pour cette raison, nous voudrions savoir quand nous pouvons en parler.

LE PRÉSIDENT

En ce qui concerne les conférences régionales, compte tenu de la proximité des trois conférences avec le Conseil, nous avons prévu les comptes rendus et les orientations au prochain Conseil, mais dans le cadre de la discussion sur le PAI, j'envisage de faire une intervention personnelle sur ma participation à ces trois conférences, mais il n'y aura pas de délibération ni de prise de position sur les trois Conférences. Je dois dire que la quatrième conférence, qui aura lieu en Corée du Sud, précédera le prochain Conseil, mais malheureusement, celle du Soudan sera après. Nous avons convenu, malgré tout, de faire le bilan des quatre premières à ce moment-là, puis nous ferons le bilan de la cinquième au Conseil du mois d'avril. S'il n'y a pas d'autres questions, je considère l'ordre du jour comme étant adopté.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE PRÉSIDENT

En ce qui concerne le calendrier de la session, un projet vous a été proposé dans le document CL 139/INF/1. A ce sujet, le Secrétariat de la FAO a reçu une demande du Secrétariat du PAM de déplacer le point 4, prévu pour l'après-midi du mardi 18, au mercredi 19 au matin avant le point

12. Ceci est fait en raison d'empêchements imprévus des fonctionnaires responsables du PAM. Y a-t-il des inconvénients?

Je voudrais aussi vous dire qu'étant donné que l'ordre du jour de cette session n'est pas particulièrement chargé, je vous invite à gérer au mieux notre temps afin de terminer nos travaux, si cela peut se réaliser, par exemple le jeudi soir, en gardant bien sûr, vendredi, la partie hors Conseil. Si ce n'est pas possible nous ferons comme prévu, mais si vous en êtes d'accord essayons de terminer le jeudi soir, même si nous devons prolonger les réunions, avec interprétation. Ce n'est pas une décision définitive, c'est un objectif que nous allons poursuivre. Avez-vous des observations sur le calendrier tel qu'il a été présenté et avec le changement sur l'intervention du PAM ? Pas de questions? Donc, je considère que ce calendrier est adopté. Et maintenant, une petite vidéo comme d'habitude sur la sécurité.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures

Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO

Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO

2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee

2. Élection des trois Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction

2. Elección de tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien, merci de votre attention et de respecter les instructions qui nous ont été fournies. Nous passons donc au point 2 de l'ordre du jour, l'élection des trois Vice-Présidents et la nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction.

Après consultation des Groupes régionaux, nous disposons des propositions suivantes pour les trois postes de Vice-Présidents du Conseil: Monsieur Ibrahim Abu Atileh (Jordanie), Son Excellence Monsieur Hassan Abouyoub (Maroc), Monsieur Fazil Düsünceli (Turquie).

Y a-t-il des remarques ou des objections? Pas de remarques, donc je considère les trois Vice-Présidents comme élus et je les félicite et j'essaierais de les mettre au travail dès aujourd'hui.

En ce qui concerne le Comité de rédaction, les Groupes régionaux ont proposé Son Excellence Madame Mary Margaret Muchada, Représentante permanente du Zimbabwe, comme Présidente et les délégations des pays suivants comme membres du Comité: Afghanistan, Arabie saoudite, Australie, Brésil, États-Unis d'Amérique, Ghana, France, Fédération de Russie, Uruguay et Zimbabwe

Bien sûr, comme je l'ai dit, la liste n'est pas close puisque nous n'avons pas eu les noms de l'Asie plus particulièrement, alors avant de faire adopter la liste les candidats supplémentaires voudront bien se manifester.

Il y a peut-être eu une question de concertation. Je vois que le Pakistan demande la parole.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

Yes, the consultations are going on in the Asia Group and we should be in a position to submit the names in the course of the morning.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Je vous propose d'accepter la présidence, les membres que j'ai cités et nous y adjoindrons les candidats de l'Asie en fin de matinée. Y a-t-il des remarques? Je vous demande donc d'accepter ces propositions.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de passer au point suivant de l'ordre du jour, comme je vous l'avais déjà dit tout à l'heure, je vous demanderai pleine coopération pour que l'emploi du temps soit respecté. Je vous ai envoyé un courrier la semaine dernière pour justement vous inciter à travailler en commun, et à faire des interventions en commun. De mon côté, après chaque point, j'essaierai de faire quelques rappels et de tirer de brèves conclusions pour faciliter l'élaboration du rapport. Je voudrais, à ce propos, rappeler que selon l'action 2.22 du PAI le rapport du Conseil consistera en conclusions, décisions et recommandations. Nous devons donc concentrer nos positions sur les éléments principaux pour qu'ils soient le plus clairs possible.

Je vous demande aussi de ne pas recommencer tous les débats qui ont été faits plusieurs fois, puisque dans les procès-verbaux reproduiront les interventions au cours des débats.

Je rappelle aussi au Secrétariat, afin qu'il nous assiste dans la rédaction du rapport, que le rapport devra être le plus concis possible. Comme je vous le disais précédemment, cela dépend de nous, mais aussi du Secrétariat.

Je saurais gré aussi à ceux qui souhaitent intervenir dans les débats et qui ont préparé des interventions de les transmettre au Secrétariat et si possible, aux interprètes, cela permettra d'être plus précis dans l'interprétation et dans la prise en compte de chacune de vos questions.

S'il n'y a pas de remarques sur ces sujets, je passerai au point 3 de l'ordre du jour, puisque le point 11, nous l'avons supprimé. Juste quelques instants pour changer le podium.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP**II. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PROGRAMME ALIMENTAIRE MONDIAL****II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA**

3. Report of the 35th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (14-17 October 2009) (CL 139/7)

3. Rapport de la trente-cinquième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (14-17 octobre 2009) (CL 139/7)

3. Informe del 35.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (14-17 de octubre de 2009) (CL 139/7)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous examinons maintenant le point 3 de l'ordre du jour, intitulé Rapport de la trente-cinquième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Le document CL 139/7, conformément à l'action 2.56 du PAI, présente les questions relatives au programme et budget du rapport.

Ce rapport a déjà été examiné par la trente–sixième session de la Conférence en novembre 2009 sur les questions de politique mondiale et relatives aux cadres internationaux. Comme vous le savez, la Conférence a approuvé le processus de réforme du CSA, qui a été le principal résultat de la trente-cinquième session du Comité et qui est décrit dans l'Annexe H du rapport.

Etant donné que Monsieur Noël De Luna, Président du CSA, ne pouvait pas être parmi nous aujourd'hui, je l'ai vu la semaine dernière en Arménie et il s'en excuse, nous avons le plaisir et

l'honneur de demander à l'ancienne Présidente du Comité, Madame Squeeff, et à Monsieur Verbist, membre du Bureau du CFS, de présenter le rapport.

Donc, pour commencer, Mme Squeeff, vous avez la parole.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEEFF (Presidenta, Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial)

En su 35.º período de sesiones, celebrado en Roma del 14 al 17 de octubre de 2009, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA) examinó y aprobó el documento CFS:2009/2-Rev.2, titulado "Reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial". Las propuestas de reforma formuladas en este documento fueron el resultado de las deliberaciones entre la Mesa del CSA y un Grupo de Contacto Abierto establecido para asesorar a la Mesa sobre todos los aspectos de la Reforma del CSA. Este proceso abierto y participativo incluyó a representantes de los Miembros de la FAO, así como a representantes del PMA, el FIDA, Bioversity International, el Grupo de Acción de Alto Nivel de las Naciones Unidas sobre la crisis de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, el Relator Especial de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho a la Alimentación, y representantes de las ONG/OSC y el sector privado. La Reforma del Comité fue asimismo ratificada por la Cumbre sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial que tuvo lugar en Roma del 18 al 23 de noviembre de 2009.

Estimo que vale la pena recordar algunos aspectos del proceso de la Reforma.

La Reforma del Comité se centró en cuatro aspectos fundamentales: la gobernanza, el trabajo en el terreno, el panel de expertos y la movilización de recursos, atravesados por ideas-fuerza, tales como la búsqueda de mayor transparencia, flexibilidad y participación.

La Mesa integrada por los Representantes de Bélgica, Federación de Rusia, Jordania y Madagascar junto con esta Presidencia, convocó un Grupo de Contacto integrado por Representantes de los Estados Miembros, Organizaciones de Naciones Unidas y Representantes de la Sociedad Civil. Durante 10 meses, el Grupo de Contacto se reunió en ocho oportunidades con un promedio de 120 participantes en cada encuentro.

Como resultado de ese amplio proceso participativo e inclusivo la Reforma del Comité, aprobada y en curso desde el 17 de octubre último, se afirma en algunos pilares centrales que permitirán mejorar su performance histórica.

En primer lugar, se propone una ampliación de los actores involucrados en la respuesta a la creciente demanda que las hambrunas generan. Esto significa la participación no sólo de los estados nacionales, principal actor en el tema, y de los organismos internacionales, sino también una activa participación, de las organizaciones sociales y las entidades de la sociedad civil que exhiben logros focalizados en diferentes lugares del mundo.

En segundo lugar, se prevé la incorporación de diversas agencias internacionales a los fines de producir respuestas integrales y pluridisciplinarias. En un mundo de alta especialización científica, se suele olvidar que lo real es un todo integrado y coherente y que, ante el hambre, por ejemplo, las respuestas deben apuntar a la promoción de un desarrollo sustentable en las comunidades más necesitadas.

La tarea entre agencias es un verdadero reto: todas han desarrollado un altísimo nivel de *expertise* y entendemos que la coordinación, complementación e ínter actuación entre ellas redundará en la generación de alternativas superadoras de las que cada una puede realizar en forma aislada.

Se trata de lograr los máximos niveles de rendimiento, tanto del capital humano como de los medios de financiamiento y dirección política global de los planes y programas que se generen.

En tercer lugar, una iniciativa importante que trae la Reforma es la de atender especialmente al desarrollo en el terreno de las acciones que se encaren.

Las acciones deberán responder a una doble finalidad temporal: acudir a dar respuesta urgente para el aquí y el ahora y, a la vez, sostener el trabajo en el terreno para que las comunidades

aludidas puedan desarrollar medios y modos de producción, al menos para la auto-sustentación futura.

Y para ello, es insoslayable la activa participación de los estados nacionales que seguirán definiendo sus prioridades, pero también de los actores locales.

Aquí está la esencia de la Reforma, el enfoque debe ser de abajo hacia arriba, del terreno hacia el ámbito global. En la Fase II, el Comité debe promover la coordinación en los planos nacional y regional; también debe promover la rendición de cuentas y compartir las mejores prácticas en todos los niveles y debe elaborar un marco estratégico mundial para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición.

Ahora bien: toda reforma requiere una actividad permanente de operadores para que los enunciados se conviertan en acciones.

En este período, existe un número significativo de acciones a desarrollar tanto en lo atinente a los diferentes grupos de participantes como a la convocatoria a las agencias internacionales y los organismos de financiamiento.

Otra de las tareas de más largo alcance se refirió a una de las principales funciones del CSA, esta es, "vigilar activamente la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996 (Plan de Acción de la CMA)". Para ello se consideró necesario desarrollar un mecanismo innovador, incluida la definición de indicadores comunes.

En ese sentido, se decidió que la estructuración de los Informes Nacionales, uno de los temas del 34.º Comité, sería abordada por el Comité reformado.

También en el 35.º Comité se presentó el documento CFS:2009/3 referido al seguimiento de la Conferencia sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Asimismo, funcionarios de Brasil y Alemania comentaron este documento. Como resultado de los debates se afirmó que la reforma agraria, el apoyo a las pequeñas explotaciones familiares y el desarrollo rural equitativo eran elementos centrales del seguimiento de la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural que la FAO debería abordar en su labor. Sugiero la consideración del párrafo 17 del Informe porque se refiere al rol en el tema de las Conferencias Regionales y de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas.

Por último, entendemos que las recomendaciones y propuestas del Comité reformado deberían alcanzar un alto nivel de legitimidad que favorezca la movilización de los recursos necesarios para la implementación de planes y programas.

Finalmente, si hay algo que caracteriza esta propuesta de Reforma de Comité son los niveles de flexibilidad: flexibilidad es el mayor de los desafíos.

Flexibilidad para entender que no hay "un programa" mágico que produzca soluciones globales.

Flexibilidad para aunar los esfuerzos y recursos de todo tipo de las más diversas agencias.

Flexibilidad para buscar y encontrar respuestas localizadas a problemas locales.

Ahora bien: esa flexibilidad debe ir unida a un compromiso constante que permita poner en marcha los acuerdos alcanzados y planificar otros que, seguramente, se harán necesarios por la dinámica propia de la problemática y su, por ahora, constante profundización.

Estoy convencida de que si ello no ocurre, todos nuestros esfuerzos y los de quienes coordinan y tienen a su cargo la ejecución de esta tarea, habrán sido en vano.

Por último, deseo reiterar mi agradecimiento a la Mesa, a todos los integrantes del Grupo de Contacto, a la Secretaría y a todos aquellos que se comprometieron con este proceso.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame Squeff, et comme vous l'avez indiqué, je donne la parole à Monsieur Verbist qui, je le rappelle, est Vice-président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

M. Hugo VERBIST (Vice-président, Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale)

Merci Monsieur le Président de me donner la parole, comme l'ancienne Présidente María del Carmen Squeff a déjà présenté le rapport d'octobre, il me suffit de donner un bref aperçu du progrès accompli depuis et aussi de voir si le plan de mise en œuvre repris dans le document de réforme a été respecté jusqu'à présent – le plan de mise en œuvre étant en fait un peu le programme de travail du CSA de cette année.

Au cours de ces derniers mois, le Bureau du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire s'est efforcé de renforcer l'ouverture et l'efficacité du Comité en adoptant de nouvelles structures, de nouvelles méthodes de travail et diverses initiatives en matière de meilleure communication.

Tout d'abord, la première nouvelle structure est actuellement le Bureau élargi, dont la mise en place a eu lieu immédiatement après la session d'octobre de l'année passée et le Bureau compte désormais 13 membres, soit le Président Noël de Luna et 12 membres, dont deux pour chacune des régions géographiques ci-après: Afrique, Asie, Europe, Amérique Latine et Caraïbes et Proche-Orient; un membre pour l'Amérique du Nord et un pour le Pacifique sud-ouest; donc 13 membres au total, ce qui est un peu en parallèle avec le Comité financier et le Comité de programme.

Deuxièmement, le groupe consultatif dont le mandat et la structure ont été approuvés par le Bureau est en place depuis fin février. Il se compose de 13 membres issus de cinq différentes catégories retenues pour le présent exercice qui sont les suivantes:

Première catégorie: organisations et organismes des Nations Unies; les cinq membres sont le FIDA, le PAM, la FAO, le Groupe d'experts de haut niveau des Nations Unies sur la crise mondiale de la sécurité alimentaire et le Rapporteur spécial sur le droit à l'alimentation.

Deuxième catégorie: représentants des organisations de la société civile et organisations non gouvernementales. Jusqu'en octobre ce sont le Comité international de planification des ONG/OSC et OXFAM.

Troisièmement: le réseau des organisations paysannes et des producteurs de l'Afrique de l'ouest.

Quatrièmement: le Mouvement international de la jeunesse agricole (MIJARC).

Ces quatre catégories de membres sont représentées par intérim jusqu'à la mise en place d'un mécanisme mondial. En effet, conformément au document sur la réforme, les organisations de la société civile préparent actuellement une proposition de mécanisme global mondial pour faciliter leur participation aux travaux du CSA à tous les niveaux.

Ce mécanisme mondial pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition aura pour fonction de faciliter les consultations avec les organisations de la société civile et leur participation aux travaux du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire y compris au niveau régional. Normalement, cette proposition sera présentée à la session d'octobre cette année; après que ce mécanisme aura installé les membres de la société civile dans le groupe consultatif, il pourrait être adapté.

La troisième catégorie: organismes internationaux de la recherche agricole, représentés par *Bioversity*.

La quatrième catégorie: institutions financières et commerciales internationales qui, pour deux ans, sont représentées par la Banque mondiale.

Et finalement la cinquième catégorie: secteur privé et fondations philanthropiques, représentés par le réseau international AGRIFOOD et par la Fondation Bill and Melinda Gates, ceci donc pour le groupe consultatif.

La troisième nouvelle structure est le Groupe d'experts de haut niveau, dont les règles et procédures ont été approuvées par le Bureau. La procédure d'appel à candidatures pour le Comité directeur du Groupe d'experts a été conduite avec succès, recueillant 243 candidats désignés par 95 gouvernements et 53 organisations internationales gouvernementales et non gouvernementales.

Conformément aux règles et procédures du Groupe d'experts de haut niveau, approuvées à l'unanimité par le Bureau, un Comité de sélection *ad hoc* a examiné les candidatures et présenté une proposition de membres du Comité directeur du Groupe d'experts de haut niveau. La liste des 15 membres proposés est en train d'être approuvée par le Bureau du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Cette procédure doit, à tout prix, être finalisée lors de la prochaine réunion du Bureau du 25 mai pour que ce Groupe d'experts et pour que le Comité directeur du Groupe d'experts puissent encore jouer un rôle important à la session d'octobre de cette année.

La quatrième structure nouvelle est le Secrétariat élargi. Le mandat des nouveaux membres du Secrétariat détachés par le PAM et le FIDA a été préparé et des fonctionnaires du PAM et du FIDA ont joint l'équipe du Secrétariat du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Donc, c'est maintenant un Secrétariat mixte PAM, FIDA et FAO.

De nouvelles méthodes de travail ont été mises en place, entre autres par voie électronique, entre les membres du Bureau et les membres du Groupe consultatif afin de faciliter les discussions et la prise de décisions. Des groupes de travail *ad hoc* parallèles ont été mis en place également, composés des membres du Bureau et des membres du Groupe consultatif pour assister le Bureau sur des thèmes spécifiques et spécifiquement, maintenant, pour préparer la session d'octobre. La révision du format de la session plénière annuelle du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire – pas seulement du format, mais aussi du contenu – est en cours, le but étant de favoriser des délibérations fructueuses sur des thèmes pressants sans nuire à la légitimité politique du processus. Egalement, des réunions spéciales d'information technique ont parfois eu lieu, organisées par le Secrétariat, à l'intention des membres du Comité sur la sécurité alimentaire pour mieux les informer.

En ce qui concerne les nouvelles initiatives de communication, la communication externe est en voie d'amélioration, notamment grâce à la refonte du site web public du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire accessible à partir de la page d'accueil de la FAO, mais aussi à partir de la page d'accueil du FIDA et du PAM.

Pour éviter les doublons et identifier les lacunes de la mise en place de la gouvernance mondiale de la sécurité alimentaire, le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire prépare un inventaire des événements, forums et initiatives s'y rapportant à l'échelle mondiale et régionale.

Troisièmement, les conférences régionales de la FAO ont examiné ou auront à examiner un document détaillant les principales caractéristiques du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire réformé, afin de décider de la manière de contribuer plus efficacement à la sécurité alimentaire nationale, régionale et mondiale ainsi qu'à sa gouvernance et d'identifier les domaines d'actions prioritaires dans le contexte du nouveau Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. La participation du Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire à toutes les conférences régionales a été programmé et donc il a assisté aux trois dernières conférences régionales qui ont eu lieu en Afrique, en Amérique latine et en Europe.

Finalement, à ce sujet, le Président du CSA présentera aussi le Rapport du Comité à la session annuelle de l'ECOSOC en juillet, parce que le document de la réforme est le document qui a été approuvé l'année passée à la session d'octobre. Le Comité a convenu que le document final sur la réforme devait être communiqué entre autres aussi à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies par le biais du Conseil économique et social. C'est la raison pour laquelle il va aussi le présenter, ce qui est important en tant qu'initiative de communication, pour plus de visibilité. Donc, en conclusion, beaucoup de choses ont été faites, la préparation de la session d'octobre se déroule très bien et il y a encore beaucoup de travail à faire et le système avec des Groupes de travail *ad hoc*, avec la participation de beaucoup de membres du Groupe consultatif, est très important, pour diviser le travail et bien préparer la session d'octobre. En ce qui concerne le plan de mise en œuvre, il a été respecté sur quelques éléments mais on a aussi accumulé un sérieux retard par rapport à quelques éléments du plan de mise en œuvre et, en particulier, en ce qui concerne le Groupe d'experts de haut niveau et le Comité directeur du Groupe d'experts de haut niveau, qui n'a pas encore été établi; normalement il devait être établi en janvier, donc on a quatre mois de retard en ce qui concerne cet aspect.

Donc, il nous reste beaucoup à faire, mais beaucoup a été accompli, et nous devons continuer nos efforts comme Madame Maria del Carmen Squeff l'a indiqué, nous devons continuer nos efforts pour mener à bien cette réforme. Merci Monsieur le Président.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Verbist, pour cette présentation et maintenant je vous donne la parole pour débattre sur ce sujet. Le Représentant de la Chine puis celui de l'Espagne. La Chine, vous avez la parole.

Mr LI ZHENG DONG (China) (Original language Chinese)

Since I am the first to take the floor, I will make a few introductory remarks to try and persuade other people to speak and offer different points of view. First and foremost, the delegation of China would like to congratulate the Secretariat on the CFS Report and we consider that this Report should be approved. We would also like to make the following points; first, it is our view that the last meeting of the CFS discussed many important issues and did define many of the important questions facing it, such as what structure should the organization have, what should the Panel of Experts be, what should be the Secretariat's role and, of course, finance. We had a very clear statement of those issues, and we welcome the fact that it is the case. Second, we would like to stress that in the Report and in the annexes to this Report, we can see that we are dealing with well-structured documents, but I do consider that we need to improve the effectiveness, speed and efficiency with which we shall implement these plans. For instance, in choosing the Experts, we are already behind schedule.

Third, I would point out that as far as finance is concerned as we already heard in the prior presentations, this problem will be discussed at the next CFS meeting. We would request, however, information on the preliminary projects as soon as possible so as to have enough time to study them before the meeting. Finally, it is our hope that the Reform of the CFS will be approached in a flexible way with a reformed CFS capable of contributing to the agricultural development of the world and to eliminating both hunger and poverty. I repeat, the delegation of China supports this Report and the Council should approve it .

Sr. Antonio LIZCANO PALOMARES (España)

Es un placer para mí hablar en nombre de la Unión Europea y sus 27 Estados Miembros. Los países candidatos a la UE, Croacia, la ex República Yugoslava de Macedonia y Turquía se asocian así mismo a esta declaración.

La UE quiere resaltar la importancia de la 35.ª sesión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial de octubre de 2009, durante el cual se aprobaron y sentaron las bases de un CSA reformado gracias a un proceso inclusivo y con gran participación. El Informe de la sesión y el documento adjunto de Reforma del CSA han sido adoptados por la 36.ª sesión de la Conferencia de FAO en noviembre de 2009.

La UE desea resaltar que este documento del CSA reformado es un paso crucial en la mejora de la gobernanza global en seguridad alimentaria, con el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial como elemento central de la Alianza Global para la Agricultura, la Seguridad Alimentaria y la Nutrición. Reafirmamos que es fundamental que el Comité Directivo del Panel de Expertos de Alto Nivel presente su plan de trabajo para aprobación, incluyendo los temas de 2011, antes de la próxima sesión del CSA en octubre.

En este sentido, damos la bienvenida a la nueva mesa del CSA y a su Presidente, el Sr. Noel De Luna, y les animamos a que conduzcan el proceso de acuerdo al mandato establecido.

En el documento del CSA reformado, los Estados Miembros acordaron un plan de implementación de la Reforma por fases y basados en resultados. La Unión Europea agradece el progreso realizado desde octubre en cuestiones como el establecimiento del Grupo Asesor, la ampliación de la Secretaría con personal procedente de las otras agencias de Roma, FIDA y PMA, o el establecimiento de los Grupos de Trabajo *ad-hoc* de los miembros de la Mesa y el Grupo

Asesor para preparar la sesión de octubre del CSA. La UE aplaude el espíritu de cooperación entre los miembros de la Mesa y el Grupo Asesor para la preparación de esta sesión. La sesión tendrá que lanzar una imagen fuerte de un CSA reformado y de la relevancia para todas las partes interesadas.

La UE quería sin embargo expresar su preocupación por el retraso de cuatro meses en el establecimiento del Panel de Expertos de Alto Nivel y su Comité Directivo, a pesar de las numerosas candidaturas recibidas y las recomendaciones realizadas por el Comité de Selección con los claros criterios de selección proporcionados por la Mesa. Animamos a la Mesa del CSA a concluir con rapidez el proceso de aprobación de cara a que el Panel de Expertos pueda realizar su contribución a la Primera Sesión del CSA reformado de octubre.

La información del Estado Mundial de la Inseguridad Alimentaria 2009 (SOFI) nos muestra que los retrasos en nuestros compromisos en la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza simplemente no son aceptables, y que deben realizarse todos los esfuerzos para conseguir un CSA más efectivo.

Respecto al Orden del día de la próxima sesión del CSA, la UE espera la continuación del intercambio de ejemplos de iniciativas de seguridad alimentaria a instancia de los propios países, y el debate de la actual y futura situación de la seguridad alimentaria global. Animamos a la Secretaría de la FAO a que proporcione el Informe SOFI de 2010 y otros documentos de relevancia con el tiempo suficiente, de tal manera que sea posible un análisis en profundidad y un debate fructífero.

En relación a los temas propuestos para las mesas redondas, la UE apoya la idea de Mesas Redondas en volatilidad de precios, cambio climático, inversión en tierras y desarrollo rural.

La UE da la bienvenida a la iniciativa de la FAO de promover la buena gobernanza en la tenencia de la tierra, y animamos a todos los miembros de la FAO a que se impliquen completamente en la iniciativa de la FAO de adoptar las Directrices Voluntarias para la Gobernanza responsable en la Tenencia de la Tierra y otros Recursos Naturales. La implementación de una gobernanza responsable exige el compromiso y la voluntad política al más alto nivel, con especial atención a la igualdad de género. La UE espera sinceramente que el borrador de Directrices esté listo para debate y aprobación en la sesión del CSA de octubre de 2010 y para su adopción formal por la Conferencia de la FAO en 2011.

Finalmente, la Unión europea está esperando la propuesta de la Mesa sobre el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para el CSA para el actual bienio y para el bienio 2012-2013, que se debatirá en la sesión del CSA de octubre de este año, a tiempo para la próxima Conferencia de la FAO. En este sentido, la UE también espera el establecimiento de actividades de priorización para el CSA en el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto de la FAO para el bienio 2012-2013. Por otro lado, este documento también debería incluir opciones para el CSA que podrían ser financiadas en un futuro, incluyendo el reparto de costos entre las diferentes agencias implicadas.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We appreciate document CL 139/7 and particularly Appendix H which calls for the Reform of the CFS. The Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference gave its blessing to Reform of the CFS and encouraged the Chair and the Bureau of the CFS speedy implementation of the Reform process. Since then, the Bureau has been active under the leadership of an Independent Chair. We wish to express our gratitude to all members of the Bureau for their efforts in moving forward. The responses of the three Regional Conferences so far have also been supportive of Reform of the CFS.

We wish to make the following ten points:

1) It is good to see that as an intergovernmental committee, the CFS will remain part of FAO but it will serve as a central component of the global partnership for agriculture, food security and nutrition as well as a platform for discussion and coordination among all stakeholders.

- 2) We endorse the three guiding principles of the CFS, namely exclusiveness, strong links with the field, flexibility and implementation.
- 3) We support the two-phase approach in the work of the CFS but we strongly underline the importance of Phase Two.
- 4) With respect to decision-making, we subscribe to the concept of making a distinction between Members, participants and Observers in the affairs of the CFS. We think that for an intergovernmental body this distinction is essential and desirable.
- 5) We accept the proposition that the CSO in your network should serve as facilitating entities in support of the CFS. We value their contribution in the affairs of the CFS. I urge them to remain active partners in the work of the CFS, particularly at the country level. We also wish to see an effective role for the private sector in the activities of the CFS.
- 6) We support the structure of the CFS as proposed in paragraph 19 of Appendix H namely, the Plenary, to serve as the principal decision-making body; the Bureau and its Advisory Group to act as facilitators and in ensuring coordination; the High-Level Panel of Experts and the Steering Committee to serve as a multi-disciplinary advisory body to the CFS, and the small new Secretariat for the support of the two Rome-based Agencies to underpin the tasks of the Bureau, the Advisory Group, the High-Level Panel of Experts and the Steering Committee.
- 7) We give strong support to maintaining an efficient and effective working arrangement between the CFS and other actors of regional, sub-regional, national and local levels. The High-Level Panel of Experts can be effectively used for this purpose.
- 8) We urge the use of a clear-cut and objective criteria in the selection of the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts. We prefer the number to be 15, but with sequential order of first selecting 30 experts from the roster for a number of specific technical disciplines and then conducting further screening of the 30 candidates until we reach the number 15, taking into consideration, of course, equitable distribution by region and gender. All 15 members of the Steering Committee must meet four basic criteria: i) a post-graduate degree; ii) expertise in a particular discipline of relevance to the mandate of the CFS; iii) adequate working experience in cross-disciplinary work and iv) proven leadership capability. There should be no trade-offs between the four criteria.
- 9) We note that the structure of the Bureau resembles that of the Programme and Finance Committees and not the patterns suggested for the other Technical Committees of the Council. Of course, the Programme and Finance Committees are Committees of the Council and not the Bureaux. Therefore, the analogy used is not quite relevant. We think the Bureau of all five Technical Committees of the Council should have a similar regional representation. Having attended twice as silent observer in the Bureau of the CFS, I got the impression that the number of 12 may be somewhat excessive. For COAG, a seven-member Bureau is being considered.
- 10) We look forward to a productive CFS Session in October. In this connection, we encourage the Bureau to come up with an Agenda which is manageable in terms of topics and stimulating to attract participation of Ministers. As a first experiment of Reform of the CFS, we wish to see an Agenda that is lean and policy-oriented. In particular, we caution against the inclusion of too many Parallel, Side Events and Roundtables. We say this because the time allowed for discussion on substantive topics is only three days and also because the developing countries, the small delegations, are unable to participate in too many Parallel Side Events and Roundtables. We note that the CFS Bureau and its advisory group will be meeting on 25 May to finalise the Agenda of the October session. We humbly request them to limit the number of topics and Agenda and exercise caution in asserting items that better fit the agenda of the other four Technical Committees of the Council especially COAG. A heavy agenda may prove detrimental to the success of the October Session.

M. Hassan ABOUYOUB (Maroc)

Monsieur le Président, c'est au nom du Groupe africain que je voudrais prendre la parole, de toute évidence, pour vous féliciter pour votre élection en tant que Président indépendant de ce Conseil et vous souhaiter plein succès dans votre mission.

Je voudrais également saisir cette occasion, toujours au nom du Groupe africain, pour rendre hommage au Directeur général de la FAO et à tout le staff pour le travail qu'ils font au service de la longue mission de cette Organisation.

Je voudrais d'abord prendre note du document CL 139/7 faisant état des récentes évolutions intervenues dans la structure des organes du CSA engagés dans le processus des préparatifs de la prochaine session du Comité en approuvant le contenu au nom de l'Afrique et en insistant sur l'importance qui s'attache à l'accélération du temps de sa mise en œuvre. Le Groupe africain prend également note et approuve les références faites aux paragraphes 50 et 51 de l'Annexe H, qui se rapportent bien sûr au coût et au financement de la réforme et à son plan de mise en œuvre.

Aussi, nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter que cette réforme qu'a connue le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire sous sa nouvelle version constitue la réponse adéquate pour le problème de gouvernance de la sécurité alimentaire sur le plan international. Néanmoins, il serait impératif de renforcer les mécanismes susceptibles de soutenir l'action du CSA au niveau national et régional. Il s'agit à ce stade de consolider la dynamique pays et de développer les systèmes de gouvernance de la sécurité alimentaire, aussi bien au niveau régional que national, à l'instar du CSA réformé.

S'agissant de la situation de la sécurité alimentaire de manière globale, nous aimerions saluer les efforts continus de la FAO pour trouver des solutions pertinentes adéquates à la problématique de la sécurité alimentaire. Nous nous félicitons des efforts consentis par le Programme alimentaire mondial, le Fonds international de développement agricole et ses diverses initiatives et programmes pour l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire dans le milieu rural.

Les effets induits et visibles de la crise qui continue à sévir encore dans plusieurs contrées du monde nous interpellent tous pour agir d'une manière concertée et cohérente et mobiliser tous les moyens dont nous disposons pour s'attaquer aux causes profondes et multiples de l'insécurité alimentaire, en optant pour des solutions politiques, économiques, financières et techniques durables.

Nous nous devons de concrétiser les engagements auxquels nous avons tous souscrit. La communauté des donateurs est ainsi interpellée dans son ensemble pour inverser la tendance à la baisse de l'aide publique au développement destinée à l'agriculture. Les engagements pris en juillet 2009 à la réunion du G8 à L'Aquila ainsi que ceux pris à Gleneagles en 2005 pour doubler le montant de l'aide destinée à l'Afrique et à Okaïdo au Japon en 2008 pour inverser la tendance à la baisse de l'aide à l'agriculture, doivent être concrétisés si l'on veut relever ce défi.

La Coopération internationale se doit, d'autre part, de continuer à réformer la gouvernance de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Une gouvernance renouvelée, renforcée, devrait aboutir à une coordination efficace au niveau international pour assurer une cohérence des opérations et des initiatives prises dans le cadre de la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté.

Les efforts entrepris par l'Équipe spéciale de haut niveau sur la crise alimentaire mondiale, établie par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, et visant à promouvoir une action globale et unifiée pour répondre au défi alimentaire, doivent être soutenus et complétés par de nouvelles actions, visant une gouvernance efficace privilégiant la mise en place au niveau régional et international de mécanismes d'alerte précoce, relatifs aux crises alimentaires et de systèmes d'intervention rapide. De même, la coopération internationale doit privilégier l'adoption de politiques de développement agricole efficaces, durables et adaptées aux besoins des populations locales et favorisant l'agriculture vivrière.

La réussite de ces politiques ne peut être garantie que dans le cadre d'une politique de développement intégrée, axée sur le développement des infrastructures de base, assurant l'accès à

l'eau, aux intrants agricoles, aux marchés ainsi qu'aux services financiers, et en particulier aux micro-crédits. D'autre part, nous devons tous œuvrer pour bâtir un système international de commerce agricole fondé sur des règles non discriminatoires, justes et équitables, qui favoriseront la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

C'est pour cela que les Etats membres de l'OMC doivent placer l'impératif de la sécurité alimentaire et des intérêts des pays en développement au centre des négociations commerciales en cours. Il est primordial de se pencher, sérieusement, sur la question des subventions agricoles, qui malheureusement constituent autant de freins aux perspectives de développement dans les pays pauvres. Les distorsions à l'accès aux marchés en sont une illustration frappante.

Par ailleurs, la coopération sud-sud qui offre des opportunités et des potentialités importantes de coopération entre les pays en développement demeure un complément essentiel de la coopération nord-sud pour gérer les effets négatifs de la crise alimentaire.

Monsieur le Président, avant de clore mon intervention, je voudrais également souligner notre satisfaction quant à la décision d'ajouter la sécurité alimentaire aux thématiques de l'UNDAF pour le programme 2012-2016, et qui concerne notre région, étant donné que la sécurité alimentaire constitue la finalité ultime de nos politiques agricoles.

Je voudrais souhaiter la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres du Bureau du CSA et particulièrement à son Président auquel nous souhaitons plein succès dans ses missions. Merci de votre attention.

Mr Indroyono SOESILO (Indonesia)

Regarding the Report of the Thirty-fifth Session of CFS, document CL 139/7, Indonesia has four points to raise.

Firstly, Indonesia welcomes the various efforts for diversified food consumption based on locally-available sources through locally-available resource-based food diversification programme improved food security at various levels will be ensured including at household and rural levels.

Secondly, in this forum, Indonesia would like to reiterate our proposal to include marine-based natural resources as part of the food security issue, in addition to land-based natural resources since they can contribute to protein supply for the world populations. As a country with huge marine resources, Indonesia appreciates FAO's initiative to include marine and fisheries in its strategic objectives, particularly those related to sustainable management, use of fisheries and aquaculture resources.

Thirdly, with regard to the Reform of the Committee on World Food Security, Indonesia fully supports CFS as a coordinated forum under UN Agencies at the global level.

Fourthly, Indonesia hopes that the High-Level Panel of Experts will function optimally and, in this regard, Indonesia has proposed its expert to support HLPE.

Mr Renato GODINHO (Brazil)

Thank you Mr Chair and thank you to both Ms María Squeff and Mr Hugo Verbist as previous Chair and present Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Committee on Food Security.

First, I would like to inform you on behalf of our region that the Regional Conference of Latin America took place from 26 to 30 April in Panama and considered the document proposed by the CFS on how the Regional Conference would relate to the work of the CFS. The Regional Conference approved the initiative that Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 and its focal points would serve as a point of communication in the inter-sessional work with the CFS. The region would forward to the Bureau of the CFS the names of the focal points for each initiative so the work could proceed.

I also like to support some of the comments by China and the EU that the budget needs to be ready. We put forward for the consideration of this Council that the budget submitted by the CFS would need to encompass its activities and its new role, to facilitate its governance process.

In general we are very committed and very happy with the Reform of the CFS and the way the Reform is being implemented. We support the prompt formation of the High-Level Panel of Experts, especially since the other components of the CFS are very well-advanced and the work for preparation of the agenda is very well-advanced. We would not like the work of the High-Level of Experts to lag behind because it is required for the completion of the work for this year.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat for the report of the Thirty-sixth Session of the CFS and to also thank the former Chair and the Vice-Chair of the CFS for the presentation. We have some points to make as follows: First, on the arrangement of the last CFS Session, we welcome the new interactive modality to conduct discussions. If this interactive modality continues to be applied for the next CFS meeting, we would appreciate being informed in advance not only on topics discussion and panellist names, but also on the scope of their presentation and their respective background papers on those topics. Second, on the follow-up of ICARRD, we would like to support the CFS recommendation that the request on the follow-up to ICARRD be submitted to regional conferences for deliberation and further actions. Third, on the Reform of the CFS, we take note of the endorsement made by the Conference, and would like to commend the hard work and achievements of the CFS Bureau. With regard to the Reform process, we are quite concerned that the selection of the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts is much lagging behind on schedule, and is causing delay on other planned actions. We, therefore, urge a concerted effort party to finalise it without further delay and look forward to a more fruitful CFS Session in October with all the new tools in hand for further action. While the CFS Reform is in process, the challenge we are facing to save the lives of the 1 billion hungry requires immediate concrete action and concerted efforts through all means. In this regard, we would like to encourage the Secretariat and Member Nations to pay more attention to reducing the number of hungry and undernourished people by allocating more TCP resources to enhance food security and nutrition.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

Let me also join my colleagues in applauding the work of our former Chair of the CFS and thank her for all of her efforts in this work as well as her ongoing support for the continuation of the work of the CFS. I would also like to thank the Vice-Chair for his comments today.

The United States of America thanks the Committee for Food Security for its hard work – the entire Bureau – for the hard work in negotiating a comprehensive Reform package, and for the subsequent work to prepare for this October's Plenary Session.

We thank the outgoing Bureau and its Chairperson again for ushering through this very important Reform Process. The United States of America supports the outcome of the CFS meeting last October and supports approval of the Report of the Committee, including the final version of the Reform Programme of the Committee as negotiated.

We join in the comments encouraging the Committee to strive to remain on schedule. We as a team must overcome our disagreements on process to ensure that we capture the full opportunity of a reformed CFS in the global fight against hunger.

We encourage the rapid establishment of the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee, as previously agreed by the Bureau.

The United States of America, while acknowledging the outline for the scope of work for Phase 2, looks forward to participating in the discussion of its actual scope, as well as, working with other members of the Committee to develop a consensus on the Phase 2 scope of work.

As envisioned, the CFS should play a supportive role for countries struggling to ensure food security for their populations. At the same time the CFS offers a platform for discussion and review of global issues that impact on agricultural development. In this light, in addition to what is contained in the Council documentation we wish to welcome and encourage the CFS to

continue serving as a rallying point for the International Alliance Against Hunger, whose national alliances provide a forum for governments, communities, civil society, businesses and others to address the country-specific issues of food, hunger, nutrition and agricultural development.

The United States delegation would like to emphasize our support for the linkage between the CFS and the SOFI Report. We know that the SOFI Report should be circulated well in advance of the CFS Plenary in order to facilitate in-depth discussions on its content. We understand that there has been much progress this year in this respect, and we encourage drafters to continue working with other providers of data to incorporate the most up-to-date and accurate information.

We are also very pleased that the drafters of the SOFI have been able to utilize the most up-to-date statistics available from the United States Department of Agriculture, and we applaud this productive partnership.

We all understand the importance of reliable data and the challenges we face in this regard across many regions, and welcome additional efforts made in the context of the Immediate Plan of Action to strengthen the reliability of national food security and agricultural data.

We believe the main issues addressed in the ICARRD process are best addressed in the context of the FAO-led process to develop voluntary guidelines for the tenure of land and other natural resources. Naturally it is up to Member Nations to follow through on land tenure issues in their own national contexts.

Having participated closely in the formation of the HLPE, we see it as an integral part of the CFS Reform. We hope the Panel develops over time into a useful forum for discussion of best practices and technical advice that can contribute to the development of country-led food security plans.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

My delegation is part of the Africa Group position which was presented by Morocco.

I have a few issues and a few questions to ask:

First of all, we encourage the co-publishing of the SOFI report between FAO, WFP and IFAD. We hope this working mechanism on the SOFI Report will continue.

Further, we would like to know if the next SOFI release will be in advance of the CFS meeting to allow for an in-depth discussion.

My delegation also appreciates the work of the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security including briefing the Regional Conferences on CFS Reform and its link with regional, sub-regional and country level. The African Region as at the meeting and re-emphasising on various issues which will be brought to the Council of the Chairman of the African Regional Conference, but of importance is the work of the inter-sessional activities that are fundamental to the new CFS. We look forward to seeing the CFS Bureau programme with this inter-sessional working plan.

On the funding, the new CFS is a partnership entity. The partners should be involved part and parcel in its activities, including the funding, depending on the rules and regulations. Therefore, we request the Bureau to investigate the cost mechanism involved in this funding.

on the issue of the Chair of the CFS contacting ECOSOC regarding the modalities of meaningful reporting, we would like to know if there has been any progress to date.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

En primer término, deseamos expresar nuestras congratulaciones por el trabajo realizado por la Representante Permanente de Argentina ante la FAO, Doña María del Carmen Squeff, que ejerció la Presidencia del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Igualmente al Grupo de Trabajo de la Mesa, que condujo los debates y las deliberaciones de manera abierta, democrática y participativa, para concluir con el documento de Reforma que se nos ha presentado y que seguramente ha sido evaluado en las diferentes Conferencias Regionales que han tenido lugar hasta el momento. En

tal sentido, siendo así, saludamos también los trabajos que se han venido desarrollando en las Conferencias Regionales, independientemente de que, tal como lo ha expresado nuestro Presidente del Consejo, no pudieron ser traídos de manera definitiva y conclusiva para esta reunión.

Específicamente, la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe fue una conferencia muy centrada, asumiendo el rol y el papel de Órgano Rector que están teniendo estas conferencias en la nueva estructura de gobierno de la Organización. Estos resultados, creo, van en la misma dirección que está priorizando el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, como los esfuerzos regionales para articular los entes y factores que tienen que ver con parte de los gobiernos y con el desarrollo de políticas a favor de la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza en nuestra región. Todo eso finalizado en la Conferencia Regional, creo que pronto será expuesto e, igualmente, nuestra Presidenta habrá hecho un señalamiento específico.

Sr. Presidente, lo estamos saludando y le damos la bienvenida en su nuevo ejercicio como Presidente independiente del Consejo. Le deseamos todo el éxito en su gestión y que nos ayude, pues, a encausar por el mejor camino este Consejo para que, con las nuevas indicaciones, atribuciones y responsabilidades que se le ha conferido pueda ayudar y coadyuvar a que el trabajo de la FAO sea más exitoso.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela apoya, igualmente, los trabajos constructivos realizados en la implantación del Plan Inmediato de Acción, de tal manera que damos también la bienvenida a los informes que tengan que ver con la implementación del PIA como parte para echar andar todo el dispositivo que fue aprobado en la Reforma.

Y quisiera solicitarle a usted y a la Mesa Directiva que los comentarios más específicos que tiene la República Bolivariana de Venezuela y que conllevaría a leer durante algunos minutos que excederían lo que está previsto de acuerdo con el llamado que usted hace del aprovechamiento del tiempo, quisiera entonces pedirle gentilmente que los comentarios de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela sobre algunos puntos más específicos del Proceso de Reforma y del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria sean elevados de manera escrita por esta Representación, como una contribución de Venezuela a este debate y que sean incluidos en el acta de esta reunión del Consejo.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme je l'ai dit en début de réunion, suivant votre souhait, les contributions écrites pourront être jointes au procès-verbaux.

Mr Evgeny F. UTKIN (Original language Russian)

May I start by saying how grateful we are for the huge amount of work which has been done by the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security and by the secretariat of that committee and the Secretariat of the Organization. In our view, the process of Reform is moving in the right direction. A forum is being created for discussion of the most important issues to do with combating and eliminating hunger and bringing in a maximum number of countries and other institutions in the UN family, civil society and the business world, bringing all of these elements in with a very clear definition of who does what, and where we go from here. This is very important and for that reason the Russian Federation supports the implementation of the decision of the Thirty-fifth Session of the CFS of the Programme and Budget.

However, we would like to stress that the Reform of the Committee should be implemented on the basis of the FAO Regular Budget. For instance, the work of the Secretariat should come out of the FAO Regular Programme budget, along with the elements from the WFP and IFAD budgets too. Given the scale of the tasks facing the CFS we are required to plan very carefully the next steps to be taken and what is the next work to be done with adequate financial resources for all of these.

It is very important that we should match our possibilities with our desires, because sometimes our desires go further than what actually we are capable of implementing. However, this does not

exclude, and here I would suggest in parenthesis, that my view is probably the view of many states, that that aspect of the work could be supported by interested donor countries and donor organizations who would like to support this Rreform which is so important to the Organization, particularly in support of the work of the High-Level Panel of Experts. And so, the Russian Federation agrees with the view which is being put by many other delegates and states in support of the decisions of the Thirty-fifth Session of the CFS. We wish the Secretariat of the Committee every success in its work. The Secretariat of the Organization and the part played by individual countries in this is very important and essential, from the humanitarian point of view, in the struggle against hunger.

Sr. Enrique MORET ECHEVERRIA (Cuba)

Ante todo deseo felicitarle a usted por el trabajo como Presidente del Consejo, igualmente la labor que se ha desarrollado en el *Bureau* del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, el Informe presentado por la Presidenta Sra. Squeff y por el Presidente actual del Consejo.

El Informe que se nos presenta fue ampliamente debatido y aprobado por el 36° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO. Cuba participó en ese debate y es por ello que reiteramos el apoyo a las reformas del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. No obstante lo anterior, comprendemos que aún deben ser discutidos y aprobados aspectos puntuales, de orden práctico, para que la Reforma pueda ejecutarse de forma satisfactoria.

Uno de los aspectos es el relacionado con los costos de funcionamiento de la Secretaría del nuevo SESAM, consideramos que esos costos no deben significar un aumento de las contribuciones de los estados miembros o del presupuesto ordinario de la FAO. En ese sentido se debería dar prioridad a aquellas propuestas destinadas a incluir estos costos dentro de los gastos actuales de la Secretaría de la FAO o del organismo que opere en la Secretaría del SESAM. Por otra parte, como es sabido, la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y del Caribe celebrado en Panamá el mes pasado, debatió ampliamente las Reformas del Comité y el rol del CCA. Esperamos que esos aportes puedan ser considerados porque representan un punto importante a avalorarse en la próxima reunión del Consejo.

Otro aspecto también que se trató en la Conferencia Regional, es lo relativo a la Conferencia Internacional de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural sobre el seguimiento del SIDAE. Pienso que estas medidas también deben ser abordadas. en el párrafo 17 del Informe que discutimos y se hace mención a ello y se recomienda de que se haga un seguimiento para la consideración del Comité de Finanzas y del Comité de Programas. Pienso que esta es una actividad importante que no debemos dejar de lado.

Por otra parte, apoyamos el Grupo de Expertos de Alto Nivel. Sin embargo nos preocupa que éste no se haya establecido aún y que tenga un retraso de cuatro meses. Esperamos que esto se pueda concluir en un plazo breve, atendiendo además a la base de transparencia y distribución geográfica equitativa.

En cuanto al proyecto de programa provisional del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria que hemos visto, aunque sabemos que es un proyecto provisional, llamamos la atención de que no existan numerosos Eventos Paralelos o Mesas Redondas que puedan desviar la atención a veces de temas substantivos. Se dispone solamente de tres días y no es mucho lo que se debería de dedicar. Por tanto llamo también a ese punto de que se deberían centrar en todos los aspectos más substantivos y efectivos que puedan lograrse.

Por último, una cuestión no menos importante es apoyar la participación de las ONG y organizaciones de la sociedad civil en los debates del SESAM, tales como fue acordado por la Conferencia. Sobre este aspecto, Cuba reitera también su apoyo a esa decisión tomada por los Estados Miembros, y considera que es necesario la elaboración de una estrategia de financiación a partir de recursos extra-presupuestarios para agradecer la participación de las ONG y organizaciones de la sociedad civil, en especial los de los países en desarrollo.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Good morning everybody, and welcome to this important Council meeting. In line with your suggestions, I will try to keep my comments short because many of the points I wish to raise have been brought up by colleagues before me.

Firstly though I would like to join the many speakers in supporting the Report of the CFS; We also support the work of the previous Chair and certainly appreciate her efforts; We would also like to give our support to the current Chair and Vice-Chair for the important work that they are doing.

My delegation is, of course, a member of the CFS Bureau and has been very pleased to work with other Bureau members in recent months in developing the CFS in line with the decisions taken in October 2009. In particular, I wanted to give strong support and reference to the inclusive nature of the CFS, including with the other UNO organizations. We certainly appreciate the Joint Secretariat that has been arranged, but also with the CSOs, the NGOs, the private sector and the philanthropic organizations. While this has been a process taking some time to get up and running, I think that aspect alone really separates the CFS from any other organizational committee that has preceded it.

We would also like to associate my delegation with comments made by Spain on behalf of the EU and its Member States regarding the timing issues. I think it is very important that we get through this establishment phase as quickly as possible, and while we are concerned about this delay, perhaps my delegation was less optimistic about the time frame that we set in October last year than many other delegations. So my delegation would like to see these issues move forward quickly.

Without trying to transfer the debate that is currently underway in the Bureau into this forum, I thought I would make two particular comments about the meeting in October.

The first one is that the key part of the meeting is sharing information and sharing practices, and I think that will be a very fundamental part of the CFS. So we are very keen to see good case studies and good examples coming forward that can show not only the excellent work that is happening around the world but how that work is relevant to other areas. So we absolutely give top priority to that aspect of the agenda, and we would like to see very strong support given to those countries selected or identified as offering case studies so that it is not an onus solely on that country to make it happen but an onus on all of us in the Bureau and in the Secretariat to support those countries and bring forward really powerful case studies.

The second point is on the policy convergence aspect of the debate, and there have been many comments made here today. I agree actually with comments from Afghanistan about not overwhelming the agenda with too many issues. I think we need to have an agenda that is successful, and this is going to be the first meeting under the new Reform agenda. My delegation is actually very keen to make sure that we have and that we set a way forward here that reflects that the CFS is no longer an annual meeting; It is an ongoing body of work and the Bureau has been elected to perpetuate that body of work, so I think there needs to be a careful balance struck between choosing enough issues, establishing a body of work, getting clear direction from the CFS and having enough time to consider each issue and come up with useful ways forward.

I think that the process being discussed at the moment is certainly well on its way there, and I look forward to finalizing that discussion with colleagues from the CFS Bureau.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

Mr Chairman, I join my colleagues who have taken the floor before me to commend Ms María Squeff for the work she done with the Bureau and for the wonderful Report she has tabled today before us. My delegation notes with satisfaction that the Member Nations agreed on a wide range of Reforms for the CFS to make it the most inclusive international intergovernmental forum to deal with food security and nutrition. The Reforms will forecast and support national anti-hunger

plans and will encumber all stakeholders with strengthening linkages at regional, national and local levels.

With this, Mr Chairman, I welcome the statement that was made by Morocco on behalf of my region, seconded by Tanzania, as well as statements made by other representatives of other regions e.g Afghanistan, Spain on behalf of EU, Australia, Brazil, China and many others, because they touched on issues that are of concern to us: selection of the experts, the issue of the agenda in October, the issue of the budget and the schedule and the need to move to the next Phase 2, which was underscored by the US delegation. I believe that unless we get to Phase 2, we will still be doing brainstorming. It is in Phase 2 that we will begin to see delivery on the ground.

With that, Mr Chairman, I wish to add a few points regarding the SOFI document that was discussed. In paragraph 5, I think we should really underscore the need to ensure that the link between short-term interventions and long-term recovery projects is seamless and that all players, especially the Rome-based Organizations strive, to achieve this goal. I am not sure and not convinced at this stage this is the understanding of the organizations, that is the need to have a seamless relationship in handling each other short-term and long-term interventions. I believe that the CFS is the only platform in which we can assure that this is achieved. The inclusiveness of the CFS of Member Nations in UN Agencies and other stakeholders is, in itself, self-explanatory and offers a wide range of opportunities for us to reach the intended goal.

We hope that the international financial and economic crises will not threaten the process of Reforms. Mr Chair, I also wish to add, on paragraph 8 also related to the SOFI document, that we would like to ensure that representative data collection on food security be encouraged at the country and regional level because this will ensure that our planning is related to the realities on the ground. You heard from Tanzania, that in Luanda we looked at this subject, and I understand that in Latin America they also looked into this subject. We believe that this is a very important aspect that we should look at and that, in involving stakeholders, we should not just concentrate on CSOs, NGOs and sovereign funds. We should look at all stakeholders that could contribute to food security, note, I say all stakeholders. We found that on the ground, it does not pay to leave out the seed producer, or to leave out someone who can offer some kind of information or inputs that would make food security a reality. At the same time, I think that the emphasis on country-led programmes cannot be underscored enough. I share with others the need to look at this with all the sincerity it deserves. If we spend too much time on the academics, we are wasting the energies that we thought about when we approved the CFS document.

Mr Shobhan K. PATTANAYAK (India)

We know that the road map has already been set, and it is for us to follow. I do understand that a lot of consultation has taken place and I compliment the efforts not only to set up an enlarged Bureau as well Consultative Group, enhanced Secretariat and the new communication initiative. At the same time, we are all concerned that the HLPE must be established at the earliest convenience so that the next steps are taken forward. We must quickly move on to Phase 2.

At the same time, I know that slow and steady wins the race. We may be slow in setting up this HLPE, but I am certain we will find the means to do it soon and ensure that there is regional representation. We shall get the right choice of experts who have not only proven leadership skills but who have been successful in working and in seeking solutions to the problems of hunger and poverty. We must select such people who can provide leadership in times of crisis.

Hunger is known to mankind since perhaps ancient civilisations, it is nothing new and we have had national governments, independent governments working against it for ages. Why is it there? It is not very difficult to identify the reasons for its existence. Unfortunately, in the peculiar circumstances the countries are placed in, the people are placed in, there is the problem of hunger. We all know, and I can quote from the Director General's address this morning that productivity has to increase 70 percent if we are to meet the needs of hunger by 2050. Now, we must not only have the enabling mechanism for it, we must find time to find solutions for it, and if need be, get everyone together to solve this problem of hunger. So, without taking much time, I must

emphasise that we must move on to the next phase, and I am sure that the leadership is there to take us into the next phase.

Another issue which I would like to perhaps know from the CFS Bureau that we had three Regional Conferences, the inputs of which is already there. We would like to be regularly appraised about as to what has really happened as we are eager to know about it.

There was a mention this morning about a global mechanism that needed to be developed for the involvement of civil society and the NGOs. I think this was put in place very early so that representative NGOs and representatives of civil society groups were there and not some NGOs whom we do not feel would best represent the problems of the poor. I think these mechanisms should be in place quickly. These are my observations.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Given that the Report and the Reform Programme have already been approved by Conference and the previous Bureau thanked, I will limit comments to the developments since November and next steps. In that regard I would like to thank the current Bureau for the measures that it has taken, as listed by Mr Verbist, and commend the work of the Bureau to date.

Numerous interventions have expressed concern about the delays in establishing the High-Level Panel Steering Group. Even more than the delays, I think what concerns us is the reasons for the delays and the seeming politicization of the selection process. Canada would like to remind that the High-Level Panel of Experts will be useful only to the degree that it provides neutral, science-based advice.

It must also be recalled that the possible elements of Phase 2 will require inclusive discussions and greater consensus-building than was achieved in the time available in 2009.

The Bureau needs to focus on delivering Phase 1 at this stage, and the success of this October's meeting will be a key indicator of progress.

Some have spoken about the budget of the CFS and in this regard, in addition to supporting the point made by Cuba, I would like to note that the CFS currently has somewhere short of 130 member states while FAO has 191. We need to keep that in mind as we talk about the share that the CFS takes of the FAO Regular Programme Budget.

We all agree that a reformed CFS, i.e., one that has successfully completed Phase 1 would gradually take on additional roles. Paragraph 6 of the Reform document gives some indicative suggestions. Which roles and how will require the kind of Open Contact Group that was led by Ms Squeff, and that led to the document that we have already approved at Conference. Canada looks forward to engaging constructively in broad inclusive consultations.

Ms PARK Sujin (Republic of Korea)

First of all, we appreciate the devotion and the leadership of the previous year's Chairperson Ms Squeff, in finalizing the CFS Reform Programme. We also appreciate the efforts of the current Chairperson and CFS Bureau so far to work out the details of the CFS work plan. However, regarding the selection of the CFS Steering Committee, we are sorry for the delay and wish for the process to be finalized as early as possible so that the work plan of CFS is implemented as originally scheduled as far as practicable.

Regarding the next CFS meeting, we support the points made by Australia earlier regarding the importance of in-depth case studies to assist members in coming up with insightful recommendations.

We would like to echo the opinions of previous speakers regarding the importance of Phase 2, so that the Reform of CFS is implemented with the concrete results.

Finally, we wish the SOFI Report to be circulated in advance of CFS meeting to allow the participants of CFS Committee to have in-depth discussions on its contents.

Sra. Gladys URABANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)¹

En primer lugar, el Gobierno de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ratifica su rechazo al carácter de mercancía que le ha sido asignado a los alimentos en la actual estructura económica internacional, a la especulación financiera en el mercado de alimentos, la concepción de los agrobnegocios orientados a la producción para la exportación, el debilitamiento de las economías a raíz de los Tratados de Libre Comercio (TLC), el impacto de los agro-combustibles en la producción de los alimentos y el efecto del actual modelo de consumo capitalista en el cambio climático.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela ha considerado que el proceso de Reforma de la FAO representa una oportunidad para hacer una revisión profunda de esta institución y establecer sus prioridades. En este sentido, estimamos que la FAO debe reafirmar su compromiso con los Países del sur para erradicar la pobreza y el hambre.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela ha observado positivamente, la manera en que se desarrolló el proceso de reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial de la FAO (CSAM), y considera oportuno manifestar su preocupación sobre algunos aspectos aprobados para el funcionamiento del nuevo CSAM.

Participación de la sociedad civil

En los diferentes foros en los cuales se ha debatido el tema de la reforma de los órganos rectores, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, ha manifestado la conveniencia de evitar el establecimiento de instancias o procedimientos paralelos a los contextos multilaterales.

Debemos destacar positivamente, el hecho de que la reforma del CSAM busca crear una plataforma más inclusiva para que todos los actores interesados en la lucha contra el hambre puedan participar.

En relación con las propuestas para mejorar la participación de la sociedad civil y las ONGs en el CSAM, la visión política de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, es la de apoyar la participación de los actores y movimientos sociales, debido a las ventajas que otorga el protagonismo de los pueblos organizados en cooperativas para lograr ventajas de fuerza colectiva, que no impliquen restricciones de independencia, autonomía, libertad y poder originario del individuo.

Se debe avanzar en el modelo participativo y protagónico, en el fomento de capacidades para que las comunidades organizadas elaboren, ejecuten y supervisen recursos que permitan incrementar y mejorar su calidad de vida. Sin embargo, en el marco del reordenamiento que impulsa el sistema capitalista, luego de la crisis generada por éste, las funciones primordiales del Estado no deben ser ni declinadas ni cedidas, y debe mantenerse una estrecha relación entre pueblos y estados. Por lo tanto, en un organismo intergubernamental y multilateral como lo es la FAO podrían confrontarse intereses particulares de los organismos, entidades y sectores frente a las grandes transnacionales que cuentan con todo tipo de recursos y métodos para incidir en la toma de decisiones a través de las ONGs, tanto en la FAO como en muchos países en vías de desarrollo donde el gran capital ejerce una fuerza para influir en la toma de decisiones.

Si bien la Reforma ha planteado la inclusión de organizaciones mundiales de financiamiento, tales como el Banco Mundial (BM), se debe cuidar que la intervención de estos organismos de financiamiento en los países en desarrollo no constituyan presiones adicionales a los Gobiernos para que acepten los principios del libre mercado, como ha sido su práctica hasta el presente. El Banco Mundial ha impuesto a los países del Sur obligaciones con el pretexto de insertar sus economías en el mercado globalizado, lo que ha traído como consecuencia una profundización de las desigualdades entre los países del Norte y del Sur. Estas entidades del sistema monetario internacional han producido desestabilización económica, política y social en los países del Sur y por ende generado pobreza, desigualdad e injusticia. Por lo tanto, su participación no parece compatible con la misión y propósitos de un CSAM Reformado.

¹ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

Dentro de la Reforma del CSAM se ha incluido también el trabajo de organizaciones filantrópicas y de asesoría técnica tal como Agri-food Network, la cual está identificada como un enlace informal entre las organizaciones que lideran procesos de la cadena agrícola a nivel mundial con miras a proteger los intereses de los miembros del comercio de alimentos (específicamente cereales) o la producción de bioenergía.

Por ende, el carácter incluyente de la reforma del CSAM, debe ser reforzado sin que exista algún tipo de influencia en las decisiones de los países más pobres, amarrándolos a planes que vulneren aun más la soberanía alimentaria, y comprometan los avances que en materia de seguridad alimentaria y nutricional han alcanzado éstos, en las distintas regiones del mundo.

La Republica Bolivariana de Venezuela sugiere, en cambio, que a partir de la Secretaría de la FAO, se realice una efectiva articulación de la red de instituciones técnicas con pertinencia en el área, para poder propender a soluciones de carácter regional, que hayan sido exitosas en los países.

Asistencia Oficial para el Desarrollo (AOD)

El Gobierno de Venezuela, lamenta la ausencia de un verdadero compromiso por parte de los países desarrollados para contribuir al logro de los objetivos de erradicación del hambre, la búsqueda de la justicia social y la inclusión social en los países en desarrollo. Esto ha quedado evidenciado en el incumplimiento del compromiso del aporte del 0.7% del PIB, destinado a este propósito.

Observamos con preocupación, cómo se han involucrado mecanismos de financiamiento alternos bajo la figura de Fondos, impulsados por algunos actores que promueven esquemas de dominación a través de ONGs, Fundaciones y Sociedades Civiles, apartándose del objetivo primordial de destinar el 0.7% del PIB para la AOD, así como el incremento de la proporción destinada al desarrollo agrícola.

Sobre la utilización del hambre como esquema de dominación, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela reitera una vez más su denuncia sobre la aplicación de una política sistemática que utiliza el hambre como elemento de dominación de los pueblos, tal es el caso de Cuba, Afganistán, Irak y Palestina, que han visto mermadas sus posibilidades de acceso a los alimentos, así como también, se ha incrementado en la población de esos países, el número de personas que padecen hambre.

Para finalizar, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela reitera su preocupación por la existencia y aplicación de políticas que no reflejan un verdadero compromiso con las necesidades de los países víctimas del flagelo del hambre y la pobreza.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Presidenta, Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial)

Voy a ser muy breve porque las cuestiones estuvieron más bien enfocadas a las acciones que se están realizando en este momento.

Lo único que quiero hacer es un llamado a todos los Grupos Regionales a mantener, y muchos de ustedes lo han dicho, el espíritu de trabajo del año pasado que es lo que nos permitió llegar a la Reforma y tratar, en la medida de lo posible, de completar la estructura que se pensó, es decir, la que ustedes ven al final del Informe, que son todos los pasos que tienen que ver con las distintas etapas que se deben llevar a cabo para llegar a la Fase 2 con la mejor estructura posible.

Varios de ustedes han hablado de la importancia de la Fase 2 y creemos totalmente que esto es así. Es parte de la Reforma de una manera muy fuerte y, por lo tanto, es muy importante completar la estructura del CSA para poder comenzar a trabajar en la Fase 2.

Termino aquí porque prefiero que el Sr. Hugo Verbist y la Secretaría contesten algunas preguntas que son los que están trabajando activamente en la Mesa hoy.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, j'ai une demande de parole de l'observateur de l'Alliance internationale des femmes. Vous avez la parole.

Ms Bettina CORKE (International Alliance of Women)

I know that the Report has been passed for the purposes of this intervention but I would like to refer to a paragraph 17 of E in the Report that states that various groups of civil society should come together. Private sector associations, private philanthropic organizations and other CFS stakeholders, as well as actors in the areas related to food security, etc., are encouraged to autonomously establish and maintain a permanent coordination mechanism for participation in the CFS.

With all due respect to the delegate from Afghanistan who claims that perhaps one has to have a PhD before one can proceed much further, I would like to humbly suggest that this is totally unmanageable. My organization, which is an international NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC, which has a great deal of monitoring and accountability and legitimacy in its work and its activities and which is moving along with INGOs cannot in any way work with many of private sector organizations and corporations that in fact, have created to a very large extent the problems that we have over food security.

So this paragraph is not a sensible paragraph if you wish to bring together partnerships because it cannot work that way. The separation must be there and my President has written to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of the UN saying that issues have arisen particularly in connection with our work with the FAO but are also evident in our links with other UN bodies. They concern the lack of clarity in the form of relationships that already exist and/or are in the process of being set up between FAO and CSO and international NGOs, and to the ambiguous definition of civil society organizations in FAO's various partnerships in which one group of the international communication is operating under the auspices of ECOSOC and the other representing a host of civil society actors/stakeholders is not.

I think that this is a very serious impediment, particularly so in terms of women. We also wrote a letter to Mr Nabarro, which we stated that we, as a very large women's organization along with seven other here at FAO, had participated in the Contact Groups during the World Food Summit meetings and in the civil society forum I was representing the International Alliance of Women so I was surprised that after months of putting forward evidence to the contrary, women were still being presented in the final, approved report as just poor victims of circumstance. Women farm producers and subsistence farmers were eliminated from the agricultural and rural development fields addressing those sectors. They were bundled into the most affected and most vulnerable groups, along with youth and indigenous peoples, thus dismissing a proven fact that we are experienced negotiating experts in all fields of interest to FAO with a range of experience in governance and NGO activities at the national, regional and international levels.

In closing, I would like to say that every Member Nations that continues to allow this state of hunger to continue must recognize that women are forced to beg, borrow, steal, scrape and scrounge for food for their families, or prostitute themselves, to be able to continue to live, and that is totally your responsibility.

M. Hugo VERBIST (Vice-président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale)

Je vais être bref et je vais essayer de répondre à quelques questions qui ont été posées. Je crois cinq ou six points.

Premièrement, en ce qui concerne le budget, je suis sûr que le Secrétariat pourra élaborer, mais simplement pour information ou pour rappel: en 2010, il n'y a eu aucune augmentation des contributions de la FAO au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, c'est donc le même niveau qu'en 2009. Les futures dépenses pour le Groupe d'experts de haut niveau, qui concernent les réunions, les rapports, etc. seront couvertes par des fonds fiduciaires et sont déjà couvertes par des fonds

fiduciaires pour le travail préparatif. En ce qui concerne les contributions du Programme alimentaire mondial et du Fonds pour le développement de l'agriculture, pour l'instant, c'est sous la forme du détachement du personnel au Secrétariat du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire.

La prochaine session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire devra examiner le programme de travail et budget du Comité pour 2011 et de même pour le prochain biennium 2012-2013, surtout en vue de la préparation de la Conférence de la FAO en juin 2011, et sera donc préparé par le Bureau dans les mois à venir. Un élément dans ce programme de travail et budget, comme remarqué par quelques représentants, est la question de savoir si les coûts du nouveau Comité seront répartis entre les principales organisations concernées, et ceci fait partie de cette discussion.

Ce document, ainsi que le rapport intégral du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, sera alors présenté à la prochaine session du Conseil, fin novembre. Ceci en ce qui concerne le budget.

Deuxièmement, à propos du rapport du SOFI et donc le souhait d'avoir la publication du SOFI à l'avance pour qu'elle puisse être discutée à la session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, le Secrétariat pourra peut-être aussi le confirmer, mais si j'ai bien compris, normalement il sera publié à l'avance, aussi pour l'une des tables rondes organisées lors de la session du Comité. Donc, on aura le temps de l'étudier avant la session.

Troisièmement, en ce qui concerne le Conseil économique et social, il y avait une question concernant les contacts entre le Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire et le Conseil économique et social. En effet, dans le document de réforme, il est noté que le Président du Comité devra consulter le Conseil économique et social et prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires à l'établissement et la mise en œuvre de modalités de liaison satisfaisante. Le Président n'est pas ici pour l'instant, mais je suis au courant qu'il y a eu des contacts écrits, et que la réforme du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire sera un point de l'ordre du jour à la session de l'ECOSOC en juillet où le Président De Luna fera un discours et où la réforme sera discutée pour voir comment améliorer le lien avec l'ECOSOC. C'est donc bien à l'ordre du jour et je crois que cette réunion va encore continuer à être préparée dans les semaines à venir.

Quatrièmement, il y a une question sur les conférences régionales et comment on peut mettre l'accent sur ce qui a été discuté lors de ces conférences. L'ordre du jour de la session d'octobre du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire n'a pas encore été finalisé, mais on a prévu une session plénière pour présenter des développements et initiatives régionales. Je crois que, dans le cas de cette session, on pourra très bien présenter les résultats qui sont sortis des conférences régionales de la FAO en ce qui concerne le Comité sur la sécurité alimentaire.

Finalement, j'ai bien noté quelques encouragements et appels de beaucoup de Représentants en ce qui concerne l'établissement du Comité directeur du Groupe d'experts, donc je crois que le Bureau a une responsabilité de finaliser ce processus aussi vite que possible, avant le 25 mai, date de la prochaine réunion du Bureau. J'ai également entendu l'appel de quelques délégués de ne pas surcharger l'ordre du jour de la session d'octobre et on fera en sorte que tous les sujets soient bien discutés. Enfin, j'ai aussi noté l'appel d'organiser des consultations élargies pour la mise en œuvre de la phase 2 de la réforme du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Je crois que j'ai répondu à toutes les questions.

M. Hafez Ghanem (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement économique et social)

Monsieur Verbist a couvert tous les points. Je vais me concentrer sur trois points seulement.

Premièrement, les questions concernant le rapport SOFI: cette année nous allons publier le rapport une ou deux semaines avant la réunion du CSA avec l'objectif de permettre une discussion approfondie des analyses des recommandations de ce rapport pendant la session de CSA.

En ce qui concerne les données, nous avons l'intention de publier les chiffres qui sont présentés dans SOFI au mois de septembre, juste avant la réunion sur les Objectifs du millénaire à New York. La question du rapport SOFI a été soulevée par plusieurs délégations.

En ce qui concerne le budget du CSA, je suis d'accord avec les différentes délégations qui ont soulevé cette question. Le budget du CSA peut être divisé en trois parties: il y a le coût du Secrétariat, le coût des réunions du Bureau du CSA et du Groupe consultatif et le coût du *Panel* d'experts. Pour le moment, ces coûts sont financés sur le budget de la FAO et un fonds fiduciaire alimenté par un seul bailleur de fonds. A mon avis, le Secrétariat et le Bureau doivent travailler ensemble sur cette situation et faire une proposition à la prochaine réunion du CSA. A mon avis, la situation actuelle n'est pas tenable.

Le dernier point concerne le suivi de l'ICCARD: nous travaillons sur deux domaines et j'espère que l'on aura des résultats à présenter bientôt. Premièrement, il y a tout le travail de soutien aux petits producteurs et aux producteurs familiaux. Nous avons préparé un document qui sera présenté à la prochaine session du COAG. Et deuxièmement, il y a les questions qui concernent la gestion et la gouvernance foncières. Nous sommes actuellement en train de travailler sur une sorte de code de conduite qui j'espère pourra être présenté à la prochaine session du CSA.

Monsieur le Président, ce sont les trois points que je voulais aborder en continuité du discours de Monsieur Verbist. Je ne sais pas si mon collègue Kostas veut ajouter quelque chose.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci de cette précision, Monsieur Ghanem. Monsieur Stamoulis, vous avez des précisions à apporter ?

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Secretary, Committee on World Food Security)

I think Mr Ghanem has covered the Secretariat part of the response.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Après ce débat, j'observe l'intérêt porté par toutes les délégations, puisque vous avez été nombreux à intervenir sur ce sujet où nous n'avons pas de décision à prendre, mais plutôt des recommandations à faire. Mais, j'ai entendu l'intérêt, l'espoir mais aussi l'exigence que les délégations formulaient pour la mise en place du Comité du groupe d'experts dont l'exigence frôlait l'impatience. Donc, je pense que dans les recommandations, nous allons dire qu'il est important que ce groupe d'experts se mette rapidement en place. Malgré cela, je crois que l'ensemble des délégations ont approuvé et sont satisfaites de l'engagement qui est tenu pour le CSA.

Il y a deux éléments complémentaires dont je veux vous faire part. Durant les trois conférences régionales qui ont eu lieu ces trois dernières semaines, j'ai eu l'occasion de rencontrer des délégations nombreuses de la société civile qui, elles aussi, sont impatientes de la mise en place et essaient au mieux de se coordonner pour être présentes dans le cadre de cette discussion. Donc, je pense qu'il y a une mobilisation de l'ensemble des pays et, dans le cadre de la formulation de notre compte rendu, nous insisterons fortement sur le fait de la satisfaction de l'avancée, mais aussi de l'impatience. On trouvera les mots pour que tout cela se mette en place rapidement.

Nous concluons donc ce point de l'ordre du jour.

Il est 12 h 20. Nous allons avoir dix minutes de plus pour nous restaurer et nous reposer puisque je ne pense pas que nous puissions démarrer un autre sujet à dix minutes de la fin de nos travaux.

Je vous donne donc rendez-vous à 14 h 30 précises, si vous voulez bien être présents, mais Monsieur Mekouar a une communication à vous faire.

SECRETARY GENERAL

The Africa Group will meet in the Pakistan Room right after this meeting.

The meeting rose at 12.18 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 18

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.18

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session
Cent trent-neuvième session
139.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 17 - 21 May 2010
Rome, 17 - 21 mai 2010
Roma, 17 – 21 de mayo de 2010**

**SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

17 May 2010

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.46 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 46
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.46
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
III. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES
ET À L'ADMINISTRATION
III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS
Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

5. Report of the Joint Meeting (14 April 2010) of the 103rd Session of the Programme Committee and the 132nd Session of the Finance Committee (CL 139/5)

5. Rapport de la réunion conjointe (14 avril 2010) du Comité du programme à sa cent troisième session et du Comité financier à sa cent trente-deuxième session (CL 139/5)

5. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 103.º período de sesiones y del Comité de Finanzas en su 132.º período de sesiones (Roma, 14 de abril de 2010) (CL 139/5)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare ouverte la deuxième séance de cette cent trente-neuvième session du Conseil de la FAO. Avant d'entamer les travaux de l'après-midi, je voudrais vous annoncer les pays candidats au Comité de rédaction pour l'Asie. Il s'agit de la Chine et du Pakistan. Le Conseil est-il d'accord sur cette proposition? Pas d'opposition, tout le monde est d'accord.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

LE PRÉSIDENT

Notre Comité de rédaction est donc au complet.

Nous allons passer au point 5 de l'ordre du jour relatif au rapport de la réunion conjointe du Comité du programme à sa cent troisième session et du Comité financier à sa cent trente-deuxième session, qui s'est tenue à Rome le 14 avril 2010. Le document est le CL 139/5. Je vous rappelle la suggestion faite dans la lettre que j'ai envoyée aux Membres du Conseil le 16 avril dernier, à savoir que certaines questions relatives au PAI soient abordées au point 8 de l'ordre du jour. Je demanderais donc aux délégués de s'abstenir de faire référence à ces questions relatives au PAI jusqu'à ce qu'elles soient abordées au point 8. Dans le cas du rapport de la réunion conjointe, il s'agit des questions suivantes: le système de planification des activités et de suivi et d'établissement des rapports axés sur les résultats; et l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre de la stratégie de mobilisation et de gestion des ressources.

J'invite donc Monsieur Sorour, Président du Comité financier, qui a présidé la réunion conjointe – mais j'ai cru qu'il allait faire cela en duo avec Madame Laatu – à présenter ce point. Monsieur Sorour, vous avez la parole.

Mr Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

I have a proposal to facilitate our work before we review the issues which are not directly related to the Immediate Plan of Action and our Joint Meeting covered. I suggest that we follow-up on the Reports of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, following which I will personally review the Reports so that we have the overall view. If you are in agreement Chair, I can start off based on what was presented in the Report of the Joint Committee.

In accordance with what I have said, there are two points which we will now cover during our review of the Joint Meeting: the update on progress in implementation of the TCP, the Technical Cooperation Programme and the interventions of FAO in emergencies. The first point refers to progress on implementation of the TCP. There are two points which we emphasized in our

meeting. We need to strengthen field office capacity based on the technical Assistance Programme. Strengthening the capacity of these field offices is important, either by adding new positions to build up the number of employees since we have outsourced for this purpose, and we also need to step up the training programmes for the staff of these field offices so that they can take on the tasks which have been assigned to them. In 2009, training seminars were held for these employees under the Technical Cooperation Programmes. Other training seminars are scheduled for a large number of persons. Furthermore, in accordance with the Decentralization of the TCP, we maintained a small unit in charge of Technical Cooperation at head office level which covers the management of 15 percent of the budget dedicated to emergencies and to inter-regional projects.

We are closely monitoring the level of expenditure for the TCP. This was a point which we covered separately in the Finance Committee. Nevertheless we felt it was necessary to discuss this in the Joint Meeting in the relevant section of the Report.

I will now go over the items of comparative expenditure for 2007 and 2009. The level agreed for 2006 and 2007 was USD 204 million, versus 2007 and 2008 which was USD 112 million. The spending in 2006 and 2007 was USD 96 million and then USD 51.9 million for the subsequent period. The Chairs of both Committees very succinctly found that there was some delay between the presentation of requests and the rollout of the Technical Cooperation Programme so we reviewed all the corrective measures to be taken and in particular those regarding decentralization and implementation of the TCP. The purpose was to reduce the time lapse between the submission of the request and the presentation of the projects which was sometimes as much as seven months.

This is what I wanted to say briefly on the discussions of the Joint Committee regarding the first point on progress on implementation of the TCP. Now if I may Chair, I will call on Madame Chairperson regarding the second point on the evaluation of the operational capacity of FAO in emergencies, after which I will present this approach regarding the Finance Committee.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme vous le souhaitez, je donne la parole à Madame Laatu, Présidente du Comité du programme.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am not going to present what the Programme Committee discussed on the evaluation of FAO's operational capacity in emergencies. As you know, this is an issue which was discussed both in the Programme Committee and in the Finance Committee, and then in the Joint Meeting of the two committees following the individual discussions of the Committees. Work was divided so that we did not have overlapping discussions but each focussed on the issues pertaining to the mandates of each of these Committees.

So in the Programme Committee, we had a presentation of evaluation and the Committee commended the report for its excellent quality. The Committee also noted that Management agreed with most of the recommendations presented in the evaluation. It furthermore noted with appreciation that many actions suggested in the evaluation report were already included in the recently-launched operations strategy of the Emergencies and Rehabilitation Division for 2010 and 2013. It was noted in the Committee that there was a need to strengthen FAO's response capability in particular at country level. The Committee further noted that the role of FAO in transition and in linking emergency to rehabilitation and development should result in enhanced collaboration among the various units in the Organization, contributing to FAO's emergency work and at all levels of the Organization as well at the Headquarters, at regional, sub-regional and country levels.

The Programme Committee suggested that Management should move speedily on implementation of agreed recommendations and actions that do not require additional funding. It urged the

Secretariat to develop sustainable systems to support emergency operations and ensure efficient technical support to emergency operations. Such systems should take into consideration the enhanced role given to the Regional and Sub-regional Offices in providing technical support to the Field Programme and make greater use of regional and national experts, including, when appropriate through South-South Cooperation. So that is in brief the summary of the Programme Committee discussion on this topic.

Now I give the floor back to the Chair of the Finance Committee to continue with what the Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting discussed on the same topic.

Mr Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

I will now move on to the presentation of the Finance Committee report on this point. First of all I would like to stress that in accordance with the guidelines which we gave to the Secretariat, a document on this issue was submitted to us, and quite honestly I would like to say that this document greatly facilitated the discussions in the Finance Committee because it provided the basic points on this issue as well as a framework for the discussion. I will now go over some of the comments made during the Finance Committee.

First of all, the response by the Secretariat on the many recommendations which were presented regarding the strengthening of the operational capacity was very favourable. Questions were asked as to the extra costs which might arise for the Organization in implementing part or all of these recommendations, so we wanted to know whether there would be extra expenditure which would arise from the implementation of these recommendations. Therefore we asked for a more detailed plan of the costs incurred. Other recommendations were covered through the IPA, and implementation will be discussed subsequently.

A question was raised by our Committee, regarding the recommendations to assist in providing broader duties for employees who working outside the Organization and examining the entire financial impact of this as well as on decentralized purchases. Some recommendations were felt not to be in accordance with the policies which had been approved by the Finance Committee or by other Governing Bodies, in particular the Council and the Conference. These recommendations were not approved and this was amended by the Secretariat.

Further, there are some questions regarding governance in terms of information technology. We agree that the Organization needs a highly effective IT system for data management, and strong support was expressed for this. I would like to reiterate the need to build up the capacity of the Field Offices so that they can keep up with the efforts being provided in terms of emergency interventions. This area requires our full attention. Mr Chairman, there is another issue regarding governance for emergencies and rehabilitation. Further to the findings of our previous recommendations, we decided to proceed, without further delay in presenting these questions this year.

Now there was a question which was somewhat controversial in the Finance Committee regarding the mechanisms for financing human resources. We asked the Secretariat in this regard to examine how this matter could be dealt with effectively during future Finance Committee meetings. So, in brief, this is what the Finance Committee covered under these issues.

I will now go over the conclusions of the Joint Committee, namely the evaluation of FAO's operational capacity in emergencies. Mr Chairman, we agreed on some basic points, namely that without further ado, we must implement the relevant recommendations. I am referring to the evaluation and recommendations regarding the operational capacity and not the other items. We agree with implementation of the proposals made under the evaluation which do not have any additional financial impact in tandem with the strengthening of the capacity of the Field Offices so that all of them make their contributions under the required decentralization in the event of emergencies. Therefore, our meeting made several recommendations, the most important of which requires the Secretariat to finetune the capacities of this fund and to enable it to implement its tasks, as well as build up the human resources. Both Committees emphasized the need for strict

observance of gender parity in all areas and this summarizes the discussion which was held under the Joint Committee. Thank you Mr Chairman.

If you feel or if you wish me to subsequently emphasize a particular point, please do not hesitate to call on me to do so, I should add both that both Committees stressed the need to make sure that the work of the Joint Committee progresses. We approved the quality of the documents that presented to us and I submitted during the Joint Committee session, the Finance Committee's opinion in this regard. It is necessary that the same effort for the Finance Committee is extended to the Joint Committee in particular regarding the document which provides the guidelines defining the framework for the Finance Committee's work. This would significantly facilitate the work of the Joint Committee. I do admit that our Finance Committee discussions were greatly facilitated by the availability of these guidelines. I think these are pertinent recommendations. I think that most of the Council will have found that the presentation of the report has changed. There is a point in the Joint Committee's report regarding the need to come up with a recommendation as I have just stated.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Sorour. Merci aussi du dynamisme avec lequel vous développez le travail et la volonté d'améliorer le travail du Secrétariat pour être plus efficient, et ce que vous avez un peu expérimenté au Comité financier. Il n'est pas interdit, même conseillé, de pouvoir l'étendre à d'autres comités. Merci de ces initiatives. Sur les sujets de la réunion conjointe, vous avez la parole. Bien sûr, vous pourrez ensuite aborder les questions qui pourraient être posées dans le cadre de ce débat.

Mr Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

We would like to thank the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for their Reports. With all due respect for the Report, I would like to say that some of the issues which the Chair of the Finance Committee signalled, I would seek clarification regarding the fact that for the 2006-2007 biennium we have USD 95 million in expenditure whereas for the 2008-2009 we only stood at USD 59.5 million. I think this is an alarming sign of great concern and I think that we should pay appropriate attention to it.

As was emphasized in the Report, there are some failings in the implementation of the plan. You and the Members of the Council know the importance attached by the developing countries to the TCP. It is the only tool which can, in fact, have specific repercussions, positive repercussions, on the developing countries in that they will enjoy more of the resources available from the Organization.

Furthermore, I think the budget for the TCP is not really commensurate with our objectives and ambitions. As emphasized in the Report, and among the obstacles which should have been raised were the lack of decentralization and to the significant delay between the submission of requests for projects and the approval of these projects. These are also alarm signs, and this extended lapse may have an impact on the priorities of the Members Nations and the implementation of specific tasks. It is necessary to move ahead as quickly as possible and attempt to implement the decentralization after enhancing the responsibilities of the national and regional offices, whether this be through the build up of operational capacities of these offices or by hiring large numbers of experts from the field.

I should add that the number of local experts is well below what it should be. The travel expenses for experts a large part of the budget which should, in fact, be devoted to the programme and budget proper, since we only have a very small budget. We should use local experts as much as possible and unquestionably this would have a very positive impact on the implementation of projects.

Regarding emergencies and as emphasized in the Report, it is necessary that we have an appropriate template for the presentation of projects so that we can follow their implementation. There are some issues which we can be resolved in emergencies, and there are prerequisites which

we could do without to facilitate regional implementation. Therefore, I think it is necessary that we have a mechanism at the level country level for an early warning system. We suffer from drought on a regular basis. This is a well-documented problem that prevails over other issues. What we mean is that these strategies should lead to a regional strategy which will enable us, in addition to enhancing early warning system signals, to be able to respond and intervene. If we had this early warning system, many of the problems we have suffered could have been avoided.

The Report also emphasizes the need to cooperate between the three Organizations in Rome every time emergencies arises in particular with the World Food Programme which significantly contributes to these endeavours.

Sra. Almudena MÍNGUEZ MATORRAS (España)

Hablo en nombre de la Unión Europea y de sus 27 Estados Miembros. Los países candidatos a la Unión Europea, Croacia, la ex República Yugoslava de Macedonia y Turquía, también se asocian a esta declaración.

La Unión Europea toma nota del Informe y de las recomendaciones del Comité de Programa en su 103.º período de sesiones y del Comité de Finanzas en su 132.º período de sesiones. Nos preocupa el bajo nivel de gasto del Programa de Cooperación Técnica 2008-2009 y el retraso en la aprobación de proyectos.

La Unión Europea da la bienvenida a las actividades de formación para reforzar la capacidad de las oficinas descentralizadas programadas para 2010 y el establecimiento del puesto regional del Programa de Cooperación Técnica en las Oficinas Regionales.

La Unión Europea apoya el papel de la FAO, de acuerdo a sus ventajas comparativas, en la preparación frente a las amenazas a la agricultura y a la alimentación y de respuesta a emergencias, incluyendo la transición a actividades de desarrollo. La Unión Europea también resalta la importancia de la coordinación con el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, el PMA, y el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, el FIDA, así como de las alianzas con otras organizaciones internacionales en situaciones de emergencia, incluyendo la armonización de los procedimientos operacionales y de los servicios compartidos.

Por último, apoyamos la inclusión de la dimensión de género en todo el trabajo de la FAO, incluyendo las evaluaciones para asegurar la integración del género y la igualdad de oportunidades en las situaciones de emergencia y en las actividades de rehabilitación.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

We would first like to thank the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for their joint report. We will comment on the two items as requested by the Chair, progress on the implementation of the TCP. Our concern is reflected by Jordan, so I would voice the feeling of the Africa Group. Our Africa representatives in the Committees voice the concern of our Group regarding the delay between the request and approval of projects and on the level of expenditure in the 2008-2009 Technical Cooperation Programme appropriation. The Africa Group would like to take the opportunity to underscore the importance of Technical Cooperation Programme as in the development programmes at national level, especially in acquiring the technical know-how and technology transfer that are indispensable in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. It is consequently important that all delays be avoided for the quick and efficient implementation of projects.

The Africa Group similarly supports the training in initiatives foreseen in 2010 to enhance the capacity of the Decentralized Offices. Our Group welcomes the maintenance of the TCP Unit at Headquarters to manage 15 percent of the TCP appropriation earmarked for emergency projects and the 3 percent earmarked for inter-regional projects. We are interested also in inter-regional projects but we wish to be provided with more information in this connection. Our Region is interested in the functions of the TCP Unit which will provide guidance and training to Decentralized Offices and Headquarters staff, and we note with satisfaction that the monitoring of the entire decentralization process would ensure that TCP resources continue to benefit all needy

countries in accordance with the IPA. In consideration of these observations, the Africa Group fully supports the decisions of the Programme and Finance Committees as presented in paragraph 8.

With regard to Item 5 in the Report of the Joint Meeting, that is the Evaluation of FAO's operation capacity in emergencies, the Africa Group fully supports the findings and the recommendations spelled out in paragraph 17 to 21.

Mr Arne HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

We would like to thank the chair of the two Committees for their Report and we can support all the recommendations and observations therein. I would have liked to see crisper recommendations. There are too “many looking forward to request”, etc. etc., and this is what we have to restructure, the bulk of the two Committees and in fact also the Technical Committees and their overview of governance structure. Your duty is to provide clear recommendations to the Council to make our work easier and, of course, speedier. I will speak particularly as regards progress towards implementation of the TCP. We share the concern that it is lagging behind, and that it is taking too long to get the projects approved and financed. I think a reason for this is the way this Organization has structured its Technical Cooperation Programme. It is a project programme and a project takes a long time to prepare to and to get on the ground. What this Organization needs is a programmatic approach to disseminate its fabulous knowledge, both the normative and the technical. It needs a programmatic approach with programmatic priorities which will make it easier for the Organization to get on the ground fast with its helpful knowledge.

The Technical Cooperation Programme is basically about national capacity-building. I also think that we should discuss it in the Programme Committee, in the Finance Committee and especially in the Conference Committee of FAO. We need to know how the TCP is organizing itself, where it is on the ground and what role it should have at the regional, sub-regional and country levels. I also think that we should better focus on national capacity-building efforts. There are at least six important points that we need to have to as part of our programmatic approach to dissemination of knowledge, and the first is to ensure that the countries themselves are in the driving seat and the masters of the programmes. Second, we need to support country efforts and not do the job for them. Three, we need to promote coordinated approaches and efforts. Fourth, strengthen organization and institutional capacity, especially through individual training. Fifth, we need to pay attention to the enabling environment, and sixth, we need to increase the use of national and regional expertise and South-South Cooperation. I think that you have to have a programmatic approach as a basis.

Now we come to the question of Regional Offices and the shifting of the weight to the Regional Offices in the Technical Cooperation Programme. We are really concerned that too much is moving now to the Regional Offices. This Organization need a Technical Cooperation Unit that covers more than the 15 percent and the three percent, because when you have a programmatic approach and not only a project one, that kind of leadership in the Organization must be based on normative and the technical knowledge. I am not sure if they have reached the balance there. I am concerned that we are shifting too much to the Regional Offices, and sooner or later we have to have a full discussion on this complex programmatic approach and programmatic priorities, the balance between the Headquarters and the Regional Offices, and how to solve those conflicting interests because we all have the same interest. But you will have conflicts where the real decisions will be taken and when you decide what kind of knowledge you are disseminating, etc. etc. We never had that discussion in the Conference Committee as part of the whole Reform Process, and we need it. That is why I spent some time on it right now.

Mr Robert RIEMENSCHNEIDER (United States of America)

First, I would like to start by saying that we support the Report and its recommendations but we have two very quick points. The United States welcomes increased harmonization that leads to greater efficiency and effectiveness in emergency response. We encourage FAO to expand current

partnerships with WFP, for example in logistics and supply chain management and other humanitarian actors to build on current efforts aimed at improving its response time to emergencies. We are also pleased to hear that at Headquarters level, FAO's Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division has exceeded the UN System-wide target of 50 percent gender parity in employment. We encourage FAO to emulate TCE and employ a concerted effort to not only attain, but if possible, surpass the UN target across the entire Organization.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation welcomes the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, and we would like to thank the Chairs of the two Committees for their presentations. We have some points to make as follows:

We hope that delegation of authority to Regional Representatives and establishment of new TCP posts in Regional Offices as well as capacity building of staff will help reduce the processing time for TCP approval, and enhance effective implementation, monitoring and reporting.

We appreciate the progress made in implementing for the first year the results-based work planning, monitoring and reporting system. We look forward to an effective functioning of Regional Conferences in their new role as Governing Bodies as well as Technical Committees, to provide inputs on priorities for preparation of the MTP and PWB.

We also wish to encourage the Secretariat to ensure that future actions of these Governing Bodies be scheduled within the near meeting cycle of each biennium.

On FAO's operational capacity in emergencies we agree with the Programme and Finance Committees that some types of disasters are predictable, like *El Niño* and some transboundary plant and animal diseases. So programming and funding should also be predictable. In this regard we call upon the Secretariat to make this relevant information available before the first meeting of donors at the beginning of next year.

Sr. Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

En primer lugar yo quisiera reiterar el respaldo de mi delegación al Informe presentado. Mi delegación fue parte de estas reuniones y por lo tanto mantiene su apoyo claro al mismo. No obstante, quisiéramos subrayar cuatro puntos en específico. El primero es el relativo a la utilización de expertos nacionales, que puede ser una forma de contribuir a disminuir la carga financiera de los diferentes proyectos, además que es un magnífico instrumento para la difusión de conocimiento a nivel del país.

Con respecto a los programas de cooperación técnica, también hemos reiterado en varias ocasiones lo importante que es reducir el tiempo de trámite entre una solicitud, la aprobación de los proyectos y su instrumentación. Creemos que en este sentido hay que revisar, no nada más, preocuparnos por los tiempos sino también hacer una revisión detenida de los procedimientos. El obtener calendarios cronogramas de operación quizás ayude a los países a estar más claro hacia donde hay que dirigir sus esfuerzos en determinado momento.

Por último, si bien apoyamos y claramente la apropiación de los proyectos a nivel nacional y la elaboración de los mismos a nivel de país, queremos subrayar que para México es muy importante otorgar una visión regional y sub-regional cada vez que esto sea posible. La región de Mesoamerica tiene una importancia específica para mi país y en ella se comparten una serie de problemas comunes a un grupo de países y por lo tanto de soluciones que pueden ser compartidas.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Mauritius and echoes other comments which have been made, in particular by Jordan.

My delegation has only two issues: one regards the small unit for TCP. If Headquarters is to provide the required support to the Decentralized Offices during this transition period, then we would like to know how this will take place here at Headquarters.

Second, the Country Offices, in particular the FAORs, should deliberate their work with the lead agricultural ministries which deal with crops, livestock, forestry, irrigation, trade and fisheries in the areas of representation, in particular to educate and train them on the new TCP Guidelines to shorten the time of application and implementation.

Sr. Enrique MORET ECHEVARRÍA (Cuba)

Deseo agradecer a los presidentes de los Comités por los informes que han presentado. Cuba reconoce el trabajo que se están llevando a cabo en los Comités de Finanzas y de Programa para dar cumplimiento a las decisiones de la Conferencia en materia de Reforma de la FAO, en especial los esfuerzos por propuestas y decisiones más claras y concretas. Consideramos que aún debemos continuar avanzando en este sentido.

Nuestra consideración sobre los resultados de las reuniones conjuntas de ambos Comités, es que mostramos nuestra preocupación por el intervalo promedio de seis meses que transcurre entre las peticiones y la aprobación de Proyectos de Cooperación Técnica y sobre la escasa cuantía de dedicar solo el 53 por ciento para el gasto de la consignación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica que dista mucho de las expectativas y necesidades de los países en desarrollo.

Es imprescindible y con la aplicación de la Reforma de la FAO, que se pueda responder con más severidad a las necesidades planteadas por los Miembros. La capacidad de respuesta que logre alcanzar la FAO para poner los servicios de Cooperación Técnica a disposición de sus Miembros será sin duda un termómetro de incalculable valor sobre la eficiencia en que la Organización está realizando su trabajo.

Por otro lado, apoyamos las propuestas de mayor descentralización en la ejecución de las actividades de emergencia y rehabilitación de forma tal que las oficinas del terreno jueguen un papel más activo en esta función.

Apoyamos también la propuesta del *Summit* a mitad del período y evaluación al final del bienio del Plan a Mediano Plazo de Programa de Trabajo del Presupuesto, así como el examen conjunto del Plan a Mediano Plazo y el Marco Estratégico cada cuatro años. Estos exámenes los ayudarán a determinar sobre la marcha de los aspectos que deben ser fortalecidos para alcanzar los objetivos previstos del Marco Estratégico.

Deseo reconocer las gestiones realizadas por la FAO para la movilización de recursos. Con respecto a la propuesta de elaborar una estrategia de comunicación de la FAO para mejorar la movilización de recursos, creemos que esta acción puede contribuir de forma importante a que el mensaje de la Organización llegue con mayor claridad a una mayor parte del mundo, y en consecuencia, se alcancen mayores resultados en la movilización de recursos para la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

My delegation welcomes the report by the two Chairs: the Chair of the Programme Committee and the Chair of the Finance Committee. Like others who have spoken, we associate ourselves with the statement that was made by Mauritius on behalf of my Region and Jordan on behalf of G77 and indeed Representatives of other regions, like Cuba, Mexico, Tanzania and the rest who have also spoken in respect of the delivery of the TCP.

My delegation wishes to pronounce itself on the observations in paragraph 5. On record it is clear that even the IEE found that there were delays in implementing TCP, but then at the time the TCP fund was being used as a buffer fund for the Organization. I would like to plead with Management to move with haste to demonstrate that FAO has moved from that period and that it is implementing the IEE recommendations in this area as expected by the Membership.

With that, I associate myself with the observation that was made by Thailand that we hope with the Decentralization of the TCP, operations and training of the staff, we should see an improved implementation of the TCP programmes and the improved transfer of knowledge and its dissemination.

With that my delegation wishes to endorse the Report and the recommendations that have been made by the Committees and the other regions that have spoken on this.

Mr Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

I would like to firstly clarify an observation made by the Ambassador of Norway that in fact there have been no shifts towards the Decentralized Offices in the implementation in the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11. In other words, as compared with the PWB 2008-09, the IPA itself had indicated that there should be no net shifts from Headquarters to the Decentralized Offices and, of course, that advice was duly followed.

Now having said that, many Members have commented on the need to strengthen the capacity and the response capacity of the Decentralized Offices both in connection with your deliberations on the TCP, as well as the emergency operations. Indeed, we strongly believe that that is necessary. In that regard we consider it important that the information technology infrastructure of the Decentralized Offices is strengthened, for example in the area of connectivity between Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices and between the Decentralized Offices. We believe that the information systems of FAO, be they budgeting systems, accounting or administrative systems, need to reflect more strongly the needs of FAO today, including the needs for the emergency operations which have grown tremendously in the past few years.

Comments were also made about training for the officers in the decentralized structures, and that indeed is something that we have been giving a lot of emphasis to, particularly in the past year.

All these actions have been, to a good extent, already funded in the Programme of Work and Budget through the Immediate Plan of Action, and therefore we look forward to implementing these measures, as the Chairperson of the Finance Committee indicated, without delay. These actions will benefit the TCP, they will benefit the emergency operations and, more generally, they will allow us to have a more effective implementation of the Programme of Work – an integrated Programme of Work both under the Regular Programme and the extra-budgetary funds. All these actions are prerequisites for more effective delegation of authority to the Decentralized Offices. What we are trying to do is to really come up, under these various rubrics that I have explained, with a more integrated and more holistic approach which is aimed at making FAO, including its decentralized structures, more effective in the broadest sense of the word.

I would like to also turn briefly to many of the comments made with regard to the Technical Cooperation Programme and the rate of delivery on the TCP. I think it is important to recall at the outset that the Technical Cooperation Programme is available for expenditure over two biennia. What I mean by that is that when the appropriations for the TCP are voted in one biennium, according to Financial Regulation 4.3 of the Basic Texts, they shall remain available for obligations during the next biennium as well. I emphasize this because it is important to underline that there is no cause for alarm if, in fact, at the end of the first biennium there is a portion of the Technical Cooperation Programme which has not yet been spent. The Financial Regulations themselves allow that expenditure to take place in the second year of the biennium.

With regard to the comments made by the Representative of Jordan, we hit a very low point of expenditure incurred in the first year of the biennium in 2006-07. Of the total appropriation that

was voted in that biennium, in fact we only spent USD 27 million of that appropriation as of 31 December 2007.

I should underline that in 2008-09 the extent of expenditure incurred by 31 December 2009 against the 2008-09 appropriation was considerably higher, and it amounted to USD 49.9 million.

Of course we shall strive to deliver faster and we have listened carefully to the guidance that has been provided by the Programme and Finance Committees and by the Council in, for example, in 2004-05 the expenditure in the first year of that biennium had reached USD 63 million. We shall be trying to do better but the important point here is, in fact, that the appropriation that is unspent at the end of the first biennium is available for expenditure in the second year of the biennium. I hope that Mr Sumpsi will also describe some of the measures that have been taken in order to accelerate our rate of expenditure and also to shorten the timeframe between the identification of a TCP project and its approval.

We have undergone a very significant change in the TCP business model which is the Decentralization of the TCP to the Regional Offices. Indeed, this is one aspect on which we had started some early action in 2009 with regard to the training efforts and with regard to filling posts in the Regional Offices, posts which were more than offset by the reductions at Headquarters. When one introduces such a significant change in a business model, of course, there are some risks in the implementation of those activities. We did have a slow start with the implementation of TCP projects under this new business model in the early part of 2010, but we are already seeing signs of greater activity. I do hope that you will bear with us because, as I said, these are significant changes and there is a lot of new work that the Decentralized Offices need to undertake, and they are just beginning to successfully undertake those efforts.

Mr José M. SUMPSI (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

I would like to cover five main points made by the distinguished delegates.

First, the question on expenditure. In addition to the explanations by Mr Juneja, I would like to say that precisely the level of expenditure at the beginning of the second biennium from the previous net appropriation is much higher than other biennia. Now we have reached 53 percent; that, as I said, is a high level of expenditure for the first biennium, in this case the 2008-09 appropriation.

I would like to mention that this level of satisfactory expenditure reached in this biennium is in a certain way influenced by the quick disbursement of the input supply under ISFP TCPs, seed and fertilizer distribution, that is much more rapid than other kinds of TCPs, and is one of the reasons that explain this high level of expenditure for the 2008-09 appropriation. That, on the contrary, is not a low expenditure rate. It is a high expenditure rate.

The question is that we are observing a slow disbursement in the the rest of the TCPs. But now we are taking some important measures to speed up the process of the rest of the TCPs and we are sure that at the end of this biennium, at the end of 2011, we will be able to spend all of the appropriation for 2008-09. Our situation in achieving results is undoubtedly much better than that of previous biennia.

Now our focus is on the rest of the TCPs, and we are taking some important decisions to speed up the process to ensure that we are able to spend all the 2008-09 appropriation at the end of 2011 following the guidance of the Governing Bodies, as Mr Juneja mentioned.

About the question of expenditure in the 2008-09 appropriation, in principle we will have no important concerns at the end of the 2010-11 biennium.

The second question is the level of approvals during 2010-11. In that case, we are concerned because as you mentioned in your interventions we are experiencing some low levels of approvals in the 2010-11 appropriation compared with previous biennia. But in this case, I think that you understand, as also Mr Juneja mentioned, that this is the result of changing the business model. We expect that when we reach a normal situation, we will speed up the process. The first months

are difficult, however, because we are putting in place all the new systems. We are not just doing training courses and training activities. We are doing a lot of things, issuing new manuals, new guidance, new policies, sending people from the Unit in Rome to the regions to enhance the capacity there, waiting for all these people that will be appointed in the next months for the management of the appropriation at regional level. All these actions will provide some important results in the next months.

We are following very closely the situation. I personally have a weekly meeting with the Unit. In that sense I would like to express some optimism because although it is true that in the last four months the level of approvals is not very good, we appreciate that things are moving at regional level when we see the pipeline of the TCPs. In that sense, I can inform you that the current situation in the pipeline is about USD 26 million, or about 30 percent of the net appropriation for 2010-2011. The situation of the pipeline is indicating that things are moving and that we can be optimistic in the next months. In any case, as I said, we are following very closely the situation. When we detect some problem we immediately intervene to try to improve the situation.

The follow-up of all these questions now has to be done at the regional level. We have also the information at regional level and this allows us to extend the capacity in the regions in which the situation is not sufficiently good. In that sense, I think that we are foreseeing all the measures to improve the situation. I think that our vision is that in October we will be able to know if we really are reaching some normal level of approvals or are continuing under the current level of approvals. But we expect that by the end of 2010 we will be reaching a normal situation on TCP, and even improving it in 2011.

This allows us to move the first item, that is, about the timing from the initial request of the TCP to the approval, that now takes an average of six months. Several of you mentioned the need to speed up the process, and to improve the procedures and the timing for approvals of TCP. We are sure that with the new model of decentralization we will be able to reduce this average period of six months to four months in the future, but we need some time to achieve these results. We expect that at the end of the year, or maximum at the beginning of 2011, we will be speeding up the process to approve the TCPs. When all the machinery will be very well managed and prepared, we will be able to reduce this period. In any case, I took note of some of your suggestions to strengthen the guidance to the regional and national offices regarding the procedures and the follow up for chronograms, so that everyone knows the chronograms to be followed to achieve the result of lowering the time level for approving TCPs. We expect that the guidance to regional and national offices could really support this movement to reduce from six to four months the average period of approval for TCPs.

The fourth question is about national experts or local consultants. This is an important matter because, as several of you have mentioned, there are two important and positive results, one is cost-effectiveness, and the second is the need to strengthen the national capacity and national expertise. We are trying to move in that direction, but it is not always easy. For some elements, sometimes international consultants are needed. In any case, as I said, I took note of this question and we will follow closely the increased use of national consultants. In cases of decentralized offices, it is more difficult because the decision to hire consultants is not centralized, it is decentralized. We will have to provide guidance to all the National and Regional Offices to encourage them to use national consultants and not international consultants.

The last question, the fifth question, is about national, sub-regional or regional TCPs. As you know, TCP is demand-driven, and FAO is trying to respond to requests coming from national governments or sub-regional or regional bodies. I can tell you that the highest number of requests comes from governments. Although regional bodies sometimes request this support, the weight of national requests is more important than regional or sub-regional requests. I think this regional vision is important, but we have to take into consideration that TCP is demand-driven and that we are not just answering requests coming from the different national or regional statutory bodies.

I think, Mr Chair, that these were the most important things that I could say about these five important elements raised by the distinguished delegates.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I think there were really no questions to the Programme Committee part of the discussion of the operational capacity in emergencies. However, I think some issues which were in the Programme Committee Report were highlighted in the discussion and I will just take up a few of them. One of them was capacity at regional and country level and using local expertise. At least Jordan, Norway, Mexico and Cuba made references to this. Another issue that was highlighted in the discussion was the Early Warning and Emergency preparedness issues. The cooperation between the Rome-based Agencies as well as cooperation with other humanitarian actors was also highlighted in the discussion, as was the importance of addressing gender issues. Furthermore, South-South Cooperation was highlighted in the discussion and finally there was an issue on the predictability of many emergencies and the need to react accordingly. Thailand requested information on these predictable emergencies and their funding needs to be discussed in the meeting that we are going to have for the interested parties on the extra-budgetary financing of the FAO. So this is what I picked from the discussion on issues pertaining to the Programme Committee discussion on this matter.

Mr Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

I do have two main comments. First as stated in the Joint Meeting Report there is a delay in terms of the approval of TCP projects up to seven months. Follow-up is taking place on a continuous basis from the part of the Joint Meeting. This was a standing item on the agenda of the Finance Committee and now it has become a standing item on the Agenda of the Joint Meeting. We are following closely this issue, as well as the expenditures and the consequences of the new decentralized system and how it affects the TCP projects. It is obvious that we need to grant time to this new system before we see the fruits on the ground. The IPA referred to USD 900 thousand savings and we are following up on this very closely. There is an update on those figures. Up to 12 April 2010 approval projects totalled USD 10 270 000, while in 2008 and 2009 the size of approved projects totalled USD 113 million, plus an additional USD 700 thousand. This is up to 12 April 2010 and relates to the 2008-09 biennium.

Regarding the recommendations and what our colleague from Norway said, this depends largely on the nature of the issue under discussion. Sometimes we give approval or we take an immediate decision, and on other occasions, we need to request additional information. Our job in the Joint Committee has improved a great deal, we have improved the way of reporting and the matrix and the recommendations. We keep on working hard to improve even further more.

Mr Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I am confused, we have heard many figures within the last 10 minutes, and the figures should have been adopted and listed very clearly in the document. The Chairman of the Finance Committee in his Report said that the expenditure in 2006 and 2007 was USD 95 million and he mentioned that in 2008-09 it was USD 51 million. Then we heard other figures from Management stating that in 2006-07 it was USD 27 million, while in 2008-09 it was USD 49.9 million. The Chairman of the Finance Committee tried to improve these figures, and we heard new figures totally different from the two previous ones. I do not want to engage into the debate regarding these figures however please I need to know the exact figures for the related biennia.

On the other hand, Mr Chairman, regarding the demand-driven nature of TCP projects, in the absence of the networks at the regional levels we do not expect to see regional requests. Therefore the officers in the regions do need to engage in establishing these networks, and this must be one major endeavour to be undertaken by these officers.

Mr Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

I did not try to correct the figures I just updated them. I updated the figures, that is all. In relation to the last figures we received in the Joint Meeting, again as I said, it is only an updated text.

Mr Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

It is always difficult to draw attention to some figures at the last moment, but I will try to take by way of illustration two of the figures that had been quoted by the representative of Jordan. Indeed, the total expenditure incurred against the 2006-07 appropriation as at 31 December 2009 was USD 95.7 million, as the Representative of Jordan and the Chair of the Finance Committee mentioned. The important point here is the point I made earlier, which is the TCP appropriation is available for two biennia. So this was the total expenditure against the 2006-07 appropriation, aggregated for over two biennia up to end of 2009. Within those figures, I was trying to illustrate that the expenditure that was incurred in the first biennium, 2006-07 - so the expenditure incurred as of the 31 of December 2007, against the 2006-07 appropriation - amounted to USD 27.1 million. The implication being that the remaining expenditure, in other words the difference between USD 95.7 million and USD 27.1 million, was incurred in the 2008-09 biennium. I hope that helps to clarify the situation.

Mr José M. SUMPSI (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

This means that, for the 2006-07 biennium, at the beginning of the second biennium it was about 30 percent of the expenditure. Now, at the beginning of the second biennium for the 2008-09, we are reaching 53 percent instead of 30 percent at the end of the biennium. In three to four months, the figure shows clearly that we are not in a bad situation compared with the previous biennia. In any case, I would like to thank the Chairs of the Programme and Finance Committees for the discussions about the TCP. We also take note of concerns expressed regarding approvals for 2010 and 2011. I assure you that for the Secretariat it is a top priority to follow-up very closely the new decentralized business model of the TCP, which the Chair of the Finance Committee had indicated was experiencing some problems at the beginning. At the end of the first year, we will improve on the time employed for approvals and following the recommendations of the Programme and Finance Committees, we will improve our reporting system. As you know, we have regional indicative locations and it is very important to know what happens region by region. For the next Programme and Finance Committees we will provide you with regional figures to know exactly what happens in different regions. As noted before, the situation could be very different region by region.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

The seven-month delay between approval and implementation cannot be true for emergency projects. There are quite a large number of TCP projects dealing with emergencies. A seven-month delay for dealing with TCP projects I find difficult to believe, so it must be an average figure. If you take this average figure of seven months, then the delay must be much more than seven months.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je veux d'abord remercier les deux Présidents des Comités pour le travail qui a été réalisé. J'ai cru comprendre que, globalement, on appréciait le travail qui avait été fait mais qu'il y avait un souci de faire en sorte d'accélérer les procédures pour être plus efficace. Un certain nombre de pays aussi ont manifesté leur satisfaction quant à la formation pour aller plus rapidement. J'aurais tendance à dire que nous sommes sur la bonne voie mais il faut persister – c'est ce que nous mettrons dans le rapport. Je vous remercie.

- 6. Report of the 103rd Session of the Programme Committee (12-16 April 2010) (CL 139/4)**
6. Rapport de la cent troisième session du Comité du programme (12-16 avril 2010)
(CL 139/4)
6. Informe del 103.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa
(Roma, 12-16 de abril de 2010) (CL 139/4)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose donc de passer au point 6: le rapport de la cent troisième session du Comité du programme. C'est le document CL 139/4 et je vous rappelle, comme signalé précédemment, qu'il est demandé aux délégués de s'abstenir de faire référence à une question relative au PAI concernant le Comité du programme qui sera abordée demain matin. Je donne la parole à Mme Laatu, Présidente du Comité du programme, pour présenter le rapport du Comité.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

This was a first session of the new Programme Committee that was elected at the last session of the Council. In this spirit of new ways of working we held two half-day informal meetings of the Programme Committee members in February and March to familiarize ourselves with our work and to prepare the multi-year Programme of Work of the Programme Committee which will be discussed in more detail under the Item 8 on the Implementation of the IPA as just indicated by the Chair. However, let me state already now that the multi-annual programme of work of the Programme Committee divides the work into five main areas, and I will just list them.

The first area of work is the programme planning and priority-setting of the FAO. The second area is the results based monitoring of programme implementation, the third area of work of the Programme Committee relates to evaluation. The fourth area of work of the Programme Committee, during this biennium at least and the following one, is the IPA implementation and integration into the FAO Programme of Work and Budget and the final fifth area of the programme of work refers to the improved working methods of the Committee itself.

Now in the rest of my presentation I will group the recommendations under these five main areas of work of the Programme Committee, and I will start with our discussions on that programme planning and priority-setting of FAO. Related to the programme planning and priority-setting, the Programme Committee this time discussed one item which was the prioritization of technical work of the Organization. The discussion focussed on the process of preparing the next Programme of Work and Budget of FAO from the present time to the Conference of 2011. A number of recommendations were made to ensure improved participation of the various Governing Bodies in the process as foreseen in the IPA. These recommendations are listed in the Programme Committee Report to the Council under "Matters requiring attention by the Council", that is under Item 3. They pertain to the new role of the Regional Conferences as part of the governance structure, to the enhanced role of the Independent Chair of the Council and the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee respectively, and to the stronger role of the Technical Committees in priority-setting. I would like to highlight the following recommendations in this respect.

Firstly, the Committee recommended that the Independent Chair of the Council supported by the Secretariat takes steps to ensure that the Regional Conferences would be in a position to provide clear recommendations on areas of regional priority to the Council through the Programme and Finance Committees. The Independent Chair of the Council already has participated in three Regional Conferences after the Programme Committee meeting. Secondly the Committee recommended that the Independent Chair of the Council convene a meeting with the Chairpersons of the Technical Committees and the Programme and Finance Committees to discuss and agree on the approach in handling the discussions of the priorities in the Technical Committees, and such a meeting has already been scheduled.

Thirdly, the Committee recommended that future sessions of the Technical Committees and Regional Conferences be scheduled within the new cycle of Governing Body inputs to the Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget, as approved by the Conference.

Now let me turn to the evaluation issues that were discussed in the Programme Committee session. This time, we had a number of evaluation issues on the agenda of the Programme Committee.

First of all, the Committee endorsed the Charter for the Office of Evaluation which had already been discussed by previous Programme Committee Sessions on several occasions and which the Committee recommended for approval by the Council and inclusion in the Basic Texts, as foreseen in the IPA. The Charter is included in the Report as Annex 1. In the discussion, the need to follow-up the impact of the evaluations on the programme and the policies of the Organization was highlighted.

Secondly, the Programme Committee discussed the indicative rolling workplan of strategic and programme evaluation 2010-12. It decided on a number of strategic evaluation, to be initiated in 2010 and 2011. These comprised evaluations related to six areas of work of FAO, namely gender, nutrition, land tenure and access to land, policy assistance at country level, fisheries and forestry. The Committee also endorsed the type of countries to be included in the next country evaluations. The recommendations are listed in detail under Item 6 "Matters requiring attention by the Council". The Programme Committee further discussed three strategic evaluation reports and Management responses to them. The first report was the Evaluation of FAO's Operational Capacity in Emergencies, which we already discussed under the previous agenda item. The second evaluation under discussion was the Joint Thematic Evaluation of FAO and WFP Support to Information Systems for Food Security. We also discussed the evaluation of FAO's role and work related to water.

A number of general requests were made concerning all future evaluations. It was requested that continuous attention be paid and that gender issues be included in each future evaluation of FAO. It was also requested that a more standardized format for evaluation reports be provided to the Programme Committee in the future.

The Committee also requested a clearer prioritization among many recommendations, as in some cases there were a number of recommendations in the evaluation report. We have such reports in front of us now and we felt that in some there are a number of recommendations there is a need to prioritize them clearly. We also requested that in future there is a balanced coverage of all the regions in the evaluations.

In addition to these general requests, there were specific recommendations made on each of the evaluations covered. These are listed in the "Matters requiring attention by the Council", under the Items 6, 7 and 8.

Now I go briefly to the Joint Thematic Evaluation of FAO and WFP Support to Information Systems for Food Security. There the Programme Committee noted that this was the first evaluation implemented jointly between the FAO and WFP. The Committee endorsed the principle of continued joint work between the two organizations on food security information. The Committee appreciated the fact that Management agreed to finalize a Corporate Strategy for food security information systems, as well as a joint strategy with the WFP on the same subject. The Committee underlined the importance of appropriate systems for assessing food security, not just in emergency situations but also in development contexts. The Programme Committee endorsed the establishment of a FAO Water Platform which would be an internal coordination mechanism to better address water-related issues across the Strategic Objectives and organizational structure. The Programme Committee stated that the water platform could be created immediately as Governing Body endorsement would not be required for an internal coordination mechanism. The primary task for the water platform would be to develop a water strategy for FAO.

Now I move to a third area of work of the Programme Committee, and that is the Results-based Monitoring of Programme Implementation. The Programme Committee briefly discussed two items. One was the item on the access to the TCP on a grant basis. As you know, there has been a consultation with selected countries on this issue, and as a result we were briefed on that consultation. It was decided that on the basis of the discussion, the eligibility criteria should be a subject of further discussion, and we requested a paper for the next session of the Programme Committee.

The other item discussed under the Results-based Monitoring of Programme Implementation was the preliminary review of Statutory Bodies with a view to allowing them to exercise greater financial and administrative authority while remaining within the framework of FAO. There, the Committee resolved to continue the discussion in this next session also asking for a comprehensive list of such Bodies and a discussion paper by the Secretariat for the meeting.

On IPA implementation, the Programme Committee did not discuss any item as it was decided to discuss these matters in the Joint Meeting of the Programme and of Finance Committees. Then, finally as regard the improved methods of work and efficiency of the Programme Committee, in addition to approving the Multi-year Programme of Work which I mentioned already and which would be discussed later under Item 8, the Committee also made an effort to make "clear, precise and consensual recommendations to the Council". It's part of our multi-year annual results-based Programme of Work, and the result of this effort to make clear and precise recommendations to the Council is seen in the Report before you, and I hope that it meets with your satisfaction. In the future, the agenda items and recommendations of the Programme Committee, for information will also be grouped under the five areas of work as I did this time.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Madame la Présidente. Je vous donne la parole sur les différents aspects qui ont été évoqués.

Sra. Almudena MINGUEZ MATORRAL (España)

Hablo en nombre de la Unión Europea y sus 27 Estados Miembros. Los países candidatos a la Unión Europea, Croacia, ex República Yugoslava de Macedonia y Turquía también se asocian a esta declaración.

La Unión Europea da la bienvenida a las recomendaciones realizadas en el Consejo por parte del 103.º período de sesiones del Comité de Programas. El buen trabajo del Comité de Programas es esencial para implementar adecuadamente el Plan a Medio Plazo 2010-2013 y el Marco Estratégico de la FAO 2010-2019. Instamos a la Secretaría de la FAO a proporcionar de forma oportuna a los Comités Técnicos la documentación necesaria sobre las prioridades para así facilitar su trabajo.

También nos gustaría recalcar la recomendación realizada por el Comité de Programas de que el Representante Independiente del Consejo convoque una reunión con los Miembros de los Comités Técnicos y de los Comités de Programas y de Finanzas para discutir y acordar el enfoque sobre como abordar las prioridades en los Programas Técnicos para coordinar así el importante proceso de priorización.

La Unión Europea apoya la adopción de la carta para la oficina de evaluación de la FAO aprobada por el Comité de Programas. La Unión Europea también aprecia que la Oficina de Evaluación informe el Comité sobre la implementación de la decisión de la Conferencia según la cual hay que establecer disposiciones de evaluación en todos los proyectos de importes superiores a los dos millones de dólares.

En relación al Plan de Trabajo indicativo progresivo para las evaluaciones de estrategias y programas para 2010-2012, la Unión Europea apoyo plenamente la lista de prioridades aprobada por el Comité de Programas y Evaluación que deberá llevarse a cabo en 2010-2011. También apoyamos que las futuras evaluaciones a los países incluyan a las economías emergentes, a países

con amplios programas de emergencia y rehabilitación y a países de renta media, teniendo en cuenta el debido equilibrio regional.

La Unión Europea apoya las conclusiones del excelente informe sobre la evaluación de la capacidad operativa de la FAO en situaciones de emergencia e insta a la Secretaría de la FAO a desarrollar sistemas sostenibles para apoyar a las operaciones de emergencia y para hacer que el apoyo técnico en estas sea más eficiente. También ve la necesidad de proporcionar el apoyo técnico adecuado de cualquier actividad sobre el terreno para asegurar el éxito de la planificación e implementación en la estructura descentralizada.

La Unión Europea apoya la continuación del trabajo conjunto de la FAO y del PMA sobre información en materia de la seguridad alimentaria y anima a ambas organizaciones a mejorar la sostenibilidad de sus sistemas de información definiendo claras estrategias de retirada. La propiedad del sistema debe reforzarse. Tomamos nota de la importancia que tiene la información en materia de seguridad alimentaria para el Comité Reformado de Seguridad Alimentaria e instamos a colaborar estrechamente con el CSA en la implementación de las recomendaciones de la evaluación.

También apoyamos el establecimiento en la FAO de la Plataforma de Agua para mejorar la coordinación en asuntos relacionados con el agua a través de los distintos objetivos estratégicos y así garantizar la coherencia vertical y transversal. Apreciamos que las actividades del Departamento de Cooperación Técnica sobre Agua sean una parte integral de la Plataforma del Agua. La primera tarea de esta Plataforma debería ser el Desarrollo de una Estrategia de Agua. El trabajo de la FAO sobre el agua debe guardar un equilibrio regional e incluirse de forma apropiada en el proceso de priorización por parte de las Conferencias Regionales y de los Comités Técnicos.

Alentamos a la FAO a impulsar el diálogo entre los países para abordar los aspectos transfronterizos del agua relacionados con su uso eficiente en agricultura, seguridad alimentaria y desarrollo rural, ya que los aspectos transfronterizos constituyen una de las principales fuentes de problemas e incertidumbre del su ministro del agua en numerosos países.

Por último, instamos a las distintas partes de la FAO incluyendo también a las Oficinas Descentralizadas y a la sede central a trabajar de forma más coherente tal y como se recoge en las recomendaciones de las distintas evaluaciones.

Mr Arne HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

I want to thank and congratulate the whole Programme Committee for an excellent report. This is a new template for reporting and it tallies with the recommendations from the IEE and from the IPA, and it will make the work of the Council that much easier. It is very well structured and, more importantly the recommendations are clear and crisp.

We support all the recommendations in the Report and, as such, I can only align my country's view with that of the European Union. I do not think I need to spend much more time on the Report.

Mr Robert RIEMENSCHNEIDER (United States of America)

I will be very brief. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat of the Committee for a very good Report. We fully support and endorse the Report. Our only concern and disappointment is that the Committee was unable to prioritize the technical work of the Organization in the last meeting. We believe that one of the most important responsibilities of the Programme Committee is to assign priorities to the technical work given the budget constraints that FAO like any other organization faces and will continue to face. At this stage, we support all recommendations and request made by the Committee regarding additional information that will enable the Committee to prioritize the technical work, including an additional meeting in the early 2011, if needed.

Mr Shobhan K. PATTANAYAK (India)

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the members for producing such an excellent Report, with very precise, concise and clear recommendations to the Council. Especially notable is the recommendation relating to the creation of the water platform within the FAO to address all the water-related issues. Considering the importance of food security in these difficult times, the need for a water platform is very much necessary. We especially need to develop a water strategy for FAO, and it is a welcome development. However, I am doubtful whether transboundary water issues, which are a matter of dispute between nations, can effectively be resolved and the role which FAO can play in this regard is debatable. Another notable development is the recommendation relating to the preliminary review of the Statutory Bodies that work within the framework of FAO, paragraph 52, Item 14. I think we must pursue this to its logical end. Apart from this, there is a recommendation in paragraph 14 regarding the Management response on the recommendations regarding convening an additional session in early 2011 so as to consider the reports for the NERC and the Committee on Fisheries. I am looking forward to the management response in this regard. Though the Chairperson has just said that the outcome of discussion is likely to be slated sometime in the future for the meeting of the Independent Chair and the Chairs of Technical Committees, we are very much eager to know the outcome of this so that the future course of discussion can take place.

This issue is largely focused on certain matters relating to evaluations especially the gender aspect of FAO's work, the work on nutrition, land tenure and access to land.

As regards the endorsement relating to the independence of the Chair, I have few thoughts to share: It is not important that independence is a world function, but independence not only should be there in our work but it also should appear that the bodies which are working are independent.

I welcome the appointment of the Director of the Office of Evaluation and he has already started working. But perhaps to make us sure that we are truly independent, we may have to revisit some of the reporting lines suggested. Another area of concern is that the present Office of the Evaluation will be reporting to the Council through the Programme Committee, but the Regional Conferences are also important institutions of governance. When the country evaluation report takes place, it would be wise to share this at the Regional Conference level. Perhaps we can make a recommendation that the reports of the evaluation are also discussed at the Regional Conferences. As regards the independence of the evaluation function, I feel that there is an internal unit of the evaluation committee primarily consisting of the senior officers perhaps to guide the independent Office of Evaluation, but at the same time, to be independent. It should be seen that not to possibly influence the outcome of the decisions of the Office of Evaluation. We may have to revisit or we may have to reorient our work in the days come and redefine this, fine tune the working between the Office of Evaluation and the Relation Committee. As regards to the recommendation that the independent function of evaluation will be assessed once every six years, the Office of the Director of Evaluation is for a period of four years. It would be advisable that the independent function of the Evaluation Office is assessed every four years to be co-terminus with the Office of the Director of Evaluation. That would be in keeping with the order of things. Further, I do not see any justification as to why the Director of Evaluation should be barred from employment or to be appointed as consultant for a period of one year only. Either it should be de-barred permanently to guarantee the function of independence or a reasonably-sufficient length of period should elapse so that he is truly independent. The budget for evaluation which is pegged at .8 percent of the Regular Programme appears to be justifiable, and we welcome this.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

As mentioned by other colleagues, Canada would like to thank the Secretariat for the documentation and the summary report provided by the Programme Committee Chair. In

particular, and the fact that Canada is on Programme Committee, I would like to highlight to Council Members how the Programme Committee has very much improved in its workings over the last few months since Conference of last year. I think this is due to the strong engagement by Programme Committee members and to the Programme Committee Chairperson willing to listen and provide effective direction.

Canada would like to provide its views on three key issues. The first is prioritization. Programme Committee's enhanced role is to provide effective, timely advice to Council on FAO programmes and policy activities through a vitalized prioritization process. This past session in April allowed for a fruitful discussion on the process by which Programme Committee will begin to engage in providing this advice to Council. It must be said that Canada along with other members of the Programme Committee was deeply disappointed with the lateness of the documentation on this item which unfortunately did not allow for full consultation with our capitals and with our regional groups. I do hope that FAO Management understood our concerns and will work on a timely manner for upcoming meetings with regards to the documentation.

The Canada delegation reiterates our key prioritization principles made in previous FAO governance meetings, namely that it is vital to the sound management of FAO that an effective system established to determine the Organization's priorities in its technical work. This process must enable Members to genuinely provide input and set priorities. Further, such a process must be established promptly to enable Member Nations to provide inputs in time for the next biennium's Programme of Work and Budget which will be considered by FAO Conference in just over twelve months. Considering the proposed timelines, Canada would like to highlight its strong preference for an additional formal Programme Committee meeting in early 2011, and looks at establishing further opportunities for informal meetings with both FAO Management and colleagues from the Finance Committee in our pursuit of much-improved aligned priorities for the FAO.

With regard to Regional Conferences and Technical Committees, they certainly have an enhanced mandate in setting priorities. As the first Technical Committee is to begin in one month's time, COAG that is, Member Nations have not still not received the working paper on the basis of which they will provide guidance on priorities for COAG activities. This is an extremely important document for Members in Rome and those dealing with agriculture issues in our capitals. Canada would appreciate getting feedback from FAO Management as per the timelines in receiving this document. This information cannot come soon enough to ensure maximum benefit in our discussions.

With regard to my second point on the evaluation of the rolling working plan, the Canada delegation would like to express its support for the evaluations underway and those proposed and highlighted in the Programme Committee Report. However, Canada would like to register the point that there are no proposed evaluations of FAO's work concerning trade facilitation and support for agri-food trade. Recognizing that over 100 countries are net food importers, trade is vital to global food security and we therefore believe that this area merits further work, be it as an individual study or as a major part of other proposed analyses of FAO work in relation to evaluation.

The third point is in regard to FAO's evaluation on water. We must say that the extensive evaluation should consider not just FAO's work on water issues, but also the role the Organization can play in moving forward. More than two dozen recommendations remain. Canada supports a strong role for FAO on water issues, and would also like to raise a concern about the ambitiousness of the water agenda proposed in the evaluation and the recommendations. Canada is certainly supportive of the establishment of the FAO Water Platform. Consequently, it will be necessary for FAO to establish a streamlined plan of work that takes into account resource requirements and areas for greater focus which unfortunately, are not evident at the present time. Finally, there is a need for better coordination with organizations regarding FAO's work in water in relation to food security. We must therefore actively engage in building stronger partnerships in this area.

Mr Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

We wish to thank the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for this report that we greatly appreciate, as our colleagues have said. It gives us a clear idea as to developments in preparation of this report and the discussions that preceded it. I will be very brief, particularly because those who spoke before me have raised the key points that I wanted to refer to.

I would like to refer to the need to develop a water management programme, particularly for transboundary water resources which have become a source of conflict between neighbouring countries. It is necessary for FAO to organize a seminar to examine this issue. I wish to also support the recommendation pertaining to the holding of technical meetings and the provision of documents within the appropriate timeframe beforehand. We see from the reports that there is a proposal for follow-up to recommendations of the Regional Conferences for Asia and the Near East given their timing. With regard to the Near East, efforts were made to develop the Office for the Near East. We met the person responsible for the evaluation who gave us an idea regarding the delays. We are very concerned by this delay, and we hope the necessary arrangements will be made to rectify the situation. Furthermore, the need was highlighted for local procurement. We need to take advantage of the competence and, the expertise that exist locally in implementing programmes and projects. We would also like to emphasize the need to develop priorities as quickly as possible in order to be able to draw on these for our work in the field.

Ms Jacinta M. NGWIRI (Kenya)

The delegation of Kenya would like to take the floor on this item on behalf of the Africa Group. First, we are grateful to Madame Laatu, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, for introducing the Report of the Hundred and Third Session Programme Committee contained in document CL 139/4. We read the Report with interest, and wish to comment on the document at hand. We fully note and support the substantive item within this Report, and more particularly those touching on programme priorities and the evaluation of FAO work on the various aspects. No doubt the session considered many items of key interest to us as a region. Let me say that the Kenya delegation has no difficulty in approving this Report, but will make a few comments on some of provisions covered therein. On Item 3 which is on prioritization of technical work of the Organization, our intervention still remains the same as that of the Africa Group. Regional Conferences and Technical Committees should provide clear recommendations on areas of priorities in line with the approved results-based framework and the approved Programme of Work and Budget. In the same vein, we would like to associate ourselves with the delegations who have spoken before us in urging FAO Management to ensure that the supportive documents on priorities for the Technical Committees are finalized before the next cycle of committee sessions begins. This will be helpful to facilitate in-depth discussion of the contents. With regard to Item 4, we welcome the Charter for the FAO Office of Evaluation which we studied carefully. At the same time, however, we believe that it is necessary to capture the quality impact arising from the implementation of the various evaluation recommendations. We, therefore, support the decision of the Programme Committee as stated in paragraph 18 to approve the Charter as presented.

As for the evaluation of FAO operational capacity and the role of Regional and Sub-regional Offices, it is necessary for them to provide technical support to the field programmes.

I wish to briefly comment on Item 7, which regards the joint thematic evaluation of FAO and World Food Programme support information system for food security. We believe that this evaluation could not have come at a better time. We all recognize that food insecurity remains a major subject of concern because of increasingly-complex threats. As a result of climate change, accelerated urbanization, rising disaster incidences, conflicts, and the list of happenings may be endless, agriculture development is not a mainstream concern in many of our countries. We therefore need to give priority to information on agriculture and rural development through the strengthening, coordination, and the establishment of frameworks that improve information quality and dissemination. In this regard, we agree, as recommended by the evaluation that the FAO and World Food Programme information system for food security products focus attention

on concerns regarding food security dimensions that have not been sufficiently addressed. We should also create promote information systems for food security which respond to identified needs, promote long-lasting national partnerships and strengthen communication strategies based on a genuine understanding of food security decision-making processes. With this, we endorse and encourage the continued collaboration and joint work between FAO and World Food Programme on this important matter.

Ms Yusni Emilia HARAHAHAP (Indonesia)

Indonesia would like to show its appreciation for the comprehensive report of the Chairperson of the Programme Committee.

Indonesia welcomes and supports the strengthening of the programme for gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly in assisting rural women to increase their income in ensuring their food security and in providing better access to productive resources and credit.

Indonesia also fully supports the evaluation of FAO's role and work related to water, such as transboundary water which can also be a source of contention affecting food security. It should also emphasize FAO's work in this regard.

In addition, TCP resources should concentrate on policy development or capacity-building related to water.

Indonesia also supports continuing and strengthening the joint work between two institutions – FAO and WFP – particularly in providing a significant contribution to rehabilitation and development during emergencies.

Ms Sujin PARK (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea would like to thank the Programme Committee members and the Secretariat for providing this crystal-clear and well-organized Report.

We have two brief points. The first point relates to Item 3 which is the Prioritization of the Technical Work of the Organization. As the Host Country for Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific we are keenly interested in steps to ensure that the regional priorities be presented to the Council. We look forward to seeing more detailed information including the timing and the method of the reporting.

Our second point relates to Item 8. The Republic of Korea agrees with the findings and suggestions of the Programme Committee regarding the evaluation of FAO's role and work related to water. In particular, we agree with the observation of the Programme Committee which points out the funding implication for the FAO Water Platform. Since most of the recommendations of the evaluation require further funding priority setting is critical in terms of making the recommendations more workable.

Sr. José Arsenio QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

Agradecemos a la Secretaría del Comité de Programa por el documento que nos presenta y sólo haré algunos comentarios. Apoyamos las recomendaciones realizadas por este Comité, destinadas a mejorar el proceso de establecer prioridades para la labor técnica de la Organización.

El establecimiento de prioridades es efectivamente un aspecto muy importante que debe permitir a la FAO y sus Países Miembros a concentrarse en las acciones y esferas más importantes dentro de su mandato.

En relación con la Carta para la Oficina de Evaluación, nuestra delegación apoya su aprobación.

En relación con la definición de evaluaciones a realizar en el futuro, la delegación cubana llama la atención acerca de la necesidad de definir procedimientos y principios lo más claro y transparente posible, para decidir las evaluaciones a realizar, en especial las que estén dirigidas a los países.

Estamos de acuerdo con las decisiones adoptadas por el Comité de Programa acerca de la evaluación de la capacidad operacional de la FAO en situaciones de emergencias. Hacemos

hincapié en el papel que debe jugar la FAO en las fases de transición así como en el establecimiento de vínculos entre actividades de emergencia y de rehabilitación y las actividades de desarrollo, además de la necesidad de una colaboración más estrecha entre la sede, las Oficinas Regionales y Sub-regionales y las representaciones nacionales.

Por último, apoyamos la decisión del Comité de Programa con respecto a la necesidad de llevar a cabo un debate más profundo y lo más amplio posible respecto del tema de acceso a la asistencia del PCT con carácter de donación.

Ms Adelaide BOATENG-SIRIBOE (Ghana)

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by Kenya on behalf of the Africa Group. In addition to what was presented I wish to comment on Item 5, the Indicative Rolling Plan of Strategic and Programme Evaluation. We support the priority list provided by the Programme Committee and we also support the request for a rolling workplan to be submitted in 2011. We also want to suggest that in this rolling plan, if possible, the Programme Committee could look at the proposal made initially by the Evaluation Office on FAO's work in agri-business and agro-industries. We are proposing this because we believe that agri-business and agro-industries are not only for big-time operators but-small scale operators who are business-conscious. This has the potential for creating jobs along the food chain. As developing countries this is what we need, to grow as small-scale producers, especially farmers and input providers. We also need for the government to be responsible and take up whatever public goods and services required to support small-scale industries.

We also wish to commend the Office of Evaluation for the reports provided on the evaluations carried out over the years and also stress the importance of water in agriculture. In fact, it cuts across all aspects of agriculture, crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry. We support the endorsement by the Programme Committee for FAO to establish a Water Platform. This will create the potential to foster partnerships between FAO and its Decentralized Offices, as well as for donor agencies to give prior attention to water in agriculture and agriculture development. National governments should also be involved in this process so that they provide adequate attention to water in their agricultural activities

Mr Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)

The Russian Federation would like to agree with the opinion expressed by many delegations on the excellent preparation work done by the Committee and during the relatively short span of time during which the Members of the Committee and its Chair, Madam Laatu, managed to go through an extremely heavy agenda on a substantive way.

We all know that there is no limit to perfection, but this Report has produced an excellent result. We agree with most of the conclusions in the Report. Nearly all the key aspects in the implementation of the reform of FAO have been covered, including IPA. We would like to point out that although the Committee has basically examined all the substantive issues, setting priorities for the Organization's technical cooperation activities cannot take place without additional information from the Technical Committee and from the Regional Conferences.

The priorities are a political issue for each country. The priorities of each country and each region may vary but setting up the main direction for each region is something that can be done and this is what each country and its leaders should strive towards in establishing priorities for each region. Now this is a two-way street and, of course, the Programme Committee will have to do extra work on the decentralization of the institutions. This is work in progress at the regional level, even technical cooperation activities need to be evaluated.

At this stage, the Committee has fulfilled its task very satisfactorily and has produced a very specific report. We shall have to plan the Committee's work so that the recommendations of the Regional Conferences and bodies arrive before the Report is prepared. The Committee should also make decisions on the evaluation of the effectiveness of its Report. This is extremely useful for the body to see what the specific recommendations are and to what extent they are

implemented. Our delegation feels that this self-assessment would be most useful. It would be an appropriate decision, and the Programme Committee should take this into account in subsequent meetings.

Sr. Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHAPENTIER (México)

En forma muy breve, mi delegación está de acuerdo con el Informe presentado por el Comité de Programa. No quisiera agregar nada más a los comentarios que han hecho otras delegaciones y apoyo la idea de crear una plataforma del agua que sea comprensiva, que incluya todos los aspectos, incluyendo aquellos transfronterizos en aquellos casos donde los cursos de agua utilizables para la agricultura sean fronterizos.

Asimismo, con respecto a las prioridades, mi delegación quiere dejar aquí asentado que las prioridades de todas las regiones y de todos los países deben ser tomadas en cuenta, al igual que aquellas que definan los Comités Técnicos y en esto no hay que olvidar aquellas propuestas por los países de ingreso medio.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

We support the Programme Committee Report that has been tabled this afternoon and, in the same vein, my delegation associates itself with the statement that has been made by Kenya on behalf of the Africa Region.

We support the Programme Committee's observation that they would like to be advised of the recommendations coming from the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees as this will help them to finetune the prioritization using raw data that is based on the situation on the ground. We recommend, in the same vein, that there be flexibility since regions and countries are at different levels of development, so their requirements would differ when it comes to the actual implementation of the Strategic Objectives and the Organizational Results.

In Item 5, we appreciate the list of priorities that have been put forward by the Programme Committee. But as Ghana has pointed out, we would also have liked to see agro-industries and crop production included, which are primary goals of the Organization.

In Item 6 on the Role of FAO in Emergencies and during Rehabilitations and Movement of Development and its Exit Plan, we would like to see the role of the CFS formula being applied more, that is more engagement on the part of Rome-based organizations and other related partners in ensuring that the exit process does not result in hunger for families that have become dependent on FAO assistance.

On Item 7, on ensuring sustainability, in paragraph 32, we would like to suggest that there be involvement of beneficiaries in planning to ensure that the interventions are dovetailed and that the international programmes be designed by the locals themselves.

On Item 7, in paragraph 35 to 40 on the Water Platform, we welcome the idea but would like to add that at country level the Water Platform should start where the client is. Some Member Nations already have some foundation in this respect, or are already engaged in negotiations with their neighbours on the same. So it would help to incorporate more water management along the lines that we were suggested by Jordan. At the same time, I think that the element of evaluation that was pointed out by Spain requires consideration in the Report.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Firstly I will note that Australia is also a member of the Programme Committee and has been very pleased to serve under Ms Laatu's leadership for the last few months.

I wanted to restrict my comments entirely today to one issue, which is prioritization and which I see as, and my delegation sees as, the fundamental important role of the Programme Committee. Certainly, that seemed to be the broad consensus of the Programme Committee during its debates. Setting the priorities for this Organization for the next biennium will be the most important thing we do over the next twelve months. I know the comments made by the delegation from Canada

about the difficulties with the timing of the paper for the Programme Committee, and also endorse the comments, particularly about the need for the papers for the COAG and CCP to be released as soon as possible. I think the COAG, in particular is the most important Technical Committee to prioritize work in this Organization. As a Bureau member of the COAG, I am quite concerned about the amount of work that needs to be done in advance of that meeting to make sure that we have some kind of logical and useful input to give to the Programme Committee and to this Council in coming months. I urge the Secretariat, to the extent possible to see what we can do to get that paper ready as soon as possible.

The second point I wanted to make is that we need to recognize that this is a transitional biennium. It's a short biennium and it's the first time for each Regional Conference and Technical Committee to prioritize work of this Organization. I think we cannot really expect miracles out of that. But by the same token, history doesn't remember that this is a transitional biennium, it just remembers what results we get. So I think there needs to be top priority given to this work, and it needs to be given the ultimate emphasis so that we can really seek to do our level best to give clear advice back to the Programme Committee. I am concerned that we will have input from so many different committees, and somehow we will have to push it all into a sausage machine and turn the handle and come out with a sausage at the end of the day. I suspect that is going to be a hard job, so the more we can do through each of the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees, the better that would be.

The final point that I wanted to make is to register the fact that the Programme Committee is already working a lot informally, and I think that is something that should be supported. It has already had a number of informal meetings as the Chairperson mentioned, and it expects to do so over the course of the next twelve months leading up to the Conference next year.

I support the comments made already about the importance of a formal meeting to be held early next year. I don't think there is any other way that the Programme Committee can consider the input from one or two of the Regional Conferences and one of the Technical Committees without that meeting, and I also think there is a critical need for lots of discussion, informal discussion, among the Programme Committee members, different regional groups, and the different FAO Departments.

Mr Mohamed ELTAYEB ELFAKI ELNOR (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

My delegation agrees to the content of the report presented by the Programme Committee. We have, however, some comments we would like to make.

We do approve the importance of priorities because in any country we feel the presence of FAO. But the real impact is very weak in Sudan for example. We have one of the biggest programmes of FAO but we can hardly feel its presence. I think this is because there are no clear cut priorities and as our colleagues have said, our priorities are very important. These priorities should be agreed upon by all the Member Nations. As we know that each country has different priorities and each region has different priorities, so we have to accept them by consensus. Priorities are extremely important because we note that poverty and hunger are increasing by the day, so we need to identify priorities and clear objectives to fight poverty in particular because this is clearly linked with the help and assistance to be provided to agriculture and linked it to food security. These are matters that should be taken into account, and should be highlighted in the programme.

The Programme Committee, of course, has an important role to make the work of FAO a success. My colleagues who referred to the Technical Cooperation Programme said that this is one of the important programmes and it could help FAO to improve its voice and reputation, and I think this, of course, is achieved thanks to the efforts of the Programme and Finance Committees. Some people refer to the weakness of some Regional Offices because they lack the necessary staff, but I think if we take all these facts into account, we can make significant difference.

My delegation would like to thank both Committees and their Chairpersons for their efforts.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien, je vous remercie. Je crois que dans vos interventions, vous avez montré et reconnu le travail qui avait été réalisé par le Comité, et je voulais vous en féliciter. Mais, bien sûr, il y a quelques commentaires à faire. Madame la Présidente, je vous donne la parole y compris avec les intervenants du Secrétariat, si cela est nécessaire. Vous avez la parole.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Thank you Mr Chair and thank you everybody for the numerous comments and suggestions. I should also thank the Programme Committee itself for very engaged work. Everybody has been extremely engaged with the work of the Programme Committee and I think this is a good sign for the future work of the Governing Bodies of FAO. I can see a similar engagement here if you take as an indication the number of comments and the number of suggestions made.

Let me try to comment on at least some of them, I hope the majority of them at least. If I omit something in my comments please, remind me. I was trying to take notes.

It seems to me that the overwhelmingly most important item for this audience seems to be the prioritization of the technical work of the Organization, and there were numerous comments to that effect by the various members of the Council.

The United States was concerned that the Programme Committee could not properly prioritize the work of FAO in its meeting in April, whereas Russia reminded us that this essential political issue was to be decided by the Member Nations ultimately.

Australia reminded us that this is a transitional biennium, and this is the view of the Programme Committee also when we discussed this issue. The discussion this time in the Programme Committee focused on the process, not so much on the substance itself yet. The idea is, of course, that prioritization will be discussed in all the Region Conferences. It has already been discussed in some of the Regional Conferences that have already taken place. It will be discussed in all the Technical Committees. The Programme Committee will discuss this again in its October session as well as in its extra session requested for early 2011, as well as, in its regular session later in 2011, I am not sure whether it is March or April. We will come back to this matter after the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees have had an opportunity to indicate their priorities. Of course, we have very high expectations for the work on those Committees and Conferences and also for the Secretariat in preparing a summary of these priorities, as indicated by the Member Nations in the various Conferences and Technical Committee meetings.

Now related to this issue, many Members have been concerned about the late arrival of documents for various meetings. The documents on prioritization came very late to the Programme Committee. We have, however, now agreed in the Programme Committee that for the future, the deadline for receipt of documents is 28 days before the actual meeting.

Many of you stated that we need the documentation in good time, particularly for the COAG meeting that shall take place in June. And of course, COAG covers the vast majority of the Strategic Objectives of the FAO so I think this is a point to be taken very seriously by the Secretariat.

I think it was India who welcomed the meeting between the Independent Chair and the Chairs of the Technical Committees, as well as the Programme and Finance Committee Chairs, which have already been scheduled. But you also said you would like to know the results as soon as possible after that meeting, and I believe those results will certainly be provided for everybody. This meeting focuses again on the process, rather than the substance itself.

It was stated that we should ensure that all the regions have an opportunity to discuss priorities and have their say, that their input is taken into consideration.

First, a couple of comments on the Charter of the Evaluation. I would like to note, as I said, that there had been three previous occasions when the Programme Committee had discussed this issue.

So our discussion was the fourth one on that particular issue. The main reason why we had to discuss it for the fourth time was that there was an earlier decision, I think it was by the Council but I'm not sure, that this matter should only be finalized when there was new Director of Evaluation in office. So these were basically all the substantive issues that have been agreed, but it was felt earlier, I think it was by the Council, that it would be useful to have the new Director of Evaluation able to have a look at it, and perhaps provide some inputs on this matter before a final decision is taken.

India commented particularly on the independence of evaluation, including the proper reporting lines, and also wanted Regional Conferences to be involved, or at least informed, of evaluation results. India also commented on the foreseen six-year independent review of the evaluation work of FAO. This I must say is foreseen in the IPA itself. In the IPA, it is foreseen that every two years there is a peer review of the Office of the Evaluation, and that every six years there is a major independent review of the Office. The peer review every two years, in my view, takes care of the fact that during every Director's term there is at least one evaluation of the Office.

Then there were a few comments on the evaluation of the water issues. I think everybody thought that the Water Platform was a good recommendation and that was endorsed, as well as the water strategy which the Water Platform should draw up. Streamlined programme work for FAO in the water sector was called for. There were different views on the transboundary water issues, and I think this is something to be considered in the future. While some thought this to be very important, others didn't feel quite the same way. Jordan made the proposal of organizing a Seminar on this issue, but in conclusion I think that this is something that should be further considered.

Then the TCP role in providing policy advice for the water sector was endorsed by the Council. As to the joint FAO/WFP evaluation on the information systems, there was a comment that this was a very timely evaluation. The sustainability of this information system was emphasised, as were the exit strategies of these two Organizations in that field. The ownership of the information systems; the collaboration with CFS, the need for the different parts of the FAO to work coherently were also emphasized.

On the future evaluations, I think there was a general endorsement of the selection made by the Programme Committee. We had a list of evaluation topics suggested by the Evaluation Office before us, and we prioritized the ones that I mentioned. It doesn't mean that the others could not be taken onboard from 2012 onwards.

There were a few additional topics suggested. I noted trade facilitation was suggested, as well as an evaluation on agri-business, agri-industries and crop production. I think that these are items that the Evaluation Office could consider. When we see the rolling workplan of the Office of Evaluation in 2011, it could consider whether to include afore-mentioned evaluation topics in the lists for the Programme Committee.

Then there was a proposal or suggestion made by Zimbabwe to involve the stakeholders in the programme work in order to ensure its sustainability, and I think that that is a very pertinent comment.

The attention of the Council was drawn to the fact that there is a prior Council decision for all projects, with a value of more than USD 2 million should be evaluated. This decision should be enforced, and the Programme Committee also took note of this.

There was a comment on the statutory Bodies in the discussion of the Programme Committee, and that this should be pursued to during the discussion at our October session. There was also support for further informal work of the Programme Committee.

Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy Planning and Resource Management)

May I say from the outset that it has also been a great honour to work with this Programme Committee and the Chair and supporting their deliberations, in which, indeed, there are very clear recommendations, including for the Secretariat.

I would like to focus on the matter of prioritization, which was the subject of considerable discussion at the Programme Committee. The six recommendations of the Committee on the process are very clear. I think it is important to understand that the paper that was considered by the Committee established a 20-step process to get to the Conference decision in June 2011 on the Programme of Work and Budget, which would include priorities. Sixteen of those steps involve consultation with the Governing Bodies, the Programme and Finance Committees, the Regional Conferences, the Technical Committees and, of course, Council. This is in line with the Immediate Plan of Action and the Conference decisions on the new cycle of Governing Body input to programme and budget matters.

We have completed the first five steps of this process, including three Regional Conferences over the last three weeks, at which the Independent Chair did, indeed, deliver messages requested by the Programme Committee, and which the Secretariat has attended to also be able to bring back the lessons learned so that we can feed that into the process. In fact, it has been noted by several Members that this is a transition biennium and it is important to understand that we need to learn as we go forward. So, in that respect, we are now finalizing the paper for COAG and we certainly understand the need to get it out as quickly as possible this week, taking into account the recommendations that the Programme Committee has made in its report to start from the MTP-PWB for the current biennium, include emerging issues, evaluations and our own operational planning to propose shifts of emphasis within the Strategic Objectives.

We also note that there are going to be several Governing Body meetings in September/October: two more Technical Committee meetings and one more Regional Conference before we will be preparing, as requested by the Programme Committee, a synthesis document for the meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council in October-November when you will then be giving guidance for the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget.

There are two meetings to take place after this cycle, and there is a request for another Programme Committee meeting as well as additional informal meetings. There is going to be a limit as to what the Secretariat can do to take on board the results of a Technical Committee meeting that occurs just a week or so before we have to finalize the Programme of Work and Budget documents. I note that the Programme Committee has recommended that future sessions of the Technical Committees and the Regional Conferences be scheduled within the Governing Body cycle, and this would certainly facilitate the work of the Secretariat in providing you with the documentation that you need in order to assist in your consultations on priorities, which have been noted are of a political nature.

In terms of the request for informal and additional meetings, there is a sequence of inputs, as I have mentioned, in preparing a PWB. We would hope that these meetings would add value to that process and I think it is important that Members are also aware of the workload on the Secretariat for preparing documentation for meetings, be they informal or formal, in all languages to facilitate discussions. We have had three meetings of the Regional Conference in a row, and we will be having the COAG and CCP meetings one month from now so we are diligently preparing the documentation, as well as taking on the results of the lessons learned in the preparation and presentation of documentation.

Mr Robert MOORE (Director of Evaluation Office)

I would just like to maybe add a couple of small points in addition to what the Chairperson of the Committee said in her excellent summary.

One is about the Charter itself. We are very happy to hear all the support that has been given for adoption of the Charter, and I just did want to underscore a point that she raised. The provisions that are in the Charter were governed very much by what is in the IPA itself. We tried to faithfully reproduce in the Charter the decisions that were taken in the IPA, as well as some previous Council decisions that had been related to evaluation.

The second point was in relation to what was stated by the Representative of Kenya when she underlined the importance of reporting on programme and policy impacts stemming from the

implementation of evaluation recommendations. Just to say that we have already incorporated this in our guidelines and future evaluation follow-up reports will contain this information.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je crois qu'il y a un travail très important qui a été réalisé. Monsieur Haight, vous vouliez reprendre la parole, vous l'avez.

Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resource Management)

Excuse me, but I thought that perhaps Mr Moore would cover the aspect on the funding of evaluations for extra-budgetary work. I think it is important to recall what the Council decided at its Hundred and Thirty-second Session in September 2007 that a mandatory budget line for evaluation should be included in all extra-budgetary projects. Those evaluations over USD 4 million would be evaluated separately, and those below that amount would be evaluated through pool accounts. The important aspect of this decision is that all extra-budgetary projects should provide for evaluations, and this refers in particular to the intervention that was made by Spain on behalf of the European Union, as well as the Chair of the Programme Committee.

LE PRÉSIDENT

J'avais commencé à dire qu'il y avait un gros travail qui avait été fait. Mais la tâche est aussi très importante pour continuer les travaux engagés dans les mois et les années qui viennent.

Je voudrais aussi faire remarquer que nous vivons un biennium qui ne fait pas 24 mois mais qui ne fait que 20 mois. Comme il a été dit, trois conférences régionales ont été consécutives et les autres sont décalées en fin d'année, ce qui nous complique un peu la tâche. Mais il va falloir quand même s'y atteler et on va réussir à le faire.

Je ne veux pas reprendre toutes les conclusions et les priorités qui ont été évoquées. Je dirais qu'il est important de bien synchroniser ces travaux avec les conclusions des comités techniques et des conférences régionales. Il faudrait, sans doute, pour le Comité du programme une réunion complémentaire en début d'année; on n'en donnera pas la durée, mais si cela est nécessaire, il faudra peut-être la raccourcir. J'ai bien compris aussi l'insistance qui était formulée pour que les documents pour les différents comités techniques arrivent plus tôt.

Je voudrais dire aussi que tout le monde s'est félicité de la Charte du Bureau d'évaluation qui est mise en place.

Je pense que le travail qui a été réalisé pourra être repris dans nos conclusions et je voulais simplement donner ces éléments supplémentaires et vous remercier de votre contribution.

Donc, le point 6 est clos pour aujourd'hui. Nous avons le point 7 que nous allons avoir du mal à couvrir ce soir. Je vous propose d'organiser nos travaux comme ceci: j'ai une petite communication à faire de quatre ou cinq minutes pour ouvrir le point 7 et puis nous attaquerons, demain matin, directement par la présentation du rapport du Comité financier.

7. Reports of the 130th (2-3 November 2009), 131st (1-2 February 2010) and 132nd (12-16 April 2010) Sessions of the Finance Committee (CL 139/2 Rev.1; CL 139/3; CL 139/3-Add.1; CL 139/8; CL 139/LIM/1)

7. Rapports de la cent trentième (2 et 3 novembre 2009), de la cent trente et unième (1er et 2 février 2010) et de la cent trente deuxième (12-16 avril 2010) sessions du Comité financier (CL 139/2 Rev.1; CL 139/3; CL 139/3-Add.1; CL 139/8; CL 139/LIM/1)

7. Informes del 130.º (2-3 de noviembre de 2009), 131.º (1-2 de febrero de 2010) y 132.º (12-16 de abril de 2010) períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (CL 139/2 Rev.1; CL 139/3; CL 139/3-Add.1; CL 139/8; CL 139/LIM/1)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au point 7 de l'ordre du jour, pour traiter trois rapports des cent trentième, cent trente-et-unième et cent trente-deuxième sessions du Comité financier. Vous avez toutes les

références dans vos documents. Il est à noter que les cent trentième et cent trente-et-unième sessions du Comité financier étaient des sessions spéciales, consacrées uniquement à des questions intéressant le Programme alimentaire mondial. A sa cent trente-deuxième session en avril 2010, le Comité financier a examiné la situation des contributions et des arriérés au 31 mars 2010. Une mise à jour a été faite le 12 mai 2010 de l'état des contributions et des arriérés qui se trouvent dans le document d'information CL 139/LIM/1.

Ainsi, l'Organisation a reçu un peu plus de cent trois millions de dollars et près de soixante neuf millions d'euros au titre des contributions dues pour 2010. Cela représente 47,59% des sommes dues en dollars et un peu plus de 33% des sommes dues en euros. Le montant des arriérés s'élève à 19 millions de dollars et à 14 millions d'euros. Il est donc regrettable qu'au 12 mai, 89 États Membres, soit 47% des Membres de l'Organisation, n'aient pas encore versé leurs contributions pour l'année 2010. De plus, 57 États Membres présentent encore des arriérés de contributions pour 2009 et pour les années précédentes. Et 22 d'entre eux risquent de perdre leur droit de vote à la prochaine session de la Conférence en vertu de l'Article III.4 du Règlement général de l'Organisation. Il n'y a pas de décision à prendre sur ce point, mais le Conseil est invité à souligner de nouveau qu'il importe que tous les États Membres, sans distinction, s'acquittent de leurs obligations financières vis-à-vis de l'Organisation afin de lui permettre de continuer à remplir son mandat. Donc, nous verrons après les discussions, si le Conseil souhaite inclure une mention à cet effet dans le rapport.

Pour ce qui concerne à présent les questions, mais ce sera pour demain matin, du rapport du Comité financier afférentes au PAI, elles ne seront pas traitées directement mais au point 8 qui suivra aussitôt le rapport du Comité financier. Il s'agit de la planification financière, de la mise en œuvre du PAI pendant l'exercice 2010-2011 et du programme de travail pluri-annuel du Comité financier 2010-2013.

Avant de clore cette séance, je voulais vous dire aussi que dans le cadre de ce rapport du Comité financier, un point intéresse directement le Président indépendant du Conseil, donc moi-même, et je pense qu'il est préférable que je donne la présidence au Vice-président, Son Excellence Hassan Abouyoub, qui présidera durant toute la discussion sur les aspects financiers. Mais durant la première présentation je resterai en salle pour écouter Monsieur Sorour et je me retirerai au moment où viendra la discussion concernant le Président indépendant du Conseil.

Si vous n'y voyez pas d'inconvénient, j'ouvrirai la séance demain matin et donnerai la présidence à Monsieur Hassan Abouyoub, ensuite j'écouterai la présentation de Monsieur Sorour et lors des débats sur les émoluments du Président indépendant, je me retirerai.

Monsieur Sorour, nous n'aurons pas le temps maintenant de présenter votre rapport, vous en avez pour un quart d'heure, vingt minutes. Compte tenu aussi des impératifs de l'interprétation, je vous propose de nous arrêter là pour ce soir, mais je vous demande d'être impérativement présents à 9 h.30. J'ouvrirai la séance, puis Monsieur l'Ambassadeur me remplacera.

The meeting rose at 17:39 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 39

Se levanta la sesión a las 17:39

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session
Cent trent-neuvième session
139º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 17 - 21 May 2010
Rome, 17 - 21 mai 2010
Roma, 17 - 21 de mayo de 2010**

**THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

18 May 2010

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.39 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 39
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 09.39
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bonjour Mesdames et Messieurs, j'espère que vous avez passé une bonne et agréable soirée et une bonne nuit. Nos travaux d'aujourd'hui sont denses et importants. Comme je vous l'ai annoncé hier, j'invite le Vice-Président, l'Ambassadeur Abouyoub, à conduire les délibérations du Conseil sur le point 7 de l'ordre du jour concernant les rapports des cent trentième, cent trente-et-unième et cent trente-deuxième sessions du Comité financier. Donc, je vais me retirer dans la salle pour entendre le rapport et ensuite, quand le rapport aura été présenté, je me retirerai en dehors de la salle pour que vous puissiez continuer vos débats.

Mr. Hassan Abouyoub, Vice-Chairperson of the Council, took the chair

M. Hassan Abouyoub, Vice-président du Conseil, a pris la présidence

Sr. Hassan Abouyoub, Vicepresidente del Consejo, tomó la presidencia

**III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(CONT'D)**

**III. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À
L'ADMINISTRATION (SUITE)**

**III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y
ADMINISTRATIVOS (CONTINUACIÓN)**

7. Reports of the 130th (2-3 November 2009), 131st (1-2 February 2010) and 132nd (12-16 April 2010) Sessions of the Finance Committee (CL 139/2 Rev.1; CL 139/3; CL 139/3-Add.1; CL 139/8; CL 139/LIM/1) (Cont'd)

7. Rapports de la cent trentième (2 et 3 novembre 2009), de la cent trente et unième (1er et 2 février 2010) et de la cent trente deuxième (12-16 avril 2010) sessions du Comité financier (CL 139/2 Rev.1; CL 139/3; CL 139/3-Add.1; CL 139/8; CL 139/LIM/1) (suite)

7. Informes del 130.º (2-3 de noviembre de 2009), 131.º (1-2 de febrero de 2010) y 132.º (12-16 de abril de 2010) períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (CL 139/2 Rev.1; CL 139/3; CL 139/3-Add.1; CL 139/8; CL 139/LIM/1) (Continuación)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bonjour Mesdames et Messieurs, je vais donner sans plus tarder la parole au Président du Comité financier, Monsieur Yasser Sorour, pour qu'il nous présente le rapport du Comité financier. Vous avez la parole, Monsieur Sorour.

Mr Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

Since I am taking the floor for the first time under your chairmanship, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Vice-Chairperson of the Council and I will be glad to help you lead the deliberations if you allow me. I will divide my presentation into two parts: In the first part, I will refer to the matters on which a decision by the Council is required because on this matter, we have orders to submit recommendations to the Council. We are talking about three matters. The first concerns the Human Resources Division and gender equality, the second part has to do with presenting a candidate for the Audit Committee and the third item are the emoluments to be paid to the Independent Chairperson of the Council. I will give you a brief account of the discussions that took place during the Session, and then move on to other matters to which we would like to draw the attention of the Council.

The first matter concerns the implementation of Human Resources policy. This is very brief because I will be back to it in detail when we deal with Item 8, the IPA. In the Finance Committee, we had a discussion about the target percentage for gender equality in FAO. As you know, both the Council and the Conference agree that this percentage should be 35 percent in

Professional and higher posts, but some Members of the Finance Committee said they would like to increase this percentage to 50 percent so it will be in conformity with the target for the UN System in general. We put all the recommendations to the Council and we are awaiting your decision regarding this matter.

The other matter concerns the nomination of a member to the Audit Committee for FAO. We submitted our recommendation that you accept Ms Fatoumata Ndiaye as member of the Audit Committee, and, of course, we need your decision on this. The third matter on which we require a decision by the Council is on the emoluments to be paid to the Independent Chairperson of the Council. I would like to give you a brief account of the discussion that took place regarding this matter. This started in a meeting I had with the Independent Chairperson of the Council. He explained to me the conditions that allowed him to submit revision of the emoluments he is being paid as Independent Chairperson. As you know, the Conference in 2003 said that the representation fee would be USD 22 000. A part of it was paid in dollars, and the other in euro or the other currency to be paid to the Independent Chairperson in his country or as he chooses or as he sees fit. Later on another decision was taken as a result of the role of the Independent Chairperson increasing and the need for his presence in Rome for six to eight months in the year. So you agreed that this allowance would be paid in euro. If we go back to the decision of the November 2009 Conference, it refers to the financial amounts to be paid to the Independent Chairperson of the Council allowance for travel and per diem or DSA as two requirements, and the Conference said that there should be an agreement between the Independent Chairperson of the Council and the FAO that will be in conformity with the Basic Texts of the Organization and with the decision of the Conference. A discussion took place on this matter and we, of course, submitted our recommendation. We thought that there was no agreement to pay these emoluments to the Independent Chairperson. Some Members referred to the fact that this might affect his independence or autonomy, and we did not accept the amount submitted in the documentation which was 86 000 Euro. On the other hand, it should be noted that has not been amended the representation allowance paid to the Independent Chairperson, between 1993 and 2009, which was USD 22 000.

The Committee felt that in light of the fact that the period was very long in which these emoluments were not reviewed, and in light of the discussion that took place in the General Committee, the Finance Committee recommended that the Council raise this amount to 17 500 Euro per year, that is, USD 23 800. This is to be compared with the previous amount paid which was USD 22 000. Of course, during the discussion some Members referred to how this matter could be dealt with in the future, not only with the Independent Chairperson, the current one, but with the future ones who will be succeeding him. So we said we have to open the floor so that this matter could be reviewed, if required, by the Finance Committee. As you know, if we read the Constitution, the last Article on the Constitutional Rules regarding the functions say that the Finance Committee should review it in any matter referred to it by the Council or referred by five Members.

LE PRÉSIDENT

I now open the floor to Members who would like to intervene in the debate.

Mme Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

Je m'exprime au nom des autorités de mon pays, au nom de la France exclusivement sur ce point particulier, dans la mesure où le Président indépendant du Conseil est français.

Je ne vais pas être très longue, mais je veux simplement dire que les autorités de mon pays portent une attention extrêmement vigilante à la notion d'indépendance du Président du Conseil, et cela dans tous les domaines de la vie publique de la vie française. Pour cette raison, les autorités de mon pays ont demandé au Président indépendant élu d'accepter de démissionner de tous ses mandats élus qui pouvaient donner à penser qu'il était encore relié à des intérêts particuliers dans le domaine agricole. Donc, les autorités de mon pays ont estimé que, bien que cela peut-être puisse ne pas poser des difficultés concrètes, il était nécessaire dans une Organisation

internationale des Nations Unies de marquer de façon claire son indépendance et cela, Monsieur le Président, en relation avec le fait qu'à la FAO nous allons établir un Comité d'éthique, qui jusqu'à présent n'a pas encore produit les recommandations que nous attendions et, dans ce Comité d'éthique, seront examinées toutes les questions de conflits d'intérêt. Cela vaut pour le Président indépendant du Conseil, pour les Membres fonctionnaires de la FAO et cela vaudra évidemment pour le Comité du Groupe d'experts de haut niveau du CSA.

Pour toutes ces raisons, donc, il nous apparaît que cette notion d'indépendance est un pivot majeur sur lequel vraisemblablement, nous les Membres de la FAO, nous aurons à réfléchir tranquillement. Je pense que la prochaine Conférence du mois de juin 2011 sera, peut-être, le moment où nous pourrions réfléchir, une fois terminé ce que nous nous accordons à déclarer tous ensemble, comme étant aujourd'hui une phase transitoire. Nous sommes en phase transitoire, nous expérimentons une réforme, nous expérimentons une nouvelle gouvernance et je pense qu'il faut observer comment vont les choses pour en tirer les conclusions.

Nous sommes donc, en tant que France, mon gouvernement, totalement d'accord avec le troisième point de la recommandation du Comité financier, sur le fait que la question de la révision potentielle possible du Président du Conseil devra être examinée par la Conférence. Nous acceptons parfaitement cette décision et nous l'approuvons.

En revanche, il est clair que les discussions au sein du Conseil ont montré qu'il y avait de la place pour une amélioration. A tel point que dans ses recommandations – je lis en anglais parce que le texte anglais est plus pratique – le Comité "*agreed that, if requested, it would be willing to review the representative allowance*". Monsieur le Président, de façon très simple, je vous demande, en tant que Président du Conseil, de bien vouloir demander au Comité financier de revoir cette «*allowance*» de représentation.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame l'Ambassadeur, je donne tout de suite la parole au Représentant Monsieur Ibrahim Abu Atileh de la Jordanie.

Mr Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank the Chair of the Finance Committee for this brief report in which he asked the Council to refer to three matters. I will start with gender equality since this is being discussed in the UN. So I would like to support the recommendation put forward by the Committee on condition that it will not affect, of course, the efficiency of work in FAO. When we look at gender issues, we have to deal with those who submit their candidates by looking at their qualifications. If there are women who are very qualified, of course, in this case they will be chosen so that we can arrive at the 50 percent.

As far as the other matter regarding the member in the Audit Committee, I would like to say that I do support the decisions of the Finance Committee is concerned because it accepted the recommendation of the Director-General by appointing Ms Fatoumata Ndiage as a member of this Committee.

As for the third recommendation regarding the emoluments to be paid to the Independent Chairperson of the Council, I would like to recall some rules. We adopted the budget in November 2009 in which it included some parts concerning the Independent Chairperson and the budget for a biennium. So it would not be reasonable after we have agreed this principle in November 2009 to return and amend this important item of the budget regarding the emoluments to be paid. Although I do appreciate and value the efforts made by the Independent Chairperson of the Council and at the same time I do submit that we accept what has appeared in the IPA and Conference Committee with the ever-increasing role of the Independent Chairperson, I fear that this will be a precedent that will open the door wide open for the future, maybe for a Chairperson to ask for an increase in the emoluments. If it is important that we have to look again at the emoluments, we must do so for all so that we have one decision that will cover all cases, and the amounts could apply to a number of staff, be they consultants or those working as permanent staff

members. This will be a precedent that will be taken into account and many people may, of course, take this precedent and ask for an increase in their emoluments. In order to avoid this kind of situation, I find that the justifications referred to by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee are not convincing, are not enough. So this matter should be taken back to the Finance Committee to discuss it in the light of the next budget of FAO. It will be taken into account when we take the decision on the next budget level for FAO next year, including all the probabilities, and will not give rise to any new openings for this kind of mistake in the future.

Mr Valery YUDIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I had planned to make a general statement on the Report of the Finance Committee but since it has been suggested that we should first make a comment on the three points which call for decision on part of the Council, I will refer to two of these points. The first has to do with the gender balance within the Secretariat for the Organization. I would like to hear from the Secretariat whether the goal set 20 years ago on achieving proper proportions and balance between men and women in the Professional categories to a ratio of 35 to 65 has been achieved. Has this been achieved? Only in the case that it has been achieved can we indeed speak of increasing the ratio to 50/50. In any case, as we are firmly convinced the first criteria in recruiting staff should really remain high professional qualities, high competence and excellence and this is indeed something that we have enshrined in our constitutional documents.

With regard to remuneration of the Independent Chairman, we would like to support the recommendations of the Committee. We believe that the level of remuneration should not in principle be different from what the preceding Chairman used to receive but this level of remuneration should also not be discriminatory with regard to the new challenges and new requirements which will have to be met by this Independent Chairman of the Council. With regard to the three recommendations of the Committee on this issue, in particular recommendation number two, there is a request made the Finance Committee would stand ready to examine the issue of the representation allowance and expenses. It is not very clear from the exact working whose expenses this might entail, but we construed this to mean the expenses of the FAO. We believe, indeed, that this sort of request should be made to the Finance Committee and they should cast a broader view in reviewing this entire problem and should seek to resolve it not just for the present Independent Chairman, but also in the future so that in each and every instance the Council should not have to tangle with this sort of problem, if it were to come up.

As for the other points having to do with my delegation, I will make them later.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

I thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his brief presentation and the three issues which he drew to the Council's attention for decision.

Mr Chairman, I will react to the suggestions of the Chairman of the Finance Committee and I will also refer to some other items in the Finance Committee's Report, because I think they are important for the Council to react to.

On the question of the gender balance, we support the Committee's recommendation that the target should be increased to 50 percent, just like it is in the UN.

On the question of the emoluments of the Chairman of the Council, we agree with the recommendations of the Finance Committee and would also support that the representation allowance may be reviewed if only to see whether the current allowance is relevant in the current circumstances. So we would support a request to the Finance Committee to review the representation allowance.

Mr Chairman, coming to some of the other items in the Finance Committee's report which we believe the Council should discuss and react to, because they are important issues, I start off with the deficit of the Organization. The Organization has always had or carried a deficit in its financial statement.

CHAIRPERSON

Delegation of Pakistan, you are anticipating the agenda, so if you allow me, we shall go back to this later.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

First, on increasing the target from 35 percent to 50 percent for gender parity, I continue to believe that we addressed this in the Reform discussions when we talked about specific corporate indicators that FAO was to achieve. I am more than happy to have the Council reaffirm that FAO should align itself with the rest of the UN. Indeed, it is somewhat surprising, and does not speak at all well of the FAO that it should be reflected anywhere that its target remains at 35 percent. The FAO is a part of the UN System, and even if it were not, its target should still be gender parity. This is not an issue of how quickly FAO can achieve that target. We have heard from Management about the rate of turnover, and we understand that FAO will struggle for many years to reach the 50 percent. But the target should nonetheless be clear and should be reaffirmed now, as the same target as exists throughout the UN System i.e., 50 percent.

We fully endorse the comment of Russia that appointments should remain merit-based and we believe that if hiring systems are rendered gender-neutral, that FAO will find that there are more than enough highly qualified women available to take on Professional positions in this Organization. Indeed, that's the experience of the UN and other International Organizations around the world.

As for the nomination, Canada fully endorses the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

On the third point, the revision of emoluments, I guess my starting point on this question is perhaps a little different. There was a decision of Conference and prior to the election of the Independent Chair there was a very clear indication of what the emoluments would be and what the expectations were for the job. Basically, all the terms and conditions were clear and available to anyone who would choose to run for the position. It is not simply that we have already set a budget level for that office in the current PWB. More importantly, we set the terms and conditions at the time of advertising the vacancy and running an election, and it strikes me that it would be most unfair to others who might have, with different terms and conditions, decided to run for the office, to now change those a few months into the current Chair's term. It is simply not the way that things can be run. It is fair to look at the role and to ask whether, in advance of the next election of an Independent Chair, there should be a different set of terms and conditions. And I do encourage the Finance Committee to look at this question comprehensively, in advance of the publication of the terms and conditions and a call for nominations for the Independent Chair for the period following the next Conference. I think that everybody should compete in the full knowledge of what the position will involve, and what the remuneration package should be. I think as a Council it would be welcome to consider the advice of the Finance Committee at the meeting of Council immediately prior to the next Conference also in the context of discussions on the PWB.

Sr. Elías José GUÍA LÓPEZ (España)

Hablo en nombre de la Unión Europea y de sus 27 Estados Miembros. Los países candidatos a la Unión Europea, Croacia, la ex República Yugoslava de Macedonia y Turquía también se asocian a esta declaración.

En relación al Programa Estratégico de Recursos Humanos y al Plan de Acción para el bienio 2010-11, la Unión Europea pide a la FAO que racionalice y acorte el proceso de reclutamiento de jóvenes candidatos cuanto antes, especialmente en lo relativo al Programa de Jóvenes Profesionales.

La Unión Europea también anima a la FAO a adoptar e implementar el objetivo acordado para las Naciones Unidas del 50 por ciento de mujeres en los niveles Profesionales y de mayor rango.

La Unión Europea respalda la designación de un Auditor Externo Independiente para el PMA ya que se trata de un elemento clave para verificar la correcta gestión dentro de la Organización. Deseamos la aprobación en junio de 2010 por parte del Comité Ejecutivo del PMA del candidato nominado por el Grupo de Evaluación.

Por lo que se refiere a los gastos de representación del Presidente Independiente del Consejo, quiero precisar claramente que la Unión Europea no ha consensuado de momento su postura, y futuros debates internos serán llevados a cabo al respecto en breve. Ello significa que las intervenciones individuales de cualquiera de nuestros Estados Miembros deberán ser consideradas exactamente como posturas individuales de estos países, con todo nuestro respeto evidentemente.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

First, let me speak on the issue of gender parity. I would like to align the United States with the positions of Jordan, Pakistan and Canada in support of the gender parity issue. The United States is very pleased that the Finance Committee recommended the Council change the existing FAO gender parity target of 35 percent of females at the Professional and Higher Levels to the current UN target of 50 percent. Unfortunately, the fact that this FAO gender parity objective has not been revised since the 1990s reflects the Organization's lack of attention over the past decade to promoting female employment. We understand that the Human Resources Gender Action Plan currently being developed will describe specific measures and benchmarks that Management is planning to implement to increase female employment. We believe that merit-based hiring and gender parity are not mutually-exclusive terms. We look forward to receiving before the next Council session, more detailed information on the new Gender Action Plan.

On the second issue, I want to join and align the United States with Canada's position on this matter. During the second session of the General Committee during the Conference in November 2009, the terms and conditions related to the Independent Chairperson of Council were presented. These conditions of appointment, including all the allowances attached to the Office of the Independent Chairperson, were adopted via Resolution 17/2009, Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of Council. Requesting a change to the conditions at this time is neither appropriate nor consistent with previous practices. We believe additionally that an annual payment would symbolically and financially link this position too closely to the FAO Secretariat, essentially, creating a *de facto* full time position within the FAO and call into question the autonomy and duty of this position to the Member States. For these reasons, the United Nations does not support at this time the creation of an additional annual payment award to the Independent Chair. However, we would join with others who have spoken before us in the suggestion that this matter be sent to the Finance Committee to look at it in a broader-based manner with all of the similarly situated positions within the Organization, as related to the change in activities that have been requested to be performed by the Independent Chair and also to look at this matter in alignment with our budget for current as well as the next biennium.

Ms Kirsten BJØRU (Norway)

Norway aligns itself strongly with other colleagues regarding the Committee's recommendation to increase the gender parity target to 50 percent. It is very disturbing that we are sitting here in 2010 discussing this new target. We should have done it before.

As regarding emoluments, we like to agree with previous statements made by many of my colleagues especially Canada, the United States, Jordan and so on. We think that this is an item that should be referred to the discussions on the next budget in the next biennium.

Sra. Emma María José RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTE (México)

Sr. Presidente, solo de manera muy breve para tratar de buscar un mejor aprovechamiento en su tiempo sobre dos temas. México es miembro del Comité de Finanzas, respalda a las recomendaciones que ha hecho el Informe tal cual ha sido presentado por el Presidente del Comité, y hay dos elementos que quisiera subrayar al respecto al tema de género.

Nosotros apoyamos firmemente una mayor participación de las mujeres. En México estamos convencidos de que las mujeres tienen mucho que aportar a nuestro país y tratamos de promover su participación activa y plena en las diversas actividades. Deseamos una mayor participación de las mujeres en la FAO, pero al mismo tiempo sabemos que debe haber una mayor distribución geográfica equitativa en la Organización. Yo creo que hay calidad suficiente en las mujeres como para que hayan más mujeres en esta Organización, y apoyamos este paso.

Sr. Presidente, respecto del segundo tema que se está viendo, el tema de emolumentos para el Presidente Independiente del Consejo, nosotros somos una delegación que se le dificulta comprender la manera cómo ha sido concebida la naturaleza misma la Presidencia Independiente. Creemos que este es un tema que tiene que ver con la naturaleza de la participación de los Estados y que debe ser vista con todo cuidado, tal y como elegimos al actual Presidente Independiente del Consejo. La decisión ya está tomada y no vemos mayor cosa respecto a la forma como a su oficina ha sido acordada por la última Conferencia.

Al mismo tiempo consideramos que un debate que se pueda abrir tendría que ser muy amplio y que cuestionaría y podríamos llegar a considerar la naturaleza misma de los puestos en una Organización en donde, por ejemplo, todos los miembros de los Comités, incluidos sus Presidentes son designados conforme a los textos en su capacidad personal. Son algunos elementos que quisiéramos poner sobre la mesa, pero como mencioné al inicio, respaldamos el Informe del Comité de Finanzas.

Ms Carla Elisa MUCAVI (Mozambique)

My delegation would like to support the recommendation contained in the Report under consideration presented by the Chair, particularly the one regarding gender equality. Indeed, as FAO is part of the UN, we feel that it should comply with the targets set by this main organization - that is to reach the balance of 50 percent of women in the Secretariat. We already have good examples within the UN System, and we particularly feel FAO should really also follow those good examples.

Of course, we do agree with the position of keeping the high professional quality and performance, and there is no doubt that women have them. I am sure that they can really fulfil those targets and these criteria. So we would really recommend that this position be supported by the Council.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

Gabon will be presenting the position of Africa; however, since you have given me the floor let me speak on behalf of my delegation. We support the 50/50 balance on the gender targets and we endorse the nomination of the External Auditor.

Concerning the emoluments of the Independent Chair, my delegation voices the same sentiment as Canada, Jordan, EU, United States of America and others who have spoken along that lines. However, my delegation would like to say that the proper guidelines need to be established so that in future any current position holder of the Independent Chair is not drawn into such a situation. So we call for a broader review for this issue.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

My delegation supports the gender parity recommendations that have been supported by many other delegations that have spoken before me. At the same time I also wish to draw attention, in the same paragraph, to the issue of geographical targets. We urge FAO to strive to meet geographical targets in order to protect the universality of this Organization because you find that when you look at the tables some countries stand at zero representation. We would like to see that addressed.

As regards the issue of the Independent Chair, I think many delegations have spoken and are recommending that this issue be looked at from a broader perspective so that it is not only limited to the case that has been tabled before us. My delegation will support such a broader discussion of

the topic. For the moment, however, we should be guided by the recommendations that the Finance Committee has tabled before us.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation fully supports the targets set to enhance gender parity of fifty percent of females and what we would like to mention is that we would like to encourage recruitment of qualified female staff from under-represented countries, as already mentioned by Zimbabwe.

M. Louis Stanislas CHARICAUTH (Gabon)

Monsieur le Président, la délégation du Gabon s'exprime au nom de la Région Afrique. Nous appuyons les recommandations du Comité sur les trois points qui ont été exposés par le Président du Comité financier de façon brève. Nous aimerions pourtant préciser que nous reconnaissons que les nominations sont le reflet des qualifications des postulants afin que le recrutement soit fondé sur le mérite.

Sur la question concernant les conditions économiques du Président, nous souhaitons que pour une meilleure compréhension de tous, le Secrétariat nous la précise de nouveau ce que recouvre le terme indemnités de représentation et les contraintes attachées à fonction de Président indépendant.

Voilà, Monsieur le Président ce que la délégation du Gabon avait à dire sur ces trois points qui ont été soulevés par le Comité financier. Je vous remercie.

Mr Awad Abdelkarim ABDALLH (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Sudan would support the principle of gender parity. However, we feel that this must be based on the competence of the candidate.

As regards the emoluments of the Independent Chairman of the Council, we feel this should be re-submitted to the Finance Committee for further reflection.

Ms Adelaide BOATENG-SIRIBOE (Ghana)

I wish to support the statements made in view of the gender parity and the emoluments of the Independent Chair as made by Zimbabwe, Tanzania and all those who have spoken before me.

I wish to comment on the membership of the Audit Committee. My delegation supports the nomination, but as requested by the Finance Committee we should withhold the appointment until the Council has approved the appointment of the Internal Auditor.

Ms Sujin PARK (Republic of Korea)

We fully support the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding the FAO gender parity target of fifty percent at Professional and Higher Levels. We would like to associate ourselves with the comment made by Thailand regarding the geographic representation. We highly appreciate the efforts of Human Resources to reach out directly to institutions and organizations to reach qualified women and nationals of under-represented countries. However, we would like to ask the Secretariat to take more effective measures to improve the geographical representation as well.

Mme. Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

Au terme de ces expressions diverses, je voudrais dire trois choses. La première, c'est que comme l'a dit le Représentant de l'Union européenne, j'ai parlé au nom de mon pays, car au sein de l'Union il n'y a pas de consensus sur ce sujet et nous sommes entrain d'y travailler. Donc, je souscris complètement à ce qu'il a dit et je m'exprimais, je l'ai indiqué au nom de mes autorités.

La deuxième chose, Monsieur le Président, bien que comme Ambassadeur de France, vous pouvez comprendre que je me trouve dans une position relativement délicate puisque je plaide pour l'indépendance du Président du Conseil et je m'intéresse à sa situation personnelle. Cela pourrait paraître un peu bizarre mais, la réalité qui guide mon propos est que dans cette période transitoire, il y a quelque chose que nous n'avons pas bien vu: c'est la situation du Président

indépendant je pense, Monsieur le Président, que cela mérite un réexamen. Et, comme je l'ai indiqué et je le redis, je pense que cela est du niveau de la prochaine Conférence. Mais il faut certainement qu'il y ait préalablement à cette nouvelle Conférence prochaine, Conférence de juin, un travail qui soit fait aussi bien par le Secrétariat de la FAO que par le Comité financier. Et, je pense que sur ce sujet, personne dans ceux que j'ai entendus en tout cas, a dit non.

Troisième point, ces sujets, Monsieur le Président, sont finalement quoiqu'on en dise un peu techniques. Que recouvre cette «*allowance*» de représentation? Ce ne sont pas des émoluments. Cela recouvre les frais de fonctionnement du Président lorsqu'il doit recevoir, discuter, etc. Mais cela recouvre aussi et c'est précisément indiqué dans les textes, les frais de Secrétariat du Président indépendant, engagé dans son propre pays. Donc, notre Président indépendant qui est presque six mois par an à Rome et le reste du temps dans son pays, pour pouvoir être en connexion et travailler de façon efficace avec la FAO, compte tenu des énormes responsabilités qui sont désormais les siennes, doit avoir un Secrétariat. Et ces «*allowances*» couvrent notamment, pas seulement mais notamment ce fonctionnement là. Monsieur le Président, c'est de cela dont je parlais et de cela seulement.

Ces techniques, cela mérite d'être examiné par le Comité financier et cela mérite d'être éclairé par le Secrétariat de la FAO. C'est pour cette raison, et je termine là-dessus, cette troisième raison que le Comité financier a pris la peine de dire "*if requested*" «si on le lui demande», il s'intéresse à ce sujet. Et, je pense que sur cette donnée il n'y a pas de volonté de passer en force, nous devons nous y intéresser.

Je conclurai sur la transparence pour dire que ce qui me motive c'est précisément la plus grande clarté et la plus grande transparence. J'ai demandé au Secrétariat de faire le bilan des émoluments qui avaient été versés au précédent Président du Conseil. J'ai pu constater qu'il y en avait de parfaitement connus et d'autres de parfaitement inconnus de nous. Je pense que nous devons être transparents. La gouvernance de cette Organisation impose une parfaite transparence et c'est le but de mon intervention. La "transparence" est la décision démocratique.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

I just want to thank the Ambassador from France for her comments clarifying her statements and applaud her for the support for transparency and accountability. I would also like to reiterate the statements that I made before that we send this matter back to the Finance Committee for a broader look at these issues, including the accountability and transparency issues.

CHAIRPERSON

As I said, nobody else is requesting the floor and we can draw one big conclusion, which is a strong consensus on the first point that was presented by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and the second strong consensus, if not unanimity, is the implementation of the gender principle. Regarding the nomination process, we concur with the nomination of the candidate that was presented.

On the third point I would like to invite my friend, Yasser Sorour, the Chairperson, if he has any comment to give us before I conclude on this issue.

Mr Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

First of all, I would like to thank the Council for the clear guidance that they are giving to the Finance Committee. It really encourages us to improve our work more through clearer recommendations from you, as a Governing Body. So I really appreciate the clear guidance that is given to us and this kind of dialogue between the Finance Committee, the advisory committees and the Council really helps the Reform Process to be on the right track.

As I said before, according to the Constitution, the Council can mandate the Finance Committee to discuss any issues the Council wishes. So as the Council, as I sense from the floor, wishes that

we further discuss the emoluments of the Independent Chair again, of course we will do so and present our recommendation in this regard at a later stage.

Mr Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

Let me pick up on the point that was raised by the Ambassador from France to assure Members of the Council that we shall continue to provide our full support for a technical review on the emoluments of the position of the Independent Chair of the Council. Transparency is of critical importance to the Management of FAO. Through transparency we build confidence between Members and Management. I hope that you will be satisfied that we have a sound track record, as we participated very actively in the discussions during the Conference session in 2007 on the issue of a possible increase in the representation allowance. Throughout the 2008-09 biennium, there were discussions in the Finance Committee on the level of the representation allowance, in May 2008 and in July 2009, which was followed by our support to the General Committee of the Conference in November 2009 and, of course, to the deliberations in the April 2010 Finance Committee. In the discussion at the April 2010 Session of the Finance Committee, there was an explanation given on the emoluments of Dr Noori-Naeini in his previous roles both as Independent Chair of Council, as well as Chairperson of the CoC-IEE. But I do wish to underline that we stand ready to fully support the process of discussion in the Finance Committee and eventual decision-making by the Council and Conference in this regard.

Turning to the question of gender, I should like to thank you for the support to the question posed about formally establishing a revised gender target. Here again, I should underline that Management has acted pro-actively on the question of the gender parity target ever since the IEE Report. In fact, Canada recalled the fruitful discussions we had in the CoC-IEE in this regard. The question of gender parity has also been mentioned in the Director-General's recent speeches. So we see it as a relatively simple matter - now that we have your support - to formalize this, building also on the last explicit Conference discussion that took place on the gender targets back in 1999. Beyond this we would envisage, as the United States mentioned, reflecting this matter more explicitly in our Gender Plan of Action.

There was a question raised by Russia regarding the progress that we might have made *vis-à-vis* the existing target. I can say with satisfaction and pleasure that we have made very good progress since 1994 on the number of female staff in the Professional and Higher Categories. On the 1st of January 1994, we had 18 percent Professional and Higher Level female staff, and that level has now reached 33 percent. So we are very close overall to the 35 percent target that has been formally established by the Governing Bodies. In fact, there are a number of variations within these overall figures. For example, we have consistently had fewer female staff in our Decentralised Offices versus Headquarters. So if we look at our present distribution, our Decentralised Offices have 21 percent female staff and our Headquarter's units have actually exceeded the 35 percent target since we are already at 36 percent of females in the Professional and Higher categories. Also within these figures, there are variations. For example, the CS Department, my Department, has already reached gender parity - it already has a 50 percent level of female staff in the Professional and Higher categories.

In response to the question from Canada, as we move forward, we do have targets, in the Programme of Work and Budget under the Functional Objective Y. Starting from the baseline that I have just quoted, we are looking at a two-year professional target, established in the Programme of Work and Budget, of 36 percent while the Professional target four years ahead - that is, the medium-term planning horizon - is a target of 38 percent. These are targets which, under the results-based framework, we are bound to report back to you on through the programme implementation reports, through the post-factum accountability reports.

The 50 percent gender parity target is therefore aspirational, and this was something that was emphasized in the Finance Committee as well. It is a target that we would aspire to achieve over the years based also on the guidance that you have provided regarding the importance of competence for positions, built from extrapolations of vacancies in order to come up with

successive targets that are ambitious yet attainable in the longer-term as we move towards the 50 percent gender target.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous arrivons, puisqu'il n'y a plus d'intervention y compris de la part du Secrétariat, à la fin de ce débat sur ce point important. Je voudrais d'abord remercier l'ensemble des intervenants pour leur coopération avec la présidence, la richesse du débat que j'interprète comme un engagement fort pour la réalisation des objectifs de cet organe et de cette institution à laquelle nous appartenons. Moi qui ai eu le plaisir, il y a plusieurs années, de faire partie de ce débat, je dois vous dire le changement de ton et de qualité est tout simplement remarquable. Je crois que cette qualité dans nos débats nous dicte la décision qui s'impose d'elle-même ; c'est de demander à nos amis du Comité financier de remettre le dossier dans les mains de Monsieur Yasser Sorour, *the Chairperson*, parce que beaucoup d'éléments nouveaux, à mon avis, ont été apportés au niveau des principes, de la transparence et de l'éthique, et méritent un examen plus sophistiqué et plus exhaustif. Et, je crois que personne ne me démentira dans la salle si on considérait cette décision de transmettre l'ensemble du dossier au Comité financier comme la sage décision d'aujourd'hui. Je crois que tel est le cas. Merci pour votre collaboration, et je cède immédiatement la présidence au Président indépendant, que j'invite de venir ici à ma place.

Mr Luc Guyau, Independent Chairperson of the Council, took the chair

M. Luc Guyau, Président indépendant du Conseil, a pris la présidence

Sr. Luc Guyau, Presidente Independiente del Consejo, tomó la presidencia

LE PRÉSIDENT

Permettez-moi de remercier Monsieur l'Ambassadeur du Maroc de m'avoir suppléé pendant cette discussion, et nous allons donc reprendre la discussion qui est engagée puisqu'il y avait la première partie du rapport du Comité financier. Monsieur Sorour n'avait pas fini de nous parler des finances, donc je lui redonne la parole.

Mr Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

We are now going to the second part of the report on finances which has to do with issues which certainly deserve the attention of the Council especially salient points on financial issues and the state of contributions. The rate of payment and contributions in March 2010 was 38 percent as compared to March last year which was 23 percent. So this demonstrates that there is some improvement in the rate of payment from the part of Member Nations. I would like to stress that if this rate continues to improve, the Organization will not be obliged to turn to external borrowing to meet our work requirements.

With regard to the General Fund which is far from USD 559 000 as per 31 December 2009 and which represents an increase in the deficit to the tune of USD 94 000 as compared to the 2006-07 biennium. This deficit is mainly due to the unbudgeted civil servants budget line of USD 117 million.

I would like to refer to the contributions of Member Nations and their arrears. I believe that all Member Nations must commit themselves to abide by their commitments and budgetary pledges in order to enable the Organization to perform its mandate within the field of agriculture. I would just like to stress what the Finance Committee has highlighted by way of conclusions. They have emphasized the need for contributions to be paid on time, and for arrears to be avoided so we can encourage proper payments. Member Nations should speak with the Organization for any special payment plans. We have adopted an Incentive Scheme to prompt payments to come forward during the first quarter of the exercise and, indeed, it is interesting to see what impact this has had on the state of affairs. We would like to get this input from the Finance Committee to see what we do with this Incentive Scheme, whether we should develop it, or not. This is something that we are going to be broaching within the Finance Committee when we next meet.

As for the Actuarial Valuation on civil servants, as per the last Actuarial Valuation, as at 31 December 2009 the total staff liabilities were USD 110.8 million including After-Service Medical Coverage, etc. This last point on the After-Service Medical Coverage measures were taken by the Secretariat to cope with this situation in keeping with UN directives. We will go further into this when we next meet to discuss programme and budget matters. We have suggested that the budget allocated to these lines of expenditure be increased. However, during the preceding Conference we were not able to agree on a sum of money to cover these lines, so this is something we are going to broach next time around.

The third point has to do with investments. You know that within the Finance Committee we are watching with an eagle's eye over this particular point. I would like to stress that there is some improvement after the crisis that the world went through which had an impact on returns. However, during this entire period we saw that there was an overall positive return, especially for short-term holdings. That figure was 0.4 percent in 2009. The investment for 2009 was to the tune of USD 933 million at 31 December 2009. This reached USD 940 million at 2009, over a positive return of 18.3 percent. As regards the progress report on the adoption of the International Public Service Accounting Standards, given the implementation of these standards in the field it is thought that the Organization requires an extra budget of USD 3.1 million for 2012 in order to complete the field solution workstream. As for inter-budgetary transfers, I would like to emphasize that in an agreement with the recommendations of the Finance Committee, we approved of the transfer Chapters of 3 and 6 towards Chapters 1, 4, and 5. During its preceding session, I would recall, we had adopted a plan that you gave your blessing to, which specified exactly what the intra-budgetary transfer procedures would be. We felt in our Committee that it was necessary in the future to get the approval of the Programme Committee to make sure that there was no impact on the overall performance of the Organization in the course of these transfers.

I would like to thank all of the members of the Finance Committee for having made the respective inputs and contributions to the overall improvement of the work. This also, of course, because of the excellent quality of the documentation provided for the purposes of this work. The documents were excellent, even better than before, and we would like to heartily thank the Secretariat for that.

The Finance Committee can now make proposals after having adopted its new working procedures, and we hope to be able to have guideline documents issued for the Finance Committee's methodological aspects. So, I believe that the methodological approach has systematically improved, the documentation has been improved as well and the presentation of the Report is also changed. You probably noticed that our Report now breaks down separately the recommendations and the actions that are expected from the Finance Committee for transmission to Council. I think that further improvements can continue to be made. Everything is always improvable after all no matter what level of excellence has been achieved.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur Sorour. Je crois que c'était utile de faire le rapport tel que vous l'avez fait dans votre Comité et je mets tout de suite ces différents points à la discussion. Vous avez la parole.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

I should like to briefly comment on some of the aspects of the Finance Committee Report and to start off with the item under the Financial Situation of the Organization in paragraph 5 to 8. The deficit situation in FAO has existed for some years, but it has now reached a significant level of USD 559 million and as the Chairman of the Finance Committee pointed out, a considerable portion of this deficit is related to the accounting mechanism of the unfunded liabilities for staff-related schemes. It nevertheless needs to be addressed, and we feel it will be appropriate for the Finance Committee to conduct an in-depth review of the situation and provide the Council with options and proposals for reducing this deficit and eventually eliminate it. So, it would be useful to have the Finance Committee, which is a Technical Committee of the Council, to have its

views on what sort of proposals the Council should consider to address this perennial deficit of the Organization. Mr Chairman, still on the question of the financial situation of FAO we note that the Finance Committee is going to look at the impact of the incentive scheme on the timely payments. Ms. Chairman I don't know whether many members are aware the incentive scheme is reviewed by the Finance Committee for several years and in the past the finance committee has recommended that the schemes should be abolished and when that was not possible it found a novel method of neutralizing the scheme by agreeing to a zero interest rate to be instituted as it were. So it was an incentive scheme with no incentive in it. The Finance Committee in the past also questioned the principals on which this incentive scheme was based. It really means that Member Governments are saying that to make our contributions in accordance with the rules and obligations and to discharge our obligations which we undertook on becoming members of the organization, we need a discount. It doesn't make sense. It is almost like parliamentarians and national parliaments awarding benefits to themselves when their countries are in deficit or are in difficulties. I think the Finance Committee should look at the incentive scheme from the point of view of whether in principal it is correct to give discounts to pay in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Organization. In fact, the Finance Committee also requested the Secretariat to conduct a review some years ago and the results of that review were that in the vast majority of the cases, I believe that the percentage was seventy percent, that the incentive scheme did not influence the countries to pay and the countries followed their budgetary cycles or their parliamentary processes to make the payments. So I think the Finance Committee in its review should look at that the results of the past reviews and come up with the recommendations for the Council on this scheme, once and for all because every second year there is a review of this scheme; I think the Finance Committee should spend its time of looking at ways other than the incentive scheme which would encourage members to pay. One aspect which they could look at is the mechanism which is in place for assisting countries who are unable to pay because of financial difficulties. A mechanism does exist but it kicks in to action every two years during the Conference. Perhaps the Finance Committee could look at ways where that mechanism could come into action before and not wait until the Conference takes place.

Coming now to the International Public Accounting Standards this is an important project as the finance committee's report indicates and once it is completed it would bring benefits to the Organization. The project is included in the IPA and is considered a priority project. It seems the progress so far is satisfactory according to the Finance Committee's report, but we note that there is an increase in the scope of the project to include the replacement of the field accounting system. And the Committee also draws attention to some project risks. The expanded scope has been identified but the funding for this expanded scope seems to be in a sort of no man's land and I think the Finance Committee in looking at this question – I believe they are going to at their next session -- should also make sure that funding for this project or for this increase in scope is identified.

Coming to the question of investments, I agree with the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Organization has done quite well, we commend the Organization and in particular the Finance Division for the prudent management of FAO's investments, especially during the period of the global financial crisis.

Now coming to the Human resource matters; this is an area where significant progress has been made and we know the satisfaction on the committee's positive comments. The committee whilst welcoming the HR strategic framework and action plan for 2010-2011 notes the progress already made against key HR products and services. Ms. Chairman, over the years, and members would recall those who have been attending this Council for sometime, we often hear it said in meetings of the Council and other governing bodies that FAO's human resources were its main asset. Despite this the funding of the HR function was not always commensurate with what was required of it. The main reason of course was the budgetary constraints of the Organization. However, that situation has now changed, and in line with the recommendations of the various reviews that have taken place and also as outlined in the IPA, FAO has embarked on an ambitious reform and modernization agenda of the human resources function and we commend the

corporate services department and the Human resources management division for the new strategic direction given to the HR function.

Now I come to the annual activity report of the Inspector general. Paragraph 34 of the Finance Committee's report refers to the implementation of, or should I say the non implementation, of outstanding recommendations, some of which are of high risk. This situation, Mr Chairman, has existed for some years and we note that the Committee plans to revert to this issue in this future session. But one thing which the Committee may wish to look at is why are these recommendations still outstanding especially when the line managers have accepted these recommendations and these recommendations are supposed to improve the processes or the activities of those line managers and these still remain outstanding and non implemented. Perhaps the reason is that many of the recommendation may have funding or resource implications. If this is so, perhaps the committee should look at some mechanism for accessing resource requirements and categorizing recommendations between those which required additional resources and those which don't. So senior management instructs implementation of these recommendations, they are also aware that there are resource implications and take care that those taken care of.

Under other matters of the Committee, there is an important item tucked away in that paragraph and that deals with the ethics function, the Ombudsman, and the mediation policy of the Organization. It's important that these are well defined because they deal with sensitive issues and at the moment I think there is overlap between some of them.

Finally, we also agree with the Committee that it should look at the format of its report so as to make focussed recommendations to the Council so that the Council decision making is facilitated.

Sr. Elías José GUÍA LÓPEZ (España)

Es un honor hablar en nombre de la Unión Europea y de sus 27 Estados Miembros, los países candidatos a la Unión Europea, Croacia, la ex República Yugoslava de Macedonia y Turquía también se asocian a esta declaración.

En relación con el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, la Unión Europea agradece el trabajo realizado por el Comité de Finanzas dentro de sus competencias entre las que se incluyen temas relacionados con el Programa Mundial de Alimentos. La Unión Europea aprecia la importancia dada por el Comité de Finanzas para reforzar la cooperación entre las Agencias con sede en Roma en asuntos administrativos y financieros.

La Unión Europea agradece el refuerzo de las Operaciones de Emergencia que ha permitido al PMA dar una respuesta rápida a las consecuencias del terremoto de Haití.

La Unión Europea reconoce la importancia de la implementación de las Normas Internacionales de Contabilidad del Sector Público ya que proporcionan transparencia y mejor gestión dentro del programa. La Unión Europea da la bienvenida al exitoso proceso actualmente en curso de implementación de estas normas en el Programa Mundial de Alimentos. También damos la bienvenida a la implementación del sistema WINGS II, y esperamos que sirva de ayuda al PMA en la implementación de las Normas Internacionales de Contabilidad del Sector Público.

La Unión Europa respalda la designación de un Auditor Externo Independiente para el PMA ya que se trata de un elemento clave para verificar la correcta gestión dentro de la Organización. Deseamos la aprobación en junio de 2010 por parte del Comité Ejecutivo del PMA del candidato nominado por el Grupo de Evaluación.

La Unión Europea da la bienvenida al proceso de establecimiento de una estrategia del PMA para Uganda como primera experiencia de éxito de estrategia de país. La Unión Europea aprecia el enfoque basado en la evaluación de riesgos. Deseamos disponer pronto del documento sobre lecciones aprendidas, el cual podría ser de utilidad para cambiar de forma progresiva el actual sistema de aprobación de proyectos.

En cuanto a la FAO, la Unión Europea agradece las recomendaciones proporcionadas por el 132.º Comité de Finanzas en relación a temas de la FAO.

La Unión Europea toma nota de la solicitud de que los Países Miembros paguen con puntualidad sus contribuciones asignadas. También tomamos nota del hecho de que el principal elemento del déficit del Fondo General en el pasado bienio se debió a la contabilidad del pasivo infrapresupuestado y no financiado de los planes relativos al personal. La Unión Europea alienta al Comité de Finanzas a continuar estudiando el modo de mejorar esta difícil situación.

La Unión Europea toma nota del progreso realizado para implementar las normas internacionales de la contabilidad del sector público en la FAO, y anima a la Secretaría de FAO a continuar trabajando estrechamente con otras organizaciones internacionales con experiencia en la materia.

La Unión Europea agradece los esfuerzos realizados por la FAO para aplicar medidas eficientes de ahorro en el bienio 2008-09, las cuales han conseguido un nivel significativo de ahorros. Animamos a la FAO a alcanzar mayores ahorros con acciones como la fusión de los tres Centros de Servicios Compartidos de la FAO.

En relación al programa estratégico de Recursos Humanos y al Plan Inmediato de Acción para el bienio 2010-11, la Unión Europea pide a la FAO que racionalice y acorte el proceso de reclutamiento de jóvenes candidatos cuanto antes, especialmente al relativo la Programa de Jóvenes Profesionales. La Unión Europea también anima a la FAO a adoptar e implementar el objetivo acordado para las Naciones Unidas del 50 por ciento de mujeres en los niveles Profesionales y de Mayor Rango.

La Unión Europea aprueba la recomendación del Comité de Finanzas de seguir mejorando en los sistemas administrativos, financieros, de personal y de compras de la Organización para una mejor preparación y respuesta ante las amenazas y emergencias, así como para el fortalecimiento de las Oficinas de la FAO en los países.

Finalmente, la Unión Europea acoge el estatus financiero aprobado por la Conferencia en 2009 para financiar el Plan Inmediato de Acción, el cual asegura la financiación para su implementación para el bienio 2010-11. Alentamos al Comité de Finanzas a revisar cuidadosamente la evolución de la financiación durante este bienio.

Mr Valery YUDIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian delegation in making a statement under this item would like to especially focus on the Report of the 132nd Session of the Finance Committee which went into various issues related to FAO activities. We would like to express our satisfaction with regard to the relatively-favourable financial situation of the FAO, and the improvement of the situation relating to the payments of assessed contributions into the Regular Budget which enables us to avoid having to turn to external borrowing for this year. We also positively evaluate the investments report for 2009, and we would like to indeed indicate our approval of the very clever and pragmatic actions on the part of FAO Management in this regard. As regard what we believe are the excessively alarmist concerns of the Secretariat of FAO to the allegedly unsatisfactory financial situation of the ASMC fund, the After-Service Medical Coverage fund, would like to emphasise that this problem is one which is general for the UN System as a whole, and that most probably it would be wise to try to seek one single solution to this problem through measures to be taken throughout the UN framework. We certainly would like to agree with the recommendations of the Finance Committee as addressed to the Secretariat, that is, to monitor the progress of consideration of this matter in New York, and not to pre-empt any developments in this regard.

Now with regard to the rising additional expenses to the tune of USD 3.1 million due to transition and progress towards IPSAS and the effort to integrate or change the field accounting system, we believe that indeed this required some money which should be found through available resources rather than through new assessed contributions.

My delegation has some comments as to human resources strategies. This part of the reform of work undoubtedly merits very serious consideration indeed. On the basis of the Secretariat documents, we see that everything is proceeding according to plan. However, the process of the

recruitment of staff as before is something that stretches over an entire year and the widely publicized rotation policy, as we see it, is certainly showing short-comings, to put it mildly. Because these are very important components of the strategy; this is serious.

With regard to the assessment of the operational response capability of the FAO and cases of emergencies, here we would like to positively note the positive reaction of Management with respect to the majority of the recommendations of the evaluation report. We would like, however, to point out that such recommendations should not in any way contravene the substance of existing provisions and procedures, in particular in areas such as human resources and procurement activities.

I also have some brief comments on the terms of reference of the Ethics Committee. The mandate to prepare and to indeed approve could have somewhat enlightened the information document, specifically as regards the preparatory work of the Secretariat in drawing comparisons with current-existing similar organs and other international decisions throughout the United Nations, if such bodies really and truly exist elsewhere in general. We should really take a look as to the membership and, the accountability procedures involved, as well as the financial impact establishing such an entity. Certainly, we should not just look to establishing an Ethics Office alone. We should rather take a final look at how this entire mechanism would operate.

With regard to the considerations just shared with you, the Russian delegation would not stand in the way in any way with regard to the approval of the Report Finance Committee and its transmission further.

LE PRÉSIDENT

J'attire votre attention sur le fait qu'il y a des points qui sont discutés maintenant, qui normalement doivent être discutés dans le cadre du PAI. C'était l'objet du dernier point. Pour les futurs intervenants, j'attire votre attention pour ne pas les présenter maintenant, mais plus tard.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Thank you to the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his Report. He did note that payments by Member Nations have improved over last year. This is, of course, to be welcomed, but I would note that the situation to be described in document CL 139/LIM/1 remains a very grim one. As of 12 May, the date of the report, it has over half of FAO's Membership behind on its payments, on its obligations to the Organization, of which 57 are more than a year late and thus considered in arrears, and 22 of which are so far in arrears as to have lost their right to vote. Clearly this does still require consideration of all possible options by the Finance Committee, including an Incentive Scheme. I am advised that the Incentive Scheme has worked in Unesco and elsewhere to help improve the situation, and should still be looked at here regardless of past, perhaps erroneous, decisions on this issue.

I would also note that the IEE drew our attention to the difficulties in which FAO is placed when other forms of obligations to this Organization are not met. During the Reform Process we discussed the range of obligations, including the agreements that Host Countries arrive at with FAO when Decentralized Offices are established. We should recall that the non-payment of those obligations renders Decentralized Offices less effective and creates a burden on the Regular Budget and, therefore, on all of us. The Finance Committee should thus be looking comprehensively at all obligations to this Organization, and as our Pakistani colleague indicated, "all of the reasons for which the Organization is in deficit, including unfunded liabilities".

The Report on the Status of Contributions and Arrears should, indeed cover Host Country obligations too so that we have a comprehensive view of the situation in which FAO Management is trying to operate.

The CL 139/LIM/1 document also refers to various arrears payments schemes that have been approved by Conference. Now the intent of such payment schemes was supposed to be about retiring past debts to the Organization. Instead, when I look at Annex B, one sees that the payment period has stretched out in ways that will in fact decrease resources available to fulfil

FAO's mandate. The Finance Committee should look at this issue before any further such arrangements are proposed to Conference.

Mr Satoshi TERAMURA (Japan)

Japan believes that international organizations, including FAO, should keep a sound financial base, and from this point and we would like to make four comments.

The first issue is on the arrears of the assessed contributions. We support an Incentive Scheme and other measures to enhance timely payment. We appreciate the declining tendency of the arrears and expect Members and the Secretariat to continue to make further efforts in this direction. Paying the assessed contributions is the legal obligation of all the Members under the FAO Constitution.

The second one is on the Actuarial Valuation of the staff-related liabilities. The economic crisis has made the financial situation of many Members difficult. On the other hand, FAO's cashflow is recovering as a result of the declining tendency of the arrears. We must bear in mind that this is not an urgent issue. We ask that the ASMC, which is separated from the PWB, would be as small as possible.

The third point is on the adjustment to PWB for unidentified further efficiency gains and one-time savings. We appreciate the efforts made by the Secretariat, and we urge it to report its progress periodically.

The fourth, which is the last but not least important, is on the Financial Disclosure Programme of the staff. To ensure the mutuality of FAO as a Specialized Agency of the United Nations it is crucial to put this Programme into effect as soon as possible. We think the Secretariat should make further efforts regarding this issue.

Mr Awad Abdelkareem ABDALLH (Sudan) (Orginal language Arabic)

We welcome the progress made in paying the contributions. I think the deficit should be looked at again and we should try to find ways of finding a solution by pressing the countries to pay the arrears, especially for the major contributors who have big arrears. I think it is important that we find what Incentive Scheme is going to help us find a solution for this problem.

For the investments, we support reviewing the regional distribution of the investments in the developing countries.

We support the nomination of an Independent External Auditor for transparency reasons, as well as transfers from a different chapters of the budget until we achieve a better financial situation.

M. Louis Stanislas CHARICAUTH (Gabon)

Ma délégation intervient au nom de la région Afrique. Nous notons avec satisfaction l'appréciation de la situation de la trésorerie de l'Organisation, suite notamment à l'amélioration du solde des contributions dues et des arriérés à la fin de la période biennale écoulée, et au versement rapide des contributions de recouvrement au début de cette année.

Nous formulons le vœu que cette tendance se poursuive afin de permettre à l'Organisation de remplir son mandat.

Monsieur le Président, l'ampleur de la dévaluation du Fonds général au 31 décembre 2009, soit de 20 pourcent par rapport à l'exercice précédent, appelle à des propositions claires et urgentes de la part du Secrétariat quant au financement des obligations à long terme relatives au personnel. En dépit des contraintes, tant financières qu'organisationnelles, liées au réajustement du périmètre du projet IPSAS afin de doter l'organisation d'un cadre conceptuel performant et adapté à la complexité de son organisation administrative, nous saluons les progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre de ces normes comptables.

Nous apprécions également la transparence du Secrétariat quant aux informations fournies sur les placements de l'Organisation au cours de l'année 2009, informations aussi bien sur la provenance et la destination des ressources, que sur leurs niveaux et sur leur rentabilité.

Nous encourageons le Secrétariat à poursuivre ses efforts de collaboration avec les services de trésorerie des autres organismes des Nations Unies aux fins d'une meilleure sécurisation des placements.

La région Afrique se félicite, par ailleurs, de l'adéquation des services au cours de l'exercice biennal écoulé, adéquation entre les dépenses effectives et les crédits ouverts. De même, elle apprécie les décisions de gestion prises par la Direction au niveau des virements entre les programmes et chapitres budgétaires de l'exercice 2008-09.

Nous louons également la performance de la gestion qui a conduit à des économies, aussi bien en termes de gain d'efficacité que d'économie ponctuelle d'un montant de 22,1 millions de dollars E.-U. au cours de l'exercice clos le 31 décembre 2009. En ce qui concerne les ajustements au Programme de travail et budget, pour tenir compte des économies ponctuelles et des gains d'efficacité supplémentaires non identifiés, nous faisons nôtres les conclusions du Comité, tout en rappelant que les niches d'économie se situent à tous les niveaux de l'Organisation.

Sur la question de la mise en œuvre de la stratégie de l'Organisation en matière de ressources humaines, la région Afrique loue les efforts accomplis dans ce domaine dans l'optique bien pensée d'une couverture de toutes les ressources de l'Organisation par le cadre de planification à axer sur les résultats.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, nous apprécions l'accueil fait par la Direction à l'évaluation des capacités opérationnelles de l'Organisation dans les situations d'urgence et le fait qu'elle ait accepté la majorité des recommandations ainsi que souligné dans le rapport du Comité. Aussi, sommes nous d'accord avec les recommandations du Comité dans ce domaine. La région Afrique demande, pour terminer, l'approbation du rapport qui nous a été soumis par le Président du Comité financier.

Ms Kirsten BJØRU (Norway)

We would like to thank the Finance Committee for the Report which we, in general, support. My delegation thinks, however, that there is a need for somewhat clearer recommendations from this Committee, especially regarding the deficit of FAO's General Fund and the commitments regarding After-Service Medical Coverage. But, as other delegations have said, we do expect that we will receive these clearer recommendations when discussing the next budget for the next biennium.

There is another point where we cannot see that the Finance Committee has provided the Council with clear recommendations. That is in relation to the Financial Disclosure Programme. In 2007, the Council already decided to amend the Staff Regulations on this point, and we do expect Management to follow-up on this promptly, without waiting any more reviews. As the Secretariat has already said, and many others, transparency and accountability are of the utmost importance for this Organization and its staff.

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

The United States of America has concerns about the direction proposed in the document CL 139/8 with regards to the Financial Disclosure Programme, and recommends several specific steps to ensure that the issue of ethics, transparency and accountability are accorded the appropriate importance in the FAO management and governance oversight processes.

We recognize the Director-General must decide a course of action to initiate a process of reporting and review of financial disclosure forms. This is an issue addressed in the IEE, and is a follow-up item under the IPA. It is imperative that the Ernst and Young Review be completed no later than June of this year, that a decision be made by the Director-General shortly thereafter and that affected staff complete their Disclosure Reports for review before the end of 2010.

We would welcome updates on progress in this regard at the Finance Committee session in late October, and informally in the coming months.

We find the language contained in this Report referencing a Host Country legal framework as inappropriate, and it should be removed from the Council report text. The UN is a sovereign institution whose staff rules apply equally to all staff, regardless of nationality or location of the institution. FAO should benefit in this regard from the experiences of other UN Organizations which have established Financial Disclosure Programmes. The recent scandal that surfaced in the media, allegedly involving drug trafficking and FAO fisheries-related funds, reminds us that financial oversight cannot be given short shrift. This must be an absolute priority for all those in the Organization responsible for financial oversight, procurement and investigation of any allegations of wrongdoing or irregularities.

Likewise, the Director-General's call last week to blow the whistle against hunger reminds us that FAO does not, unlike many other UN Agencies, have a specific policy intended to protect whistle blowers within the Organization. It is time for such an explicit policy to be considered and adopted to highlight FAO's commitment to making ethics and accountability a top concern throughout the Organization.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation welcomes the Report of the Finance Committee and thanks the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for his comprehensive presentation. We appreciate the achievements made and we would like to articulate some points as follows, first, on the General Fund Deposit. Despite an improved balance of unpaid contributions from Member Nations during the current biennium, the magnitude of deficit deserves our very special attention. We support the re-application of Incentive Scheme to encourage timely payments, and look forward to the analysis of its application and impact. We also encourage seeking other alternative measures in consultation with Member Nations.

Second, we take note with appreciation of the implementation of IPSAS, and encourage FAO to work closely with other UN Agencies like WFP who were ahead in the adoption of the system so as to learn from their experience.

Third, we commend FAO on the successful management of both short-term and long-term investment despite of the global financial crisis.

Fourth, we welcome the appointment of Ms Fatoumata Ndiaye as a new member of the current Audit Committee as part of the effort to enhance gender parity in the Organization.

Last, but not least, on Financial Disclosure, the programme should be implemented like other UN Agencies without delay to enhance transparency and accountability of staff of any levels who may have conflicts of interest in undertaking their respective duties.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à la Thaïlande. Il n'y a pas d'autres orateurs inscrits. Je demanderai donc à Monsieur Sorour et aux Membres du Secrétariat, si nécessaire, de bien vouloir faire des commentaires sur ce qui a été dit. Vous avez la parole, Monsieur Sorour.

Mr Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

I would once again like to thank the Council for having made all these comments and suggestions for us in the Finance Committee regarding how we can improve our work. I will make a few comments on a few of the points raised, and leave the rest to the Secretariat if I may.

First of all, before I begin, regarding the human resources policy, on the basis of the agreements that we made before the start of this Council session, this will be dealt with more specifically under Item 8 when we deal with the Immediate Plan on Action. That is why I did not touch on the Human Resource Strategy and did not include it in my introduction to Item 8.

Regarding the General Fund and the comments made by delegations, let me begin with the comments that were made regarding procurements. In 2007, the Council entrusted the Finance

Committee to study the way in which we would deal with the arrears of the Member Nations and the manner in which we could solve this problem. Now, over the past two years we have confronted on this and certain recommendations have been made. Some are not that new because these are recommendations that had already been made and submitted by the Conference in the past. However, we also made some new recommendations which were submitted to the Council, but they were not approved. There was some hesitation regarding those and that is why the subject was resubmitted to us and we will be studying it once again in the near future.

The problem of the arrears is primarily a political question rather than a technical one. I firmly believe that all Member Nations should respect their commitments to this Organization whether they are large or a small country and whether they are rich or poor. We must all respect our commitments to this Organization and now there are certain steps that have been approved by the Conference, but none of the Member Nations who could avail themselves of these measures have done so. Now I want this to be quite clear, only five or six countries have asked for rescheduling of their arrears. Now what can the Finance Committee do in the light of such a situation? There are steps that have been taken but certain Member Nations do not use them. It may be that they are not interested in having recourse to these measures and it may be that we can come up with some other suggestions to you but I want to be clear and honest. This is primarily a political issue, it is a question of the political will of Member Nations and it is unfortunately, not a technical issue. We began this session with an empty chair because of a Member Nations that has not paid its contributions. This is unfortunate but these are the rules of the Organization which must be respected. As I said, we have made other suggestions, but the Council did not wish to approve them and the situation therefore remains the same.

Other questions were also raised regarding the financial situation of this Organization, specially the questions raised by Pakistan, Canada, and others regarding the deficit in the General Fund as well as the problem of the After-Service Medical Costs and the liabilities incurred. I wish to be totally transparent and clear. It may be that we as the Financial Committee should, and here I would like to emphasize this and I hope we can discuss it further when we discuss the Programme of Work and Budget, but we as the Financial Committee should be giving our technical opinions and advice on the Programme of Work and Budget. If there is an error, I have no problem in recognizing that, but the debate around the Programme of Work and Budget in my opinion was not fully satisfactory. We as the Financial Committee should do more in presenting to the Council a technical opinion on the budget and not deal with political issues, one that is not related to political issues in any manner. That is the only way in which we can handle the problems of the deficit in the General Fund, as well as how to cover the liabilities under the After-Service Medical Costs. I think that we have requested an increase in the After-Service Medical Costs fund and the Termination Payment Funds, but unfortunately this problem has not been solved. It gets more and more serious and we are going to have to deal with this question once again. This is something we need to say within the Finance Committee and this is what we must report to you. We, as a Finance Committee, I repeat, need to give technical responses to the Council in the light of the questions that are raised by Member Nations in the discussion such as our own.

Now, certain comments touched on an Incentive Scheme and now this is a practice that has been used by other organizations and maybe we should try to use this as a possible avenue and consider the results achieved. In the future, we can then decide whether we want to continue with this Incentive Scheme or not.

I would not for the time being comment on the Human Resource strategy which we will discuss in further detail under Item 8 and the Immediate Plan of Action.

Regarding the geographic distribution of investments, now this is a very important matter, it is one that was discussed at the last session of the Finance Committee as well as by the Secretariat in its presentation. It was suggested that we broaden the scope of the markets to which we turn for long-term investments. As regard the discussions within the Finance Committee, we did not discuss in detail the questions regarding certain points which needed to be studied in further detail on the part of the Management before certain matters were submitted to us. We agree with the

implementation of the Financial Disclosure Programme, but, we would like to have a more detailed report on it. The Finance Committee, of course, was not opposed in any way to these matters.

I hope that I have not forgotten any of the questions that were addressed to me by the speakers. If I have forgotten any, I will be happy to respond to them. I would like to thank the Council for the very clear suggestions and advice that were addressed to us and we will certainly consider them in the work that will be done in the Finance Committee at its next session.

I would now like to give the floor to the Secretariat to respond to the questions raised.

Mr Nicholas NELSON (Director, Finance Division)

I will restrict some comments to After-Service Medical Coverage Liabilities of the Organization. Several of the distinguished delegates encouraged FAO to continue its actions on these lines. The distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation mentioned, however, that the Secretariat's approach, in his view, could be seen as alarmist because this type of liability exists throughout the UN System. I would simply beg to differ, and say that the Organization has been taking very careful action and review, including at Conference level, for more than a decade of this liability. I would also like to recall that our External Auditor in the last several long-form reports has drawn the attention of the Membership to this very serious gap in funding towards this liability and it needs to be addressed in terms of financial liability, over the long-term for the Organization. The same thing has been said by the Advisory Committee on Investments, which is a panel of external experts which meets each year to advise the Director General. The very same advice is that the Organization must put in place a disciplined long-term approach to addressing the funding gap. Even the Joint Inspection of the United Nations in 2007 issued a report exhorting all Member Nations of all agencies to finally address this problem in concrete terms.

I recall the debate in November on the PWB 2001-11 in which this idea emerged that the UN has the problem, and FAO might need to wait to see what the United Nations does. We tried to make clear that the United Nations also has solutions before it, which the FAO does not have. You will recall from the documents presented that the General Assembly is considering utilization of more than USD 400 million in leftover reserves to begin addressing this liability. The Secretary General of the United Nations has gone twice to the General Assembly asking to use those reserves, and he may go again. If the General Assembly finally decides to use those reserves, they will quickly overtake all other agencies in terms of solutions.

What I'm asking you to recall is that FAO has taken concrete actions, and to advise that we should wait for the UN would be financially imprudent because the liability continues to grow.

Last, I would like to mention that in all of the UN documentation, when the ACABQ and the General Assembly mention system-wide, they are not mentioning this in terms of system-wide financing solutions, because these are clearly the sole responsibility of Member Nations, based on each Agency's capacity. They are mentioning it in terms of cost containment of the medical plans where FAO has shown a vigorous approach and concrete results. I believe we have taken very pro-active measures there. The Secretariat looks forward to reviewing again with the Finance Committee in the spring of 2011 based on the very latest Actuarial Valuation calculations.

Mr Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

I wanted to thank you at the outset for your positive feed back on our efforts under this item, for example, on our short-term and long-term investments performance and on our efficiency gains. Of course, we will periodically report back to the Finance Committee, as mentioned by Japan and others, on our progress in achieving the further efficiency gains during the present biennium and one-time savings. We will also report back to the Finance Committee on how Host Countries have discharged their obligations for the government counterpart cash contributions which contribute to the running of our offices. This was a matter that the representative of Canada had alluded to.

Turning to the many interventions made on the ethics function and financial disclosure, I should like to say that the ethics function in FAO is relatively new. The Ethics Officer was appointed just a few months ago, in December 2009. As a general strategy, as a general approach, on all the matters that we are undertaking in the Immediate Plan of Action we want to get things right and not simply tick the boxes. That is the philosophy which we intend, as Management, to follow in establishing the ethics function and the Financial Disclosure Programme.

The Representative of Pakistan had rightly pointed out that in this new structure we have to consider new relationships, including the relationship between the ethics function and the investigation function in FAO, the ombudsman which is also about to be established, the mediation function and many others.

How quickly we proceed in implementing this entire programme is also partly dependant on the speed of decision-making by Governing Bodies. The question of the Ethics Committee has been with the CoC-IEE and has been part of the IPA since 2008. It was submitted to the CCLM last year. Guidance was received from the CCLM, and we have presented it twice to the Finance Committee. We still have some work to do before a final decision can be taken on the Ethics Committee, where we are also seeking your guidance via the next session of the Finance Committee.

In coming up more specifically with the Financial Disclosure Programme we have to be very conscious of the financial cost of running a financial disclosure programme. Quite aside from the ethics function itself, just monitoring financial disclosures at the United Nations costs in excess of one million USD in operational costs. There are different models. The World Food Programme has a different and more economic model for monitoring financial disclosures, but as was mentioned and underlined in the previous discussion, these are unbudgeted costs for FAO in the present biennium. These are costs that, therefore, need to be borne in mind with due consciousness to economy before we implement a programme that we get right. And there are other models as well, quite aside from the UN and WFP. The important thing for us in FAO, for you in FAO, is to recognize that you have your own governance structure. We hope that collectively we can come up with a proposal that is acceptable to the Governing Bodies of FAO, that takes into account the best practices elsewhere and that is consistent with the institutional culture, that the Organization wishes to have and consistent with the risk profile of FAO as well, which may be different from the risk profile of other organizations.

As is mentioned, in the Finance Committee report, we have engaged Ernst & Young to move forward on this. They have not yet committed to a date for coming back with their advice, but I can assure you that we have taken into account your desire to move quickly on this, and we will report back to the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

I also wanted to touch briefly on some observations made on the IPSAS project and the unfunded costs there the USD 3.1 million shortfall. The important point to note here is that the shortfall on the IPSAS project is for 2012. It is not for the current biennium and therefore does not affect the current assessments for 2011. The USD 3.1 million shortfall would therefore need to be prioritized in the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13. Of course, Management looks forward to giving it very high priority. We think there is every scope to do that because the capital expenditure budget within the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 has an allocation of USD 26 million. We are therefore hopeful that with your support and the priority you're giving to the IPSAS project and the field solution, we would be able to earmark USD 3.1 million within the allocation for CAPEX to the field solution of the IPSAS project in 2012/2013.

Finally, I wanted to make a comment on the implementation of long outstanding audit recommendations. Yes indeed in some cases there is a cost associated with these long outstanding recommendations which can act as a constraint. I think a very big constraint is actually the human resource input we have to provide in order to tackle some of the long outstanding and important recommendations, simply because at the present time our staff input, our time, is very much at a premium. We also need to bear in mind the other important recommendations that are coming from the other oversight organs. You had a discussion

yesterday on the evaluation on emergencies which had a number of very important recommendations. We are forever juggling to see how best to tackle all these recommendations. I am optimistic however, that with the IPA and with the additional funding that is provided in the IPA, we will be able to tackle some of those high priority and long outstanding recommendations. For example there is one on IT governance and that has been very strongly underlined within the IPA and the Root and Branch Review, which we plan to implement as part of the IPA.

There are others on which we have made some progress, for example business continuity where we prepared business continuity plans for H1N1 last year and where we have come up with new agreements with IFAD and WFP to deal with data backup and storage. I realise these are small steps but we are trying to address some of the long outstanding recommendations on business continuity and disaster recovery.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à tous de votre contribution à ce débat.

Merci des réponses qui ont été données. Je crois que vous avez fait un très bon travail, mais vous ressortez de ce débat avec de nouvelles missions supplémentaires, donc votre travail n'est pas terminé, et je pense qu'avec tout ce qui a été dit, ça éclaire les missions qui sont les nôtres et cela nous permettra d'aller plus loin, comme vous l'avez dit à plusieurs reprises, dans le cas de la transparence, aussi en cultivant l'éthique, la déontologie, mais aussi pour prendre les décisions que ce soit en matière de contributions, de dépenses, ou pour les retraites.

Je considère le point 7 conclu et nous passons au point 8. Merci bien.

8. Immediate Plan of Action Implementation Progress Report (CL 139/9)

8. Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate
(CL 139/9)

8. Informe sobre los progresos alcanzados en la ejecución del Plan inmediato de acción
(CL 139/9)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons traiter à présent le point 8, le rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate que vous trouvez au document CL 139/9. Je vous rappelle qu'il va être complété par les points qui n'ont pas été abordés dans le cadre du Comité financier et dans le cadre du Comité du programme, et je demande à Madame Laatu de venir nous rejoindre.

Les progrès accomplis dans le processus d'alignement des actions du PAI avec les plans de travail des Départements et des Divisions conformément à la priorité accordée aux résultats de 2010-11 ont déjà fait l'objet d'un rapport complet, soumis au Comité de la Conférence pour le suivi de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO, le 8 avril dernier. Le Comité financier et le Comité du programme en ont aussi débattu lors de leur réunion d'avril 2010.

J'invite donc la Présidente du Comité du programme, Madame Laatu, et ensuite Monsieur Sorour à présenter les points particuliers des rapports de leur comités respectifs ayant trait au PAI. Ensuite, je convierai Monsieur David Benfield, Président du Groupe d'appui à la réforme, à faire une présentation plus générale sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate.

Il est midi cinq, nous avons jusqu'à quarante cinq, arrangez-vous pour que les trois interventions soient terminées avant l'heure du déjeuner. Madame Laatu, vous avez la parole.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

As indicated yesterday, there is an item under the Programme Committee report which will be discussed under this agenda item on the Immediate Plan of Action Progress Report and that is the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Programme Committee. The Programme Committee approved its Multi-year Programme of Work for 2010 and 2013, in its meeting and it is included

in the Report to the Council as Annex 2. This is a new element in the work of the Governing Bodies as called for by the IPA. The Programme Committee discussed the multi-annual Programme of Work in two informal seminars or sessions, and approved it in its regular session. According to the Multi-year Programme of Work, the overall objective of the Programme Committee is as follows: the Programme Committee will provide FAO Council with the solid analytical basis for sound, timely, effective and efficient decision-making with respected choice of priorities, programmes and plans in order to improve the quality of FAO's work and strengthen the delivery of its services to Member Nations. As described by me already yesterday, under Item 6, there are five main areas of work defined for the Programme Committee in the Multi-year Programme of Work, and I will briefly repeat them today.

They are: firstly, the programme planning of priority-setting of the Organization; secondly, the results-based monitoring of programme implementation; thirdly, the evaluation; fourthly IPA activities; and fifthly, the methods of work of the Programme Committee itself. Under each of these five main areas of activity of the Programme Committee we are defining the expected results, the indicators and targets, the outputs, the activities and working methods.

I would just like to highlight a few elements in the Multi-year Programme of Work. Firstly, as the Programme Committee is a committee of the Council, the expected results under each of these main areas of work are related to the fact that the Council finds the recommendations useful, and agrees on the recommendations of the Programme Committee. Then, when it comes to the outputs of the Programme Committee which again are inputs for the Council discussion, it has been requested that they should be clear, precise and consensual, as I also already indicated yesterday.

Finally I would like to highlight a few issues related to the improved methods of work of the Programme Committee. It is stated in the Multi-year Programme of Work that there should be close collaboration between the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, the Independent Chair of the Council, the Conference Committee, the Technical Committees and the Regional Conferences, and also with the Evaluation Office because the Programme Committee also deals with the evaluations. Secondly, it is indicated that the background documentation for the Programme Committee should be standardized from now on and include a standard cover page which will indicate the key issues for the attention of the Committee and the guidance sought. Thirdly, the timeliness of availability of documentation should be improved in all languages. Fourthly, it is foreseen that there be more informal consultations and engagement with the ADGs, with the strategy teams, and FAO staff in charge of IPA implementation as well as, the staff involved with other issues covered by the Programme Committee, as appropriate. And finally, an early engagement of the Programme Committee in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization is foreseen.

Mr Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

There are three main points that were put to the Finance Committee with regard to the Immediate Plan of Action. The first has to do with the financial planning for the implementation of the Programme and Work and Budget 2010-11. Mr Chairman, you are aware of the fact that during the present exercise, the financing of this IPA is one that, the countries adopted last November. However, these are remaining funds that had been intended for the Immediate Plan of Action 2009, USD 3.08 million. The Committee had recommended that all of the donors be consulted as to the way the remaining funds were to be used, and we did contact quite a few donors before proceeding with our work in 2009. That was, indeed, the condition for the use of these funds.

With regard to the second point on the Ethics Committee, the Finance Committee has taken this matter up twice and we have been appraised of all of the appropriate reference and information documents. Various comments have been made and this is especially with respect to what was said to in CCLM. We looked at reporting lines and recruitment issues. There was another moot question in the documents which were provided having to do with the way in which disputes between and among Management and International Civil Servants were to be handled. There we

did not get all of the details that we would have liked to receive to properly deal with this issue regarding the Ethics Committee. There is also the issue of the independence of this Committee. The Members of the Finance Committee raised concerns in this regard and so it was necessary to resort to the expertise of the Legal Counsel, and that advice was then be brought before the CCLM.

The third point has to do with the policy with regard to human resources. The Finance Committee from the very outset had decided to put this item on the agenda again for the purposes of this session. We have always given our advice to the financial administration bodies and we have always given our recommendations, of course, to Council for approval. We noted the progress made regarding the implementation of changes and the planning framework, and I would like to refer to some examples by way of indication as to what has taken place. There is a new performance assessment programme, the PEMS, there is the rotation principle, and the new programme to attract new young people into the Organization's ranks. We note that a certain policy has been applied with regard to flagging staff who are to be attracted. In April, we were advised that this matter was still being considered by the Director-General and that more work needed to be done. We have also taken note of the informations provided on the Junior Professional Programme which we have welcomed. We have also welcomed cooperation among the three Rome-based Agencies. In November new positions were created and there is a position provided for work to be done on the future of International Civil Servants. Work has been done, indeed, to pay attention to this because it is necessary to have studies on the career developments of International Civil Servants in general. And this has been flagged as being of concern because human resources are a basic commodity in the FAO; they are our main capital. Indeed, we have had some requests for proper delineation of recruitment on the basis of equitable geographical representation, as well as gender parity. In this respect, it is indeed necessary to take into consideration the competence and qualifications of staff to be recruited in the future. This is going to be under regular consideration in the implementation of the strategy of FAO.

The fourth point has to do with the annual plan for the Finance Committee, and wholly addresses its issues of immediate interest. We have, indeed, been examining this matter. Initial discussions have taken place, and it was emphasized that there was a tendency to consider the main objective of the Finance Committee to be that of a Technical Committee that provides enlightened advice on technical financial matters. This is what we have sought to do in the document that we are going to be examining at this end of this one. This also refers to the nature of the document which should be adopted by our Committee. There are some subjects in which the Finance Committee has the right of evaluation and decision, on which it has to take a decision without transmitting further to other Bodies. This has to do with technical and ethical issues, that will be addressed separately in a different report that we will be called upon to focus at the end of this month, or at an exclusively financial issues meeting. This matter is one of substance which is being pursued and has not been yet wrapped up, but one that will hopefully be concluded by next January. There is another point which has to do with how we can improve the way in which the Finance Committee works, specifically as it relates to its methodology of work. Here, I would like to indeed refer to the need that it is absolutely necessary for the two Committees to work together hand-in-hand on all matters of mutual concern.

As regards our Finance Committee, we will continue to provide all necessary focus and attention to all matters of substance, especially as they relate to the budget. I have always emphasized the need to have cooperation, especially on budgetary matters.

So, these are for the four salient points which the Finance Committee had examined, and will assess with the Immediate Plan of Action.

Mr David BENFIELD (Chairperson, Reform Support Group)

The Chairpersons of Finance Committee and Programme Committee have briefed you on the discussions that took place in the Finance Committee, Programme Committee and the Joint Meetings of Finance and Programme Committees in April of this year relating to progress on substantive areas of IPA activity. This is in line with the decision taken at the 36th Session of the

Conference in November 2009 that the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters provide specific inputs to Council on IPA matters within their respective mandates.

The Conference also requested the Council to monitor progress and implementation of the IPA, receiving progress reports from Management on IPA implementation for review and guidance. And this report, this progress report, therefore, does not repeat the progress made on substantive items that were discussed in the Programme and Finance Committees, but addresses progress with the IPA programme as a whole. It first confirms that the projections of solid progress on IPA actions in 2009, as reported to Council at the previous meeting in November 2009, were actually achieved at the end of 2009. And in this regard, the IPA progress report provided to the Conference Committee on IEE in April 2010 included a very comprehensive 2009 closure report.

As indicated in the Report from the Chair of Finance Committee, at the end of 2009 there was a balance of USD 3.08 million in the IPA Trust Fund. This was in the main due to the receipt of a large portion of Trust Fund contributions in the latter part of 2009, and some of the work originally intended to have been completed in 2009 will now be completed in 2010 using the IPA Trust Fund balance of USD 3.08 million. This will increase the funding for the 2010-11 programme from USD 39.61 million to USD 42.69 million. The IPA Programme for 2010-11 comprises in excess of 150 actions, many of which are of course interrelated. And the entire programme for 2010-11 was set out in some detail in the Report to the Conference Committee on IEE in April 2010.

Indeed, it would be confusing to repeat the plans for each of these actions and instead this progress report describes the major activities for 2010-11 grouped into the main components of FAO Reform. And these main components are managing for results, supported by human resources reform, functioning as one organization and the form of administration – all of this within the context of a changing organizational culture and supported by more effective governance and oversight. This is illustrated in the Report in the figure on paragraph 28. The Progress Report also provides information on the management arrangements introduced to support this major implementation effort in 2010-11. The IPA actions have been aligned with the responsible Division or Department to integrate the IPA action into the workplans of the relevant units.

The Senior Management Team for IPA will continue to be chaired by the DDG of Knowledge. A Reform Support Group comprising the project managers and the focal points across the Organization assist with and support this implementation. Coordinating the work of this Reform Support Group is a core group that has responsibility for monitoring and reporting on IPA progress and related staff communications, and this is depicted in Annex 1 of the Report in Figure 2. Because the IPA actions have been integrated within divisional and departmental workplans, the relevant members of the Senior Management Team also carry individual responsibilities for the effective delivery of IPA actions. And this relationship is also described in Annex 1 of the Report in Figure 3. The Progress Report indicates subjects that are currently in progress, and that will be reported in full in future reports. The first of these is the staff survey that will be undertaken in the near future to provide an empirical benchmark that will be used in developing the staff communications plan. Future reports to the Conference Committee on IEE and to Council will contain further information on the staff communications and engagement plans and activities. Implementation of the IPA represents a major challenge to Management, and a change programme of such magnitude poses a number of risks. It is important that the risks to the successful completion of the Programme are fully understood and appropriate mitigation efforts put into place. To this end, a Risk Assessment Study is being undertaken in June of this year, and results of this exercise will be also reported back to future meetings of the Conference Committee on IEE and the Council.

LE PRESIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Benfield. Merci, Monsieur Sorour et Madame Laatu.

J'ouvre donc la discussion. Qui veut la parole? Monsieur Sorour veut un complément d'intervention.

Mr Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you Mr Chairman. It is my mistake. I didn't present the Report of the Joint Meeting regarding two elements related to the IPA. So if you allow me, I will take four or five minutes from the Council's time to present these two elements.

I would like to apologize for this error. There were two points that were brought by our Joint Meetings: the issue on Strategy on Resource Mobilization and Management and the second point had to do with Work Planning and Related Reports. On the first item Strategy for Funds Mobilization, I wanted to emphasize two points. Firstly, during the Joint Meeting to be held in the first part of 2011, there shall be informal meetings between the partners and the donors. This is an information meeting, and before it is held we wanted to have more details to better understand the issue at hand, on the understanding that this would be a meeting where there would be no pledges made. We wanted to get information on voluntary financing resources, on what methods could be used for monitoring this kind of financing and donations, and how this could contribute to current initiatives. With regard to modalities for voluntary financing and how the private sector can become involved in this work, we have sought to draw upon the experiences from other Agencies and organizations, such as the World Food Programme. For example, they have strategies for financing from the private sector which could usefully be implemented by our Organization, as we cooperate with the World Food Programme in many endeavours..

As for Work Planning and Related Reports, there is a proposal that was adopted by the Joint Meeting which had to do with reports on progress made. After the first year of implementation, there should be a Report for the attention of Management. It was stated that after the first year of application, this Report should be presented to the two Committees, Finance and Programme, so that both would be apprised of the most up-to-date information. Thank you very much for giving me this bit of time.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, vous n'avez pas pris de notre temps puisque c'était convenu d'avoir un complément des deux Comités, plus la réunion conjointe. J'ouvre donc la discussion et j'ai l'Espagne qui a demandé la parole. L'Espagne, vous avez la parole.

Sr Antonio LIZCANO PALOMARES (Españá)

Hablo en nombre de la Unión Europea y de sus 27 Estados Miembros. Los países candidatos a la Unión Europea, Croacia, la ex República Yugoslava de Macedonia y Turquía, también se asocian a esta declaración.

La Unión Europea da la bienvenida al elevado número de elementos del Plan Inmediato de Acción que se han ejecutado durante 2009. También aprecia los esfuerzos realizados por la Dirección y el Personal de la FAO y espera que los resultados y el mismo espíritu de cambio les inspire para continuar este útil proceso de Reforma, único en los años venideros. Esto permite a la FAO de obtener y mostrar resultados, gestionar su organización de forma efectiva y eficiente, racionalizar su administración, implementar una política abierta y transparente de recursos humanos, e integrar sus políticas y programas en su Sede Central y en las Oficinas Descentralizadas.

En este aspecto resaltamos la necesidad de obtener una descripción clara de la situación actual de las Oficinas Descentralizadas. Esto es esencial para producir una visión a medio y largo plazo de la estructura y funcionamiento de la red de Oficinas Descentralizadas. El Cambio de Cultura es otro aspecto indispensable del Proceso de Reforma de la FAO, el cual debería también aplicarse a su sede central y a las oficinas descentralizadas. La Rotación del Personal entre la Sede Central y las Oficinas Descentralizadas también es importante. La Unión Europea espera que la FAO informe de forma regular sobre este tema al Comité de Finanzas.

Nos gustaría alentar a la FAO a incrementar sus esfuerzos de Reforma en el bienio 2010-11, durante el cual habrá grandes retos y durante el cual esperamos comenzar a ver resultados significativos de los proyectos y acciones implementados.

Es especialmente importante continuar avanzando en las áreas de gestión de resultados, con una mejor priorización de actividades. Alinear los Comités Técnicos con las Conferencias Regionales podría ser una herramienta útil para mejorar la identificación de las prioridades regionales y sub-regionales. Sería deseable un adecuado sistema de seguimiento y de formación para proporcionar a los Miembros información sobre los resultados.

Damos la bienvenida a la labor del Comité de Programa por la introducción en su trabajo del enfoque basado en resultados, y animamos al Comité de Programa en su avance en esta área. La Unión Europea querría aprovechar esta ocasión para reconocer la contribución realizada por el Gobierno de Hungría en el Seminario Informal sobre Prioridades Regionales recientemente celebrado en Budapest, y al Gobierno de Armenia por albergar la Conferencia Regional para Europa y Asia Central en Ereván, la cual ha sido muy constructiva.

Damos la bienvenida al Programa Estratégico de Recursos Humanos y al Plan de Acción 2010-11, y esperamos que los avances en estos asuntos se presenten al Comité de la Conferencia para la Evaluación Externa Independiente.

La Unión Europea da la bienvenida a la próxima introducción de la Evaluación del Riesgo en el Plan Inmediato de Acción. También alentamos a la Secretaría, en consulta con el Presidente Independiente del Consejo, a avanzar en la definición de indicadores de seguimiento y de resultados, para que sean utilizados por el Consejo según la Resolución 8/2009 de la Conferencia de la FAO de noviembre de 2009.

La Unión Europea toma nota del progreso realizado para desarrollar el sistema de planificación basado en resultados y de seguimiento y presentación de informes. La Unión Europea anima a la Secretaría a desarrollar un formato para un informe anual basado en resultados y seguimiento.

La Unión Europea aprecia la iniciativa de los Presidentes del Comité de Programa y del Comité de Finanzas para mejorar el método de trabajo de la reunión conjunta y para servir mejor a los Comités, especialmente en lo relativo al marco de establecimiento de prioridades.

En relación a la Estrategia de Gestión y Movilización de Recursos, la Unión Europea agradece los esfuerzos realizados por la FAO para movilizar recursos de un amplio espectro de socios, tanto públicos como privados, y alienta a la FAO a involucrarse en alianzas.

La Unión Europea apoya el desarrollo de una estrategia de comunicación para movilizar recursos e incrementar la concienciación del público en general. En relación a la Reunión Informal de Donantes y Socios planificada para 2011, según el Plan Inmediato de Acción, el contexto y las modalidades de la misma deberían planificarse.

Animamos a las tres Agencias con sede en Roma, la FAO, el PMA y el FIDA, y al sistema de Naciones Unidas, a continuar fortaleciendo sus relaciones, trabajo colaborativo y comunicación para producir sinergias y evitar solapamientos, así como con cualquier otro socio como la sociedad civil, las organizaciones no-gubernamentales y el sector privado.

Por último, la Unión Europea alienta a todos los Miembros y personal de FAO a continuar trabajando conjuntamente y progresando durante este bienio para conseguir que la FAO sea una organización de conocimiento en materia de seguridad alimentaria, más eficiente y efectiva en su mandato de eliminar la pobreza y el hambre.

Mr Khalid Salum MOHAMED (Tanzania, United Republic of)

I speak on behalf of the Africa Region. We commend the efforts of Management in coming up with a very important and informative document. We also take note of the remarkable achievements made in several areas on the implementation of Immediate Plan of Action in 2009 and from January to April 2010. While the Africa Region agrees with the content of the Report, we wish to raise some issues as follows.

First, the IPA project identified for implementation in 2010 and 2011 are all important considering the existence of the inter-relationship and implementation of FAO Reform Programme in meeting Members' needs and aspirations. However, we feel that the project on Decentralization is complex and needs special attention and consideration because the FAO Reform transfers some of its functions from Headquarters to the Decentralized Offices, thereby requiring immediate human resource mobilization and recruitment.

Second, the Decentralization also requires stronger linkages in terms of communication and networking in order to make the Decentralized Offices more effective, while simultaneously ensuring cohesion to the rest of FAO. We therefore see the need for an investment in infrastructure to enable staff in the Decentralized Offices to be able to use the same corporate tools and facilities as their colleagues in Headquarters. Third, the Culture Change Team has played a catalytic role in all recent components of FAO and we applaud this work as well as the introduction of the FAO Staff Day recently celebrated. We hope that this was not a one-time event but will continue to be undertaken on an annual basis. We appreciate the rolling out of Culture Change to the Regional Offices of Accra in Africa and some pilot Country Offices. We look forward to receiving a report in the future on the outcome of operations there, and on the impact and changes that have been realized. We urge the Human Resources Division to be strengthened as most of the IPA implementation depends on its efficiency and effectiveness. The Division was understaffed and not professionally sufficient to shoulder the new changes. It is therefore important to quickly invest in the required additional Professionals and to implement effective training programmes to implement the FAO Human Resources Strategy. The Africa Region is looking forward to the recruitment of the young and junior professionals. Due consideration in achieving a recruitment mechanism on our continent is essential in light of the many infrastructural difficulties prevalent in many areas.

We await the outcome of the study being undertaken by Management on the shared Services Centres. When should we expect the completion of this study? Further, as regard the Regional Conference Reports, a table to Council among the items of interest to us should include the Establishment of FAO Country Offices. The Africa Region firmly believes that FAO should maintain the Country Offices in the region and strengthen them through financial and technical resources. The Africa Region also fully supports the direction for collaboration among the Rome-based agencies. However, we believe that delivery as one initiatives in these Agencies also need to be visible and effective at the regional and national levels.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie. Nous avons six autres pays qui sont inscrits mais nous les prendrons à 14:30, je lève donc la séance pour ce matin. Nous reprenons à 14:30. Bon appétit.

The meeting rose at 12.43 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 43

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.43

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session
Cent trent-neuvième session
139.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 17 - 21 May 2010
Rome, 17 - 21 mai 2010
Roma, 17 - 21 de mayo de 2010**

**FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

18 May 2010

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.39 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 39
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.39
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (CONT'D)

III. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION (SUITE)

III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (CONTINUACIÓN)

7. Reports of the 130th (2-3 November 2009), 131st (1-2 February 2010) and 132nd (12-16 April 2010) Sessions of the Finance Committee (CL 139/2 Rev.1; CL 139/3; CL 139/3-Add.1; CL 139/8; CL 139/LIM/1) (Cont'd)

7. Rapports de la cent trentième (2 et 3 novembre 2009), de la cent trente et unième (1er et 2 février 2010) et de la cent trente deuxième (12-16 avril 2010) sessions du Comité financier (CL 139/2 Rev.1; CL 139/3; CL 139/3-Add.1; CL 139/8; CL 139/LIM/1) (suite)

7. Informes del 130.º (2-3 de noviembre de 2009), 131.º (1-2 de febrero de 2010) y 132.º (12-16 de abril de 2010) períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (CL 139/2 Rev.1; CL 139/3; CL 139/3-Add.1; CL 139/8; CL 139/LIM/1) (Continuación)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons reprendre nos travaux. J'ai plusieurs demandes de paroles et je donne, tout de suite, la parole à l'Espagne, pour une petite information.

Sr. Antonio LIZCANO PALOMARES (España)

Quiero tomar la palabra de forma muy breve en relación al Punto 7 del Comité de Finanzas. No hemos tenido oportunidad de reaccionar a la respuesta del Presidente del Comité de Finanzas y queremos realizar unas puntualizaciones en este momento.

Hablo en nombre de la Unión Europea y de sus 27 Estados Miembros. La Unión Europea da las gracias al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas por volver a la petición de la Unión Europea de proporcionar más información sobre la Estrategia de Recursos Humanos de la Organización. Apreciamos, especialmente, los esfuerzos de la Secretaría para promover candidatos jóvenes que se incorporen a la Organización. Debido a las restricciones de la Organización no hemos podido recibir todavía información suficiente sobre el Programa de Jóvenes Profesionales. Esperamos que continúen las deliberaciones al respecto en la próxima sesión del Comité de Finanzas y, por consiguiente, en la próxima sesión del Consejo.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien merci, nous considérons donc cette intervention comme enregistrée, elle sera jointe et ne nécessite pas de réponse puisqu'elle est tout à fait dans la logique des discussions.

Nous reprenons nos travaux sur le point 8 maintenant; après l'Espagne et la Tanzanie qui sont intervenus, je donne la parole à la Chine.

8. Immediate Plan of Action Implementation Progress Report (CL 139/9) (Cont'd)

8. Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate (CL 139/9) (suite)

8. Informe sobre los progresos alcanzados en la ejecución del Plan inmediato de acción (CL 139/9) (Continuación)

Mr GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Finance and Programme Committees. We thank them for their introductions and explanations regarding their respective Reports. Now I wish to speak on the following three points. First of all, the Chinese delegation is satisfied with

the implementation of the IPA and China will continue to support FAO on its Reform. We will also support FAO in its efforts to achieve efficiency gains.

We hope that FAO will play a greater role in solving the problem of hunger and food security in the future. In order to show our support to FAO I would like to say that China will contribute USD 200 thousand to the implementation of this IPA. Though the money is not of a great significance, it is nevertheless our way of signalling that we support FAO Reform and hope FAO will play a greater role in food security. Second, we hope that FAO will complete its Reform in a timely manner, especially as regards paragraph 23 on the Reform of FAO's Department of Agriculture and Department of Economics and Social Development. We hope that FAO will focus on the Reform of these two Departments. As regard Human Resources, in paragraphs 39 and 40 of the Report, we see the progress that has been achieved in this field to date. We hope that FAO will consider geographical representation and also gender balance in the recruitment of new staff members. Thirdly, China is actually supporting the formulation of priorities by the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees. We can see this in paragraphs 32 of the Report. It is also our hope that FAO will reflect the needs of the Member Nations in its Programme of Work and Budget. We also hope to see more activities in the utilization of resources and food security.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We appreciate this Progress Report for the IPA implementation which summarizes the achievements since the inception of the Reform Process until the first quarter of 2010. It brings us up to date regarding achievements of 2009, and indicates what has been planned for 2010 and 2011. The document also covers briefly the progress of Culture Change which we know is a dynamic but time consuming process. We think this Progress Report should make room for shorter versions on IPA implementation through the CoC-IEE in the coming months of June and October. Mr Chairperson, CL 139/9 presents achievements in an orderly manner by highlighting activities completed under the four categories, emphasizing efficiency in the delivery of human resources. We appreciate this methodical style on the presentation. However as reported to the CoC-IEE meeting on 8 April although 50 percent of the PA actions were completed by the end of 2009, this one constitutes about 20 percent of the total Reform Programme. So the remaining 80 percent of the Reform Programme which covers largely and complex projects is yet to be completed in the current environment, and shall probably be extended to the next biennium. In this connection, we look forward to progress decentralized offices and improving their staff mix. As shown in Annex I, the 2010-11 IPA implementation programmes involving 154 IPA actions under 16 IPA projects is represented, including the IPA supporting management team led by the Deputy Director-General of Knowledge. We are happy to see that the Regional Offices are part of the SMT IPA.

We note that the total costs of the IPA projects in 2010 and 2011 will amount to USD 42.69 million of which USD 3.50 million shall be implemented through Trust Fund funding. We also note that the Finance Committee in its 130th Session was satisfied with the funding arrangement of IPA for 2010-11 as per paragraphs 44 to 48 of the Finance Committee Report, CL 139/8.

On Culture Change, we appreciate the process involving staff participation and note that work is progressing well. However, as a dynamic process, it will require some time. We appreciate the information provided on the Culture Change Team led by the DDG of Knowledge, which we hope will further enhance progress on culture change both at Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices. In this connection, we look forward to the creation of Culture Change Teams in Bangkok and Santiago. In the forthcoming June and October meetings of the CoC-IEE, we wish to see a separate discussion item on the progress of Culture Change in the Decentralized Offices. We see that document CL 139/9 says very little about the three Shared Service Centre hubs in Budapest, Bangkok and Santiago, and makes no reference to the fact that an identical document is being presented to the FAO Regional Conference on the proposed establishment of one Global Share Service Centre. Paragraph 44 of the identical document states the Finance Committee commented favourably on the USD 8 million savings achieved so far during a biennium and the potential savings envisaged from the creation of the Global Hub which is estimated to be an additional

USD 1.8 million per biennium. The Report of the Finance Committee, has three paragraphs on this, and was favourably mentioned. In fact, the Finance Committee requested further details about the savings of the USD 21.8 million potential savings.

Chairperson, the 137th Session of the Council clearly stated that any decisions regarding the closure of the SSC in Bangkok and Santiago must be preceded by the impact study and analysis, taking in account both the efficiencies and effectiveness concerned. Why was inception of the study not attached to the identical document that was submitted to the three Regional Conferences and will be submitted to the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific? We feel that the contents of session outline should be discussed by the forthcoming CoC-IEE meeting in June under the implementation of that IPA. Moreover, we would appreciate receiving a briefing on the outcome of discussion on the Global SSC by the Regional Conferences of Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Europe which met recently

Finally, Mr Chairperson, we wish to draw our attention to paragraph 65 of the document which refers to the multi-year Programme of Work for the Council, its Committees and the Regional Conferences. So far, all the Programme Committee has prepared is a multi-year Programme of Work, which our dear Chairperson explained this morning so clearly to the Council.

The agendas of the three Regional Conferences that have met so far, that is, the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference for Africa and the Regional Conference for Europe, had no provision for such a multi-year Programme of Work.

Also, the provisional agenda for COAG and CCP now available make no provision for their multi-year Programme and Work. I would request that the Secretariat clarify this matter.

Ms Kirsten BJØRU (Norway)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

The Progress Report of IPA gives a good oversight of the Reform activities during 2009, the work programme in 2010-11 and progress till April this year.

There is no doubt that many in FAO work hard on the Reform, in addition to their administrative and technical duties and that progress is being made in many areas. This is important because the Reform is now in a new phase where the Secretariat is in the lead.

The Reform Process is, however, still fragile and there is a need for consolidated efforts throughout the Organization, from the bottom to the top, as well as from the Member Nations.

The results-based programming now adopted by FAO is an important step in the FAO Reform. It should be followed up by results-based monitoring and reporting as foreseen in the IPA. The new results-based Multi-year Programme of Work of the Programme Committee, which was also called for by the IPA, is ground-breaking in the UN System. We are looking forward to reviewing the results-based work programmes of the other Governing Bodies in the following Council meetings throughout the biennium.

We are concerned that institutional Culture Change is not given much room in the Report, and would like to emphasize that the Reform relies on there being Cultural Change at all levels, and not least at the top Management level, if the Reform Process shall succeed.

We would particularly request that immediate action be taken as regards Ernst & Young's recommendations on reduction of functions and reorganization of the Cabinet. If the recommendations of Ernst & Young concerning streamlining of the Cabinet functions for greater efficiency are not followed, we are afraid that Culture Change at the top of the Organization could be questioned. This point goes well in hand also with delegation of authority, as well as Decentralization, in general, as important parts of the Reform Process.

Decentralization is not only a matter of offices but also delegation of authority, having clear terms of reference for all Decentralized Offices and relevant and proper staffing in relation to the role of each of the offices.

However, we do not have the basic information on the Decentralized Offices at the moment, including capacity, competences, budgets and sources of finance. Only by having this knowledge can we make the decisions needed for improved Decentralization. I also would like to remind you of the remarks made by Norway yesterday regarding the foreseen problems of Decentralization of too many human resources in the technical fields of FAO.

This relates also to the need for FAO to have a more programmatic approach in its technical cooperation and in its dialogue with the Host Countries for the Country Offices to have the necessary competency in this endeavour, and for FAO to be able to function as one.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Mr Benfield mentioned 150 actions and as Canada has requested in the CoC-IEE meetings, perhaps once a year we need a detailed accounting across the entire list of actions. We need this so as to be able to perform our Governing Body oversight. We also need it in terms of our accountability, as Representatives reporting back to our capitals, to be able to give a comprehensive report on the progress made in reforming FAO. We also need it to ensure greater harmony between Management and Members' understanding as to which actions have been completed.

I have two specific comments on the documents before us. In paragraph 31, within the context of Managing for Results, the FAO Secretariat has indicated that performance reporting will be provided to Member Nations twice during a biennium. Canada would like to reinforce the need for the Programme and Finance Committee to receive the first of these reports in early 2011, to be used as an input in the PWB prioritization exercise.

As regards paragraph 36 on the vision for a Decentralized Offices network, we agreed in the CoC-IEE, that such a paper should be presented to this Body in advance of the Regional Conferences. We have now had three Regional Conferences and we have not received this. In reading paragraph 36, we note that we would not have even a draft vision to discuss as Members until 2011 in that the final Regional Conference shall take place in December of this year. I would just like to remind, as was understood by all in the CoC-IEE, that the effectiveness and efficiency of the Decentralized Office network is a matter for the entire Membership to discuss as a Membership.

The Regional Offices and the Country Offices all come from the same single regular budget which all 191 Member Nations pay. We all have an interest in ensuring that the network is doing what it should be doing. As a result, we need a discussion as soon as possible of Management's draft vision, recognizing full well that this can be a rolling document, that would need to take into account the discussions that take place in Korea Regional Conferences for Asia and the Pacific and in Sudan for the Near East.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, je demanderais aux orateurs de lire plus lentement leurs interventions et, si vous le pouvez, de les donner précédemment au Secrétariat pour les interprètes. Faites un effort, soit vous lisez plus lentement, ou vous pouvez donner vos textes écrits auparavant. Merci par avance. La parole aux États Unis d'Amérique.

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

The United States remains deeply committed to the ongoing efforts to revitalize FAO, as encapsulated in the negotiated and fully funded Immediate Plan of Action. We recognize the major challenges associated with implementation of this ambitious plan, but recall our overall plan as captured in the instructions to the IEE team in its Terms of Reference, and confirmed by Management, to make FAO fit for the 21st Century and the challenges ahead.

As reported to the Hundred Thirty-second Session of the Finance Committee, only 20 percent of the true work of the IPA has been achieved to date, even if more than half of the numeric items in the Plan have been finalized. The hard work remains before us, in other words.

Broadly speaking we believe IPA implementation is moving in the right direction, however, we will all need to help sustain the necessary motivation and momentum to carry this project through to completion. While we support adoption of the Report before us *en bloc*, we would like to remark on several issues that we believe will strengthen our collective efforts to support Reform at FAO.

First, any report to the Members of this Organization should contain an Executive Summary, capturing for senior executives the status of the implementation process. This needs to be an honest and fair assessment providing clear information regarding the status of the implementation of the IPA, beyond red, yellow and green traffic lights. Clear language will help identify what areas are moving ahead, and which items are falling behind schedule. We can then judge FAO Management on the clarity and probity of its reporting in this respect. Further reports need to clarify progress in the sixteen project streams, including timelines for completion of key components of each.

Second, as discussed in the Finance Committee, future Reports should include a full picture of the IPA implementation plan through the next biennium, along with start and completion dates for every project.

In closing, we would like to emphasize that this is imperative for the IPA, to be fully implemented by the already extended 2013 deadline, which will contribute to a more efficient FAO and help to ensure this Organization's programmes in continuing to provide full value to the hungry and food-insecure populations around the world.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ (El Salvador)

Sr. Presidente, quería solicitar su venia para pasarle la palabra a la delegación de Argentina quien hará una declaración en nombre del grupo de América Latina y el Caribe. Para colaborar con sus indicaciones, Sr. Presidente, quiero expresar que la delegación de El Salvador apoya plenamente lo que la delegada de Argentina señalará en nombre de nuestro Grupo Regional.

LE PRÉSIDENT

L'Argentine a demandé la parole; comme elle le fait au nom du Groupe, je lui donne la parole tout de suite.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Observador de Argentina)

En nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, apreciamos el documento sobre los progresos en la ejecución del PIA y deseamos referirnos a tres temas importantes, considerados durante la 31.ª Conferencia Regional de la FAO para nuestra Región, que tuvo lugar en Panamá entre los días 26 y 30 de abril. Aprovecho también para agradecer a Panamá el haber albergado con mucha eficiencia la Conferencia Regional. Dichos temas son las Oficinas Descentralizadas, el Centro de Servicios Compartidos y el establecimiento de priorizaciones.

Con relación al primer tema, es decir con relación a una nueva visión de las Oficinas Descentralizadas, la Conferencia subrayó que para lograr los propósitos de la FAO es indispensable que la Organización cuente con una red sólida de Oficinas Descentralizadas, con personal de excelencia, articulada a la sede, y estrechamente vinculada a los gobiernos nacionales y a otras entidades multilaterales.

La Conferencia enfatizó la importancia de mantener la presencia de la FAO en todos los países de la región y de reforzar los grupos de profesionales y las capacidades técnicas en la Oficina Regional y en las Oficinas Subregionales.

También se hizo hincapié en que los criterios de reducción de costos y de eficiencia administrativa, *stricto sensu* son claramente insuficientes para orientar por sí mismos las

decisiones sobre el proceso de Descentralización. Destacó la importancia de la presencia de la FAO en los países de la Región y subrayó que casi la totalidad de las Oficinas Descentralizadas de la FAO, especialmente las que implementan sus programas de campo y proveen la cooperación técnica, están en países en desarrollo. En ese sentido, la Conferencia hizo un llamado a enfrentar el proceso de racionalización, considerando el conjunto de elementos relevantes para los objetivos de la Organización, más allá de la mera reducción de costos. Se consideró indispensable una mejor formulación y aclaración del enfoque de flexibilidad para determinar el tamaño y composición de las Oficinas Descentralizadas y se pronunció por defender la presencia de la FAO en los países, siempre que fuese necesaria y solicitada por el Gobierno en cuestión.

Se remarcó que en este proceso se deben tomar en cuenta los aportes de los Gobiernos para apoyar el funcionamiento de las Oficinas Nacionales, Subregionales y Regionales. Dichos aportes incluyen contribuciones en infraestructura, personal local, seguridad, instalaciones y otros bienes y servicios.

También estimamos pertinente una evaluación más profunda sobre la opción de utilizar Oficinas Conjuntas con otros programas y organismos. Se enfatizó que esta opción no debería afectar el mandato de la Organización ni los programas aprobados por sus Órganos de Gobierno. En este contexto, sugiero tener en cuenta los párrafos 12 a 23 del Informe Final de la Conferencia.

Con respecto al establecimiento de un solo Centro de Servicios Compartidos para todo el mundo, la Conferencia Regional, luego de recibir el Informe respectivo, estimó que el proceso de evaluación sobre los cambios en los Centros de Servicios Compartidos requeriría ulteriores reflexiones e incorporar criterios adicionales a los aspectos de costos. En particular, debería considerarse separadamente la localización de los Servicios de Recursos Humanos respecto de los Servicios Administrativos y de viajes y su relación con la ubicación de las capacidades técnicas adecuadas, asegurando agilidad y coherencia en las actividades de ambas esferas.

Con relación a la ejecución del Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2010-11 y las áreas de acción prioritaria, les puedo asegurar que hubo un amplio debate sobre lo que la Región aspira realizar durante el próximo bienio. Se trabajó en tres sub-grupos: el grupo de Mesoamérica, el del Caribe y el de América del Sur. Las prioridades seleccionadas, con diferente ordenamiento, fueron coincidentes. En ese sentido, se puede decir que los temas prioritarios abordados son los siguientes: derecho a la alimentación adecuada, agricultura familiar, desarrollo rural, seguro agrícola y crédito agrícola, semillas certificadas y de calidad, calidad e inocuidad, cambio climático, fortalecimiento de las capacidades institucionales para la mitigación y adaptación al cambio climático vinculado a la agricultura, enfermedades transfronterizas, biodiversidad y Cooperación Sur-Sur.

Definidos estos temas, habría algunos temas transversales. Esos temas transversales serían cuestiones de género, juventud, desarrollo integral de los recursos humanos vinculados a la agricultura y fortalecimiento institucional con la finalidad de mejorar la capacidad de respuesta gubernamental.

Quiero aclarar, y aquí creo que fue el colega de Afganistán que se refirió con relación a "si establecimos un programa", que lo que teníamos que establecer en la Conferencia Regional eran "prioridades" y les puedo asegurar que cuando el Informe esté disponible para todos, comprobarán que las prioridades han sido establecidas. En base a esas prioridades, ahora hay un trabajo a nivel de la Oficina Regional, de la Conferencia, de los Estados Miembros y de la sede, para armar ese programa. Lo importante era poder salir de Panamá con el establecimiento de prioridades, y nosotros lo hemos logrado.

Por último quiero hacer referencia a la relación del CSA, a la que ayer se refirió la delegación de Brasil, y quiero reafirmar lo que dijo mi colega de Brasil, dado que la Conferencia recomendó que la iniciativa América Latina y el Caribe Sin Hambre 2025 (ALCSH), constituya un vínculo preferente entre el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y a la Conferencia Regional.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

On reviewing this document CL 139/9 we commend the Secretariat for the progress on the IPA with the completion of a large number of items in 2009 and the first quarter of 2010, particularly under the areas identified in the document, namely Managing for Results, the Use of Human Resources, Functioning as One and the Efficiency and Delivery of the Administrative Services. There has also been significant progress in the area of Culture Change in the Organization.

Looking ahead we see an ambitious programme for 2010-11 covering the same key areas and the activities described in paragraphs 38, 40 and 43 of the document. In this regard we are pleased to see the Management arrangements put in place, namely the creation of specified teams with designated Project Leaders and the assumption of responsibility for each area by members of the senior Management Team. This ensures clear accountability for the various projects, and we look forward to future progress reports.

We were also pleased to see that the Secretariat is also planning to conduct a Risk Assessment Study, and we look forward to this report as well.

Sr. José Arsenio QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

La delegación cubana agradece a la Secretaría por la presentación del documento y a ambos Comités, es decir, el Comité de Finanzas y del Programa, por la calidad de los análisis realizados y el estilo utilizado en los documentos.

Apoyamos las recomendaciones y decisiones presentadas en estos Informes. Queremos también apoyar en toda su extensión la declaración que acaba de realizar nuestra colega de Argentina, en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe.

Reconocemos la importancia de una aplicación eficiente de las medidas contenidas en el PIA para alcanzar los objetivos de la Reforma de la FAO. Nuestra delegación toma nota de los satisfactorios progresos alcanzados hasta el momento en la ejecución de estas medidas. Es muy importante la visión de la Secretaría acerca de que es improbable que se logre una Reforma efectiva y sostenida tan solo marcando casillas del programa del PIA.

Estamos de acuerdo con el criterio que el éxito de la Reforma depende de la aplicación efectiva de esas medidas junto con la participación y el apoyo del personal de la FAO respaldado por un proceso de Cambio de Cultura en la sede y sobre el campo. A lo anterior, nuestra delegación sólo añadiría la participación activa de todos los Estados Miembros de esta Organización a través de los distintos Órganos Rectores.

Consideramos que es importante dar seguimiento prioritario a las medidas relacionadas con la Descentralización y el nuevo papel que asumen las Oficinas en el campo, en particular, sobre los resultados detallados de la Descentralización del Programa de Cooperación Técnica. En cuanto al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2010-11, mi delegación apoya las actividades más importantes que han sido definidas para este período y llama la atención sobre la necesidad de que en la práctica la aplicación de las medidas de la Reforma vayan aparejadas de progresos en la atención que esta Organización presta a las necesidades de los Países Miembros. Es importante que los resultados en esta esfera sean visibles, tangibles y comprobables.

Estamos de acuerdo con la Secretaría en que se presenten informes periódicos detallados de las principales medidas vinculadas al Proceso de Reforma. No obstante, creemos que es necesario tener en cuenta que los Estados Miembros aprobamos cada una de las medidas contenidas en el PIA y, en consecuencia, deben encontrarse vías para informarnos del cumplimiento de cada una de ellas. Con relación a los costos de la aplicación del PIA, nuestra delegación considera de mucha importancia la información constante a los Países Miembros sobre cómo se están ejecutando estos fondos, la gran mayoría de ellos, procedentes del Presupuesto Ordinario.

En lo que se refiere a las disposiciones adoptadas por la Administración para la aplicación del PIA en 2010-11, la delegación de Cuba apoya las mismas y reconoce que estas disposiciones ponen en evidencia el compromiso de la Administración con el éxito de la Reforma.

En lo que respecta a la unión de los Centros de Servicios Compartidos, quiero ratificar, por la importancia que tiene, la posición que ha sido anunciada en la intervención de la delegación de Argentina. En ese sentido, Cuba apoya plenamente las consideraciones a las cuales llegó la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada en Panamá en abril de este año.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation takes note with appreciation of the progress made by FAO on the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action during 2009. We support the transfer of the unspent USD 3.08 million in 2009 to be included with the current biennium appropriation of USD 39.61 million for the implementation of the IPA in 2010-11.

I will focus my intervention on two parts, the first on the main achievements in 2009 and the second on the IPA implementation plan for 2010-11. On achievements in 2009, we welcome the progress made so far on the results-based management which has been translated into the three dimensions of the working-as-one. We appreciate the stronger role of Regional Offices and their Regional Representatives, as well as, the new role of the Regional Conferences, as Governing Bodies who providing input on respective regional priority needs in the preparation of the PWB. We also take note with appreciation of the implementation of the pilot project of the Performance Evaluation and Management System, and encourage its expansion throughout the Organization in 2010-11.

On the IPA implementation plan for the current biennium, we would like to draw special attention to the topic of the Shared Services Center on which we have not received much information in this Progress Report. We align ourselves with the statement made earlier by Afghanistan, and would like to make an observation that the decision made in the 137th Session of the Council as quoted by Afghanistan has not yet been satisfactorily put into practice. Consultations with Regional Conferences recently held in three regions were not substantiated with sufficient and analytical data. An identical paper presented to the Regional Conferences only informed Members that two external reviews had been made: the first one by Ernst & Young, who recommended consideration of a single hub structure without performing an in-depth study and the second one by another consulting firm, who provided some analytical data and figures which lacked supporting evidence.

In the absence of the required in-depth analyses as supporting evidence, we believe that those three Regional Conferences would not have been in a position to make any decisions on the issue, and that this absence of some decisions cannot be yet interpreted as agreement with the proposed single global hub in Budapest. Like Afghanistan has just mentioned, the scope of further analysis to be taken by the Corporate Services needs to be carefully examined in the next CoC-IEE meeting. If this analysis can be completed before the two remaining Regional Conferences, a more detailed paper should be presented for better-informed deliberation and sound decision-making.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

Mr Chairman, my delegation welcomes the IPA Progress Report that was tabled this afternoon, and we associate ourselves with the statement that has been made by Tanzania on behalf of our Region. Mr Chairman, Africa like Latin America assessed and discussed the issue of priority-setting. A detailed Report will be submitted by our Regional Chair, but just for the purposes of this meeting I will give an outline of some of the areas that we saw as our priorities. First we have the promotion of sustainable increase in agricultural production and crop diversification; second, sustainable use and management of natural resources including land water, fisheries and forestry; third, supporting market access and sanitary measures for better trade; fourth, stimulation of information and knowledge management in order to improve our communication and data collection; fifth, incorporation of emergency preparedness and risk management in the Region;

and finally, formulation and implementation of effective agricultural policies. These came out as our current top priorities in the region.

On the issue of Decentralization, the meeting underscored the importance of country presence and the strengthening of the Decentralized Offices in terms of training of staff, upgrading of communication facilities, provision of resources to meet the needs of the new responsibilities that have been transferred from Headquarters to the Decentralized Offices and indeed, ensuring that the Culture Change process takes root. We are encouraged by the attention being given to through the Culture Change process because we see this as a strong foundation for achieving sustainable reforms and we do hope that the idea of a Culture Change Team in Africa will also be put in place. With that Mr Chairman, we would like to support the Report that has been tabled.

Mr Indroyono SOESILO (Indonesia)

In that regard we have launched a strategy to revitalize our agricultural sector. As a result since the last two years we have been able to be self sufficient in rice. This helps to relieve pressure on global demand for this programme. Moreover we are also committed to being part of the global effort to tackle food insecurity by providing technical assistance, sharing of knowledge and experiences.

These commitments have been brought into action for more than ten years through south-south cooperation under the auspices of technical cooperation with the FAO, to countries in Asia, Africa and the Pacific. This cooperation is more stagnant by the signing of the letter of intent between the government of Indonesia and FAO two years ago.

As one of the members of this organization, Indonesia strongly supports and actively takes part in the FAO reform process and together with other member countries will continue to strengthen its participation so as to enable FAO to carry out its global commitment in the 21st century. We are also of the view that a comprehensive reform of FAO is particularly important within the context of MDG's commitment to halve the number of hungry in the year 2015. That's why this reform should not fail.

During the 2009 conference Member nations and the management have been able to conclude a new result framework which consists of the FAO vision, the three global goals and the eleven strategic objectives which will be followed through the application of two functional objectives and eight core functions that will guide this organization throughout the reform process both in the main and in the decentralized offices.

We would like to appraise all the successful achievements that have been declared by reminding all of us on the importance of the continuous review to all decisions, in order to keep the progress within the global framework and combating hunger. FAO is not alone in this endeavour and our delegation believes that a concept of delivering and functioning as a one place of crucial role to win over any battle against poverty and hunger. In this context we believe that FAO will, with all its experiences and network, should articulate its work and knowledge in a more instructive and creative way, that will enable its membership to strengthen their capacity and find the way to overcome poverty. For that purpose FAO common leadership should have vision as well as strong managerial and financial proficiency to work with different endeavours and global players.

Mr Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation would like to say how grateful it is to the Secretariat and to the entire team for the progression of this Progress Report for the Immediate Plan of Action. We consider overall that the process of implementation adopted at the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference is going at the right speed. We also believe that the speed can be kept up given the conditions which we adopted for financing this plan from the Organization's budget, the considerable budget that the Russian Federation like other Member Nations approved for this biennial period.

To some extent, the voluntary contribution of Russia is also a help because that has lessened the burden on the Organization by paying for Russian interpretation and translation. At the same time, we would like to note that implementation of the plan can also be helped by the measures which

are now being taken by both the Secretariat and by Member Nations; We would like to note in this regard, the growing links and cooperation between the Secretariat and Member Nations, as well as, many other processes underway ensuring transparency and understanding of the strategic goals being correctly established. As regard tactics, we can make changes to make the implementation of the Plan more effective, and we welcome this cooperation between the Secretariat and the Member Nations.

We consider that the IPA does contain very important things. In practical terms, it's a reflection of the fact that in the world today there is attention being paid to the issue of how to cope with hunger. Every cloud, as we say in Russia, has a silver lining, or to put it in a more straightforward fashion, is as a result of unhappy circumstances. In this case, hunger has done just that because the entire world community is now focused more intently upon hunger. In the past, it may have always been somewhere in the priorities, but today the world community is indeed focussed on hunger and considers it truly a world problem. Every one understands how important it is to offer full support and to have effective working relationships between the Secretariat and the Member Nations. At the regional level, as many delegations have noted, it is important that we strengthen the Decentralized Offices of the Organization by staffing them with high-quality personnel and by providing technical support and capacity-building for them.

In our view, the Report provides us with an objective analysis of how things stand. We hope that in the future the impetus achieved will not be lost and we will be able to provide more effective ways to fully implement this plan and, in so doing achieve a system for food security that all countries need.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à la Fédération de Russie, qui clot les interventions qui ont été demandées sur ce sujet. Madame Laatu, vous avez des commentaires?

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I can be very brief because I think there were no questions or comments really regarding the part of the Report of the Programme Committee dealing with the Multi-year Programme of Work. There were a few comments encouraging the other Governing Bodies to develop similar programmes of work, as also foreseen in the IPA, but that goes already beyond the Programme Committee mandate. So I think this is all I have to comment on at this time.

Mr David BENFIELD (Chairperson, Reform Support Group)

I would like to reply to the general questions raised and then perhaps, with your permission, to give the floor to Mr Changchui He to answer some questions about Decentralization and to Mr Juneja to answer some questions about the Shared Services Centre.

I should like to start with a comment made by the delegate of Tanzania regarding the stronger linkages that are required for Decentralization and, in particular, those communication linkages to enable staff in all of our offices to have access to the same facilities as those enjoyed by staff in Headquarters. This improvement in the communications structure has been fully-funded in the IPA. I can report that so far during 2010, 15 Country Offices have been upgraded to improved communications links, a further 8 offices will be upgraded by the end of June, and then a further 25 offices by the end of the year. So this project is well underway, now that it is fully-funded, to improve those communication linkages.

Now moving on to China, I would like to express my appreciation for the very specific contribution indicated by China for the IPA implementation.

The delegate from Afghanistan raised a number of issues and I would like to pick up on the Multi-year Programme of Work relating to the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees. Unfortunately because of the time constraints that relate to the new cycle of Governing Body Meetings, it wasn't possible to prepare draft Multi-year Programme of Work in time for consideration by the Regional Conferences and by the Technical Committees this time round. It

was a factor of time, unfortunately, which meant that it wasn't something that was possible on this occasion.

I also refer to the comments in terms of future Conference Committee for IEE Reports, and we note the suggestion, an excellent suggestion, to have separate sections in these reports for Culture Change and for the impact on Decentralized Offices. This picks up I think also on a report made by the delegate from Norway that in terms of institutional Culture Change, there was not very much comment in this Report. So by restructuring future reports to specifically address that, hopefully we can redress that balance.

Moving on to comments from the United States of America, we in the Secretariat are very aware indeed that 20 percent has been achieved as at the end of 2009 and we have a lot of hard work ahead of us and a very complex programme to implement. In terms of future Reports, we note the requirement to include an Executive Summary and timelines for completion of the key components. We have also indicated at the Finance Committee that in future Reports planned for the Conference Committee in June and subsequently in October, we will be providing a full picture of the IPA Programme for 2012-13 so that Members have a view of the complete programme across the remaining four years.

The delegate from Pakistan raised the issue of the Risk Assessment Study and, indeed, because it is such a complex programme, we are sure there will be problems. There will be issues arising, and the Risk Assessment Study is an opportunity to look at this complex programme and determine the overall risks involved and, at an early stage, the mitigation factors which we would seek to put into place.

Cuba raised the issue of costs in terms of how funds will be spent. I think much of this was covered in Annex 3 of the Report to the Conference Committee in June which provided estimates of costs down to the level of each IPA Action, building up to the USD 22 million programme for 2010. From the Report to the June Conference Committee onwards, we will be reporting at that level of detail in terms of the expenditures during 2010 as well.

I think I've picked up many of those general issues. If I could perhaps pass the floor to Mr Changhui He to provide you with some response on Decentralization matters.

Mr Changhui HE (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

I noticed that a large number of delegations have emphasized the decentralization issues. Let us first recall that in the CoC-IEE report that was endorsed by the Conference in November 2009, it is stated very clearly in paragraph 72 that in the next biennium IPA actions will be predominantly focused on five areas: first, results-based programming; second, functioning as one; third, optimizing human resources; fourth, reform of administration and management systems; and fifth, governing bodies' oversight issues. Actually these five areas identified as priorities for actions in the current biennium are very much interlinked. As some delegations, particularly Indonesia, have mentioned, functioning as one is very crucial to an organization. Therefore, in that context, the decentralization issues have to be reviewed and stressed, rather than singled out as one independent matter. So in this connection, following the request of the Member Nations to the Management to prepare a discussion at the Regional Conferences on a medium and long-term vision related to the structure and functioning of the Decentralized Offices network, taking into consideration the IPA actions on decentralization, a paper was prepared for all three Regional Conferences which have so far been organized, which is entitled "Towards a new vision for a Decentralized Office network".

The Secretariat has taken note that during these three Regional Conferences there were views expressed which are very much in line with the views that have been expressed by many of the delegations today, such as how to strengthen and maintain FAO country coverage, funding or financial issues, priority activities and improved efficiency in the coverage, etc. These matters were discussed in the three Regional Conferences and have again been mentioned here. Based on these discussions, the next step for the Secretariat is to further revise the vision paper, using the input that has so far been received from the Regional Conferences and the discussions that have

taken place today. As the delegation from Canada mentioned, we will further involve the CoC-IEE on 23 June to have further discussion on this matter. Meanwhile, while we are preparing an improved version of the paper, we do recognize that there are still two Regional Conferences that are going to be held later this year – one in late September and the other one in early December. Therefore we will also need to take into consideration all comments, views, ideas from all the five Regional Conferences, as well as the consultation with the CoC-IEE in June to further develop a vision paper, which will be presented to the Governing Bodies for consideration at the appropriate time, as the second step.

With regard to SSC issues, the Secretariat has taken note of the views so far provided by Members of the three Regional Conferences, as well as the concerns expressed by them and by the delegates here. Final conclusions will certainly draw upon the completion of the review, and take into consideration the various views expressed on this matter. It is important and necessary that we look into various aspects of the concerns with an aim to provide efficient and quality service while looking at the savings issue.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci de vos interventions. Merci des explications qui ont été données. J'ai cru comprendre qu'il y avait un bon consensus pour dire que des progrès ont été réalisés, mais qu'il y avait des actions futures qui devaient s'améliorer. J'ai retiré quelques éléments sur la prise en compte des contributions des conférences régionales, tout en tenant compte du cycle global. J'ai moi-même perçu certaines similitudes entre les réflexions des conférences régionales et ce qui a été dit ici, même s'il y a des différences en fonction des régions. Je crois que c'est normal. Si toutes les régions n'avaient exactement qu'une seule vue, ça ne serait pas la FAO avec ses diversités.

Le deuxième point sur lequel vous avez insisté fortement est celui des ressources humaines et financières. Il y a tout un travail à réaliser concernant le changement de culture. Je l'ai dit dans ma lettre l'autre jour, le changement de culture concerne, bien sûr, la structure mais aussi la gouvernance de la FAO. Les institutions de l'intérieur sont concernées et mon voisin, Monsieur Sorour, a initié déjà une manière différente de travailler dans son Comité. Il faut qu'on aille plus loin pour être plus efficace. Le travail en commun nous fait gagner du temps et on peut aller plus à fond.

Des questions aussi ont été posées concernant la décentralisation, les bureaux régionaux ou nationaux, ainsi que l'étude en cours sur le rassemblement des services communs.

La dernière chose que j'ai retenue et sur laquelle il faut continuer à travailler, cela a été dit par plusieurs délégations, c'est le besoin de discuter sur les méthodes de travail, de présentation des notes et des résumés, et la façon de mieux identifier les programmes.

Voici les réflexions que je me suis fait en vous écoutant. Nous tiendrons compte de ces observations dans le cadre du rapport. S'il n'y a pas d'autres interventions, je clos le point 8. Merci donc à chacun d'entre vous.

IV. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS
IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES
IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS

9. Report of the 90th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) (28-29 April 2010) (CL 139/6)

9. Rapport de la quatre-vingt dixième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CQCJ) (28 et 29 avril 2010) (CL 139/6)

9. Informe del 90.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CCLM) (28-29 de abril de 2010) (CL 139/6)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je voudrais vous informer que le travail n'est pas encore terminé. Nous allons passer au point 9 de l'ordre du jour, relatif au rapport de la quatre-vingt-dixième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, qui s'est tenue les 28 et 29 avril dernier à Rome. Ce document porte la référence CL 139/6. J'invite Monsieur Chandra à présenter le rapport du Comité. Monsieur Chandra vous avez la parole.

Mr M. CHANDRA (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

It is my pleasure to make a brief introduction of the Report of the Ninetieth session on the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters held in Rome from 28-29 April 2010. I would propose to consider three series of sub-items. First, the issues related to the IPA implementation, second, the other general legal issues and third the question of corrections to be made to the rule XXXVII.7 of the General Rules of the Organization under Reform of the Committee on World Food Security. As I said, I would propose to consider these three series of topics separately.

Let me continue on matters related to the implementation of the IPA. The CCLM consider document CCLM 90/2 regarding the Rules of Procedure of the Technical Committees, i.e., the Committee on Commodity Problems, the Committee on Fisheries, the Committee on Forestry and the Committee on Agriculture. The purpose of the document was to invite the Committees to examine whether the rules of procedure should be amended in order to implement the IPA in a consistent manner as far as practicable. In this connection, the CCLM emphasized that authority to amend the Rules of Procedure is vested in the Committees, and that they may have distinct functional requirements. The CCLM invited the Committees to examine a number of issues which could be reflected in revised flows of procedures.

The CCLM highlighted, in particular, a number of matters. First is the role of the Chairperson and other officers during and between sessions, and whether provisions should be made for a Steering Committee or a Bureau and if there was a need to define the functions of the Bureau. Second, we discussed the reporting lines and the structure of Report, distinguishing between issues related to Programme and Budget matters which will be referred to the Council and issues related to policy and regular staffing matters which will be referred to the Conference. The third was the strict adherence to timing of sessions of the Technical Committees to enable the Programme and Finance Committees to take into consideration their Reports in formulating advice to the Council under the new budget cycle. The CCLM recommended to the Council that the Technical Committees be invited to examine their Rules of Procedure in light of this and other considerations. The CCLM stressed the desirability of consistency among the Rules of Committees, but reminded that it should be for each Committee to determine which arrangements would better respond to its particular requirements.

The CCLM carefully examined document CCLM 90/3 addressed to the Council and the Conference on Candidates to the Office of the Director-General, which was prepared in response to the IPA recommendation and the revised provisions of Rule XXXVII.1 of the GROs on the

Election of the Director-General. The document was rather detailed, reviewed the procedures and practice of some organizations and contained a proposal for the addresses by candidates to the Council and to the Conference. The CCLM reviewed the procedures aimed *inter-alia* at allowing the Council and the Conference to know the candidates while assuring strict equality among them. These procedures are set out in Appendix 1 to the CCLM Report. In this sub-section, the CCLM invites the Council to approve the procedure for the address to the Council which would be applied at the session of the Council of April 2011. The CCLM invites the Council to forward to the Conference for approval the Procedure for the Address to the Conference. That is the first sub-sections and we would like to have a decision on that.

LE PRESIDENT

Merci Monsieur le Président. Vous avez sur ces deux sujets la parole.

Mr Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

In the text where it talks about rules and procedures for the CCLM the translation talks about staff members not about Representatives of countries from members of the Committee without staff members. So we need to rectify that translation mistake because they are not Secretariat staff, they are members of the Committee. Apart from that, this report covers various issues particularly the Bureau of the various Technical Committees. As we know, we have these various Technical Committees like the Committee on Commodity Products, the Committee on Fisheries, Forestry, Agriculture and so on, and some of these Bureaux have three members, others more. So there is no consistency in the number of people in the Bureaux of these Committees. So, the recommendation is that these Committees should all revise their procedures, and I absolutely agree with that suggestion. We need to provide guidelines for the Technical Committees. We cannot just let each Technical Committee adopt its own procedures which might be different from the other Technical Committee procedures. So whether we have three or five or seven members of the Bureau, for instance, I think it is important that there should be a certain homogeneity across the board which should include a good geographical representation. For instance, six for the Committee on Fisheries, three for the Committee on Agriculture. This is a weakness in the current system because it shows a lack of representation from Members in these Technical Committees. So I would ask the CCLM to get together with the Chairs of these Technical Committees and harmonize this Bureau membership question.

As far as the election of the Director-General and candidates and the procedures which are proposed, the CCLM proposal is that the candidate should address the Council and the Conference. This is fully in line with the recommendation of the Committee of the Conference, and I approve this procedure on behalf of the Near East Group.

Ms Carla Elisa MUCAVI (Mozambique)

We also congratulate the good work undertaken by the Committee during its Ninety-eighth Session, and we welcome the recommendation advanced particularly with regard to the need of the Secretariat to prepare draft rules of procedures to be reviewed at the next session of the Committee so that its *modus operandi* can be consistent with the other FAO Committees.

We would like to recall that the CCLM was the only Committee in FAO which had operated without Rules of Procedures for 51 years. The Africa Group agrees with the conclusion drawn up by the Committee regarding the Rule of Procedures of Technical Committees, particularly the issue discussed in paragraphs 10 to 17, namely the role of the Chairperson and other Officers during and between sessions, reporting lines and structures of Reports as well as the timing of the sessions of Technical Committees.

We welcome the observations and proposed recommendations made by the CCLM in this regard that state that the Technical Committees should be invited to examine their Rules of Procedure, taking into account the distinct financial requirements of the committees and the need to ensure consistency, as was also mentioned by the Chair of the G77, Jordan. The Africa Group also welcomes the CCLM review of the proposed procedure for the Address to the Council and to the

Conference by Candidates for the Office of the Director-General, as set out in Appendix 1 of CL 139/6, and supports the draft Council Resolution approving the Amendment to the Statutes of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission. I think this is one of the issues that you were going to mention in the second part but what is important for the Africa Group actually is consistency with regard to the Rules of Procedure.

Sra. Almudena MÍNGUEZ MATORRAS (España)

Es un honor para mí hablar en nombre de la Unión Europea y de sus 27 Estados Miembros. Los países candidatos a la Unión Europea: Croacia, la ex-República Yugoslava de Macedonia y Turquía también se asocian a esta declaración.

Tomamos nota de la posibilidad de elaborar y establecer reglas de procedimiento para el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos en consonancia con otros Comités de la FAO. Estamos de acuerdo con la recomendación realizada por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos al Consejo, que invita a los Comités Técnicos a examinar sus Reglas de Procedimiento en relación a diferentes aspectos para implementar el Plan Inmediato de Acción. Las diferentes opciones presentadas en el documento deben revisarse con atención por parte de cada Comité Técnico para mejores resultados y para adaptarse a las nuevas líneas de transmisión de Informes.

Estamos de acuerdo y apoyamos el procedimiento propuesto para la remisión al Consejo de las candidaturas al puesto de Director General de FAO. Creemos que este nuevo procedimiento mejorará el proceso de elección del nuevo Director General y permitirá integrar en el proceso a todos los Estados Miembros, tal y como se destaca en el Informe de la Unidad de Inspección Conjunta de Naciones Unidas sobre selección y condiciones de servicios de los Jefes Ejecutivos en las organizaciones del Sistema de Naciones Unidas.

Animamos a FAO y a sus Miembros a trabajar juntos en la implementación de las recomendaciones del Informe de la Unidad de Inspección Conjunta para garantizar que FAO continúe al frente de la buena práctica.

Mr Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

I just wish to comment on the process of the election of the Director-General. I just want to refer to the necessity of having a job description for the minimal qualifications of the new Director-General's forthcoming election, which was indicated in the IPA and not implemented. I consulted this issue with the Asia Regional Group and their reaction was too late, but I still think that we do not have an actual candidate yet as far as I know. I do believe that it is worthwhile to consider this issue although the task might be beyond the responsibility of the CCLM. We welcome any initiative by any Committee or any Members on this issue.

Sra. Emma María José RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

Quiero agradecer al Comité por el trabajo que ha hecho y quisiéramos referirnos a varios puntos, sin entrar a todos los que trata el Informe.

Respaldamos decididamente que el Comité tenga un Reglamento. Es paradójico que siendo, precisamente este Comité el encargado del fortalecimiento institucional, carezca de reglamento. Alentamos muy fuerte al Comité y a sus Miembros, a que se regularice esta situación para que el Comité tenga un Reglamento lo más pronto posible.

En segundo lugar, quisiéramos subrayar la celebración de la última sesión del Comité porque en ésta pudieron participar diversos Miembros de la Organización en calidad de Observadores. Creo que esto fortalece los trabajos del Comité. La propia delegación de México había participado en un periodo anterior, en unas circunstancias muy particulares, y creemos que no estaba prevista para ese momento la calidad de Observador. Creemos que ahora, con las nuevas modificaciones que hemos hecho a los Textos Fundamentales se ha logrado este paso que, para nosotros, sólo puede fortalecer los trabajos de este Órgano que consideramos particularmente valioso.

En tercer lugar, nosotros consideramos que hay que abogar en favor del fortalecimiento de la FAO y de sus instituciones. Un elemento que pudiera considerar el Comité de Asuntos

Constitucionales es la cuestión de los Textos Fundamentales. Creo que este Comité en particular tiene una posición privilegiada para cuidar, atender y hacer que los Textos Fundamentales sean lo más claro posible y expresen de manera muy clara las Reglas bajo las cuales los Estados Miembros participamos en los objetivos de la Organización. Creo que esto es un tema de reflexión. Pudiéramos, por ejemplo, empezar por estas decisiones, que están perdidas en los foros de la Conferencia, ver efectivamente en qué forma se trabajó para fortalecer nuestros Textos. Habría que ver cómo podemos hacerlos más claros y más breves.

Por último, agradecemos mucho el trabajo que ha hecho el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos para tratar el tema de la elección del candidato a Director General para el próximo periodo, que es muy importante para el futuro de la Organización. Por supuesto que la equidad es muy importante. Hemos escuchado a la delegación de Japón, que habló de las características necesarias. Quisiéramos escuchar más específicamente sobre este tema y quizá pudiera ser algo para fortalecer el camino tan importante que vamos a enfrentar en la elección del Director General durante la próxima Conferencia.

Ms Suzanne HEINEN (United States of America)

The United States thanks the CLLM and the Legal Office for their efforts. In particular, we would like to welcome the new Legal Counsel, Ms Lorraine Williams. We are confident that she will continue the fine leadership and quality of work that we have come to expect under Mr Giuliano Pucci.

We agree with the CCLM that all Governing Bodies of the FAO should review their Rules of Procedure and urge them to align them to the extent appropriate for the smooth-functioning of the Committees, taking into account the special circumstances that may exist in each Committee.

The United States fully supports the IPA recommendation that each candidate for the position of Director-General of the Organization should be accorded time to address the Council and Conference, and we can agree with the procedures recommended by the CCLM. We appreciate that the CCLM provided flexibility in the procedures, and we have confidence that the Chairs of these Bodies will carry out these sessions in a manner that will ensure that all regions have the opportunity to pose questions to each of the candidates. Like Japan, we regret that the Membership was unable to agree on a set of criteria for the position prior to advertising, but we remain confident that Member Nations will nominate candidates of high standards who have the management skills to lead this Organization through successful implementation of the Reform and make FAO a more effective and efficient organization that can deliver to those who depend on it the most. We will be listening carefully to the presentations of the candidates, and will make our selection based on our assessment of the visions and merits of the individual and his or her ability to lead change in the FAO.

Mr Mohamed ELTAYEB ELFAKI ELNOR (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Concerning the Technical Committees, I do have an observation on this issue. I believe that we need a broader framework for the work of these Technical Committees. These Technical Committees should have a clear representation of each regional group. I do endorse what has been said by Jordan concerning this issue. We have to establish a number of Rules, and we have to secure the full participation of Regional Groups. I believe that these Committees do perform an important function and that all Regional Groups should be represented therein. I believe that there should be no discrepancy in the representation from one Committee to another. I believe that a fair and equitable geographical representation should be secured. As for the other issue, namely the procedure concerning the election of the Director-General, I believe that it shall be discussed in a future meeting. However, we believe that we should lay down the conditions that should be prevalent in any candidate. I should like to say that I endorse the recommendations contained in this Report.

Mr GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to say a word about having the candidates for the post of Director-General address the Council and Conference. This address to the Council and Conference by candidates is a new precedent given that the Council and the Conference have a lot of items to consider in very little time. Perhaps the Secretariat could organize things to make all this happen in good order to achieve satisfactory results.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I would like to thank the CCLM for the excellent work on the Report and before committing my delegation's comments I would actually like to take this opportunity to congratulate the new Chair of the CCLM in my first meeting where he has taken the podium, and also congratulate Ms Williams on her appointment as well.

On the issue of the Rules and Procedures, my delegation actually agrees with almost all of the comments made here today and I will pick one, which would be that of Jordan as the Chair of the G77, who captured most of the thoughts that I intended to convey.

The one point that I do want to make here, though, is that we do need to recognize that these are Technical Committees of the Organization and they should not be politicized. So I think that it is important that every Region have the opportunity to contribute to a Bureau, but I object to the idea that everything should be based solely on Regions here. I think that what we should be aiming for in each Technical Committee is what is the best arrangement that suits that Committee. So, I think in many cases that could be one per Region, or something like that, but I would not want to see us getting to a point where we have a situation similar to the Programme and Finance Committee where we have 13 Members per Bureau that starts to get slightly excessive. I think we need to draw the line at the point of practicality here.

Moving on from that, I think it is important to recognize that a bigger Bureau does not necessarily mean a more efficient Bureau and I, for one, am very supportive of the idea of increasing Bureau sizes to a reasonable limit. But I do not think that it needs to happen in each and every instance. So I think we should take a principled approach to this, and look at what is the best situation for each Committee.

I am particularly interested in hearing views on how this process actually interacts with the Open-Ended Working Group on improving the efficiency of governance within this Organization, because I actually see a substantial degree of overlap between the size of Bureaus and Steering Committees, appointments of Chairpersons in their personal capacity, Vice-chairpersons and inter-sessional work and arrangements like that as being absolutely core work of that Open-Ended Working Group. So I am interested in, perhaps, some thoughts from the Podium on that issue in particular.

On the issue on the presentation by candidates to the Council and Conference, we are able to support, like most delegations, the proposal put forward by the CCLM which in our view will enable a flexible approach and allow all countries to make an informed decision. The driving factor here, of course, should be anything we can do to increase transparency and anything we can do to increase the opportunity for Member Nations to make an informed judgement is a good thing. In that regard, we certainly join the comments of Japan and the United States of America in identifying our regrets that we were unable to agree to criteria prior to the publication of this vacancy. I guess in that instance we actually reiterate our disappointment that this vacancy wasn't actually advertised, only publicized on the FAO Website, which certainly did not seem to meet our understanding of what was agreed in the IPA.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, y a-t-il d'autres interventions? S'il n'y a pas d'autres questions, je donne la parole au Président et à Monsieur Tavares pour éclairer le Conseil sur les questions posées.

Mr M. CHANDRA (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

I appreciate very much the comments and opinions that have been raised from the Council. As much as I am tempted to comment on the criteria of the Technical Committees, I would rather say that as far as the Committee agreed that it was the privilege of the Committees themselves to decide whether they wanted to revise their own Rules of Procedure. In regard the numbers or the core positions of their Committees, the CCLM stands ready to work with the Technical Committees on these issues.

For the rest of the comments, particularly from on preparing for the address by the candidates in Council and Conference for the position of Director-General, I believe that is why the recommendation is providing flexibility for the Chairs, with the Secretariat, of course, in ensuring that transparency and equality are there for all the candidates.

For countries that have made mention of the qualifications, the CCLM has not been mandated to speak on that matter and it will be up to Member Nations themselves to decide on action to be taken.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (LEGAL OFFICE)

This will, of course, be a matter for you, but it seems that there is a substantial measure of consensus and agreement on the proposals that we have referred to the Council.

I will just say, as regards the Rules of Procedure of the Technical Committees, that the CCLM did eventually consider that it will be more appropriate to leave the decision to each of the Committees while seeking to ensure some consistency among the Rules. It is a concern to have consistency among the rules and among the various Committees. We consider that this is important and that this be stressed in your Report. At the same time, the CCLM felt that it had difficulties in going too far and the CCLM proposed a framework for each Committee to review its own Rules of Procedure, keeping in mind this need in ensuring consistency of application. It is in this spirit that the Committees will, I assume, in future review their Rules of Procedure and the CCLM, as Mr Chandra has indicated, will be ready to assist.

Regarding the specific question that was raised by Australia, the understanding of the CCLM was that the CCLM should not enter into questions under the mandate of the Working Group which is now dealing with the question of representation and efficiency of the Governing Bodies. That could be done in the future, but the CCLM has not addressed this matter which it considered to be outside its mandate.

As regards the procedures for the candidates to the Office of Director-General to address the Council and the Conference, I do not think that we have any specific clarifications to provide. I am sure that the Secretariat of the Council will look into the practical aspects involved in this process. During the deliberations of the CCLM this was kept in mind – the practical dimension of all this. That is what I can say on this matter.

As Secretary of the CCLM, I would wish just to inform the Council that in February of last year, we, in fact, addressed this issue and we forwarded some elements on this question of the qualifications of the candidates, but it was also outside the CCLM which decided that it would not be reviewing the substance of this matter. Therefore, more than a year ago we made a number of proposals that the Membership unfortunately has not taken up.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, juste deux remarques concernant les règlements. Je crois que chacun a bien dit qu'il y avait besoin d'harmonisation, et je crois qu'il y a de bonnes propositions.

Concernant la procédure pour la présentation des candidats au poste de Directeur général, et en tant que Président du Comité de la Conférence chargé du suivi de l'Évaluation externe indépendante (CoC EEI), je suis satisfait du travail qui a été réalisé, comme cela avait été convenu et, à notre demande, pour tenir compte de ce qui se passait à l'extérieur. Je veux quand

même éclaircir les questions qui ont été posées concernant les qualifications et la publicité pour le poste du Directeur général.

S'il n'y a pas eu de qualifications déterminées pour les candidatures, c'est parce que le CoC-EEI de la mandature précédente n'a pas fait de propositions à la Conférence, qui était la seule instance qui pouvait décider. Quand bien même le CoC-EEI actuel aurait voulu s'y intéresser, il ne peut pas le faire valider par la Conférence, qui est souveraine en la matière. Donc il ne pourrait y avoir un accord que pour la prochaine élection du Directeur général. Sur la publication du poste, nous avons eu aussi de longs débats au CoC-EEI et même dans un groupe informel, par la suite, pour décider comment procéder. La position a été rappelée et il y a eu simplement une publication interne, dès le mois de février. Après les discussions du CoC-EEI et de la réunion qui a suivi, nous avons publié l'information concernant la de candidature sur le site public de la FAO.

Si je vous fais part de ces discussions, et s'il n'y a pas eu de décision pour faire une publication plus large, c'est tout simplement parce que le candidat au poste du Directeur général est présenté par son pays. Ce n'est pas comme une candidature d'un directeur-adjoint ou d'un autre directeur. C'est une situation qui concerne les pays et si, avec ce qui a été mis sur le site, des pays veulent faire la publicité dans leur propre pays, c'est leur prérogative. Ce que nous avons fait en plus, c'est de faire le lien entre l'annonce et les dispositions des Textes fondamentaux qui définissent le poste du Directeur général. Nous ne pouvions pas faire plus que cela et j'espère que cela suffira pour que chaque candidat qui le souhaite puisse être présenté par son pays d'origine, car c'est la règle.

Je pense que nous avons les éléments sur ces deux points pour les adopter. Je vous remercie et nous passons à la deuxième présentation concernant le CQCJ. Monsieur Chandra vous avez la parole.

Mr M. CHANDRA (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

On the second part, on the issue of the Other General Legal Matters, the CCLM reviewed and endorsed two Council Resolutions amending the terms of reference of two Forestry Commissions established under Article 6 of the Constitution. These are the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission and the Near East Forestry and Range Commission. The CCLM recommended to the Council the approval of these two Council Resolutions, which are now the Council for approval.

The CCLM was to examine a proposal to amend a name and terms of reference of the Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America in order to better reflect the current situation and new challenges in the region. However, following a debate arising out of references to the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries in the revised Statutes, the CCLM concurred that the Secretariat should prepare a study on the legal implications of these references for the session of September 2010, and in the meanwhile decided to defer consideration of the matter.

Sra. Almudena MÍNGUEZ MATORRAS (España)

Vuelvo a tomar la palabra en nombre de la Unión Europea y de sus 27 Estados Miembros. Los países candidatos a la Unión Europea, Croacia, la ex-República Yugoslava de Macedonia y Turquía también se asocian a esta declaración.

La Unión Europea está de acuerdo con las enmiendas propuestas a los Estatutos de la Comisión Forestal y de la Flora y Fauna Silvestre para África (CFFSA) y a la Comisión Forestal y de Pastos para el Cercano Oriente (NEFRC) y apoya las propuestas de resolución preparadas por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos.

Tomamos también nota del cambio de nombre de la Comisión de Pesca Continental para América Latina, COPESCAL.

Mr Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

As was previously said by my colleague from the European Union, the Near East Group endorses the recommendations contained in this document. However, we have a caveat here. When we talk

about the Near East Forest Commission we assume that this Committee shall be linked to COFO, and therefore it might be appropriate to discuss this during the forthcoming session of COFO so that it includes rangeland as well because this is an issue of paramount importance to the Near East. Therefore, we would like to see that this Committee focus exclusively on forests but also on rangeland. As it is a Commission in the Near East dealing with these two issues, we have to secure the existence of two Bodies in order not to let one Body supersede the other. I believe that rangeland was not given the necessary importance in the past and I would therefore like to support the recommendation with the elements I have just laid down here.

Ms Carla Elisa MUCAVI (Mozambique)

Again on behalf of the Africa Group, we support the review of the draft Council Resolution approving amendment to the statutes of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission and we also agree that this issue should be linked with COFO.

With regard to the change of the name of the Commission for Inland Fisheries, we endorse what the Committee has proposed. On the issue of the terms of reference, we are in favour that the Secretariat be tasked to prepare a study on the legal implications and present a report to the forthcoming session of the Committee. Therefore, consideration of the Revised Statutes should be deferred until the study is completed and the terms of references are satisfactory to all Members of the concerned region.

Mr GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to talk about the last point briefly. Mr Pucci just left office and I would like to show our appreciation and gratitude for services rendered. We also welcome Ms Williams. Congratulations. We believe your work will be very successful.

Sr. José BETANCOURT (Observador del Perú)

La delegación del Perú agradece al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos de la FAO por este Informe, y desea reconocer el esfuerzo de sus Miembros en el debate de los temas abordados.

En particular, la delegación del Perú desea hacer un énfasis muy especial en el examen efectuado sobre los cambios en los estatutos de COPESCAL, la Comisión de Pesca Continental para América Latina, la que el Perú comparte plenamente. Compartimos sus conclusiones y deseamos destacar la trascendencia de COPESCAL en los trabajos de la FAO.

El Perú estará atento al examen de este tema en la próxima reunión del CCLM.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Pas d'autres demandes d'interventions? Monsieur le Président ou Monsieur Tavares, avez-vous des commentaires à faire sur ce qui a été dit? Excusez moi, le Soudan.

Mr Mohamed ELTAYEB ELFAKI ELNOR (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to lend my support to the proposal made by Jordan regarding the modification of the name of the Committees to Forestry and Range Land, because range land is an extremely important natural resource for the countries of the Near East due to its scarcity in the region. It should be accorded high importance in the work of the Near East Committee and that is why we insist on adding range land to the normal structure of the Committee. It should also be done in all the other regional committees.

Mr M. CHANDRA (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

I believe that most of the comments that have been made approve the two resolutions. The conclusions that we have made on the issue on the terms of reference of the Near East Forestry and Range Commissions as suggested by Jordan and Sudan, will also be reflected, as well as the possibility of conveying the message to COFU. I believe the record of this Council will reflect that, and it will be transmitted to the COFU.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (LEGAL OFFICE)

I wished to advise that the Technical Committees used to review the activities of the various regional bodies in their area of competence. We will draw this matter to the attention of our colleagues in the concerned Departments. We note that there is support for the approval of these Resolutions but we will draw the attention of our colleagues to the concerns expressed by the Representatives of Jordan and Sudan.

I should also like to confirm that arrangements for study regarding the implications of the references to the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries in the revised statutes of COPESCAL are being examined now. We are taking steps to perform this study.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. S'il n'y a pas d'autres demandes d'interventions, je propose que ces deux amendements soient adoptés et nous passons aux questions suivantes. Monsieur le Président.

Mr M. CHANDRA (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

The third part of my report is on the corrections to Rule XXXIII.7 of the General Rules of the Organization on the Reform of the Committee on World Food Security.

Upon requests by the Director-General, the CCLM also recommended that the corrections be made to Rule XXXIII.7 of the GRO in order to faithfully reflect the content of the negotiated text whereby "the Committee on World Food Security is, and remains, an intergovernmental committee in FAO."

Due to an oversight, this segment was not included in the Conference Resolution, through which, Rule XXXIII.7 of the GRO was approved by the Conference.

So, in conclusion Mr Chairman, the CCLM recommended that the correction be made to Rule XXXIII.7 in order to faithfully reflect the content of the CFS negotiated text whereby "the Committee on World Food Security is, and remains, an intergovernmental committee in FAO." The Council is invited to approve this correction.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de l'approuver, il y a des demandes de parole. La Jordanie puis l'Espagne.

Mr Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

Having consulted the original text in the Reform document, what is suggested by the Committee is in full agreement with what we have agreed to in the report of the CFS. The text is crystal clear that the CFS is an intergovernmental committee in the Organization and will remain so as recommended by the CCLM. Therefore, I support this recommendation. Thank you.

Sra. Almudena MÍNGUEZ MATORRAS (España)

Vuelvo a tomar la palabra en nombre de la Unión Europea y de sus 27 Estados Miembros. Los Países candidatos a la Unión Europea, Croacia, la ex-República Yugoslava de Macedonia y Turquía también se asocian a esta declaración.

La Unión Europea apoya la recomendación realizada al Consejo por parte del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos de corregir el error en el artículo XXXIII.7 de las Reglas Generales de la Organización (RGO) para reflejar de forma fidedigna el contenido del texto negociado del documento de Reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, para que así se indique de forma literal, "El Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial es y permanece un Comité intergubernamental dentro de la FAO".

Mr Renato GODINHO (Brazil)

In the name of GRULAC, I can say that we also endorse the conclusions of the CCLM. In fact, what was originally negotiated in the Reform of the Committee of Food Security was that the

Committee on World Food Security is an intergovernmental committee in FAO. We would support amendments to the Texts that have been approved by the Conference in this regard.

I just would like to add a note on the translation of this document of the CCLM in Spanish because, due to another oversight, it reads that the correction is exactly the same as the original incorrect version. So I would like also the report in Spanish to be corrected.

Ms Suzanne HEINEN (United States of America)

The United States would just like to concur with others and the CCLM that the language as negotiated in the final text of the CFS reflects the will of the Membership and we support the position that the Legal Office should make the appropriate administrative change to GRO Rule XXXIII.7, at the earliest opportunity.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y-a-t-il d'autres demandes de parole? Le Mozambique.

Ms Carla Elisa MUCAVI (Mozambique)

Also again on behalf of the Africa Group we wanted to really support the amendment proposed by the Secretariat in accordance with what was decided by the Council and the Conference last year. So we support that, thank you.

Sra. Almudena MÍNGUEZ MATORRAS (España)

Disculpen por volver a tomar la palabra pero debo hacer una precisión respecto a la versión española de la Regla XXXIII.7 de las Reglas Generales de la Organización (RGO), y voy a leer una vez más el texto de forma literal.

El Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial es y permanece un Comité intergubernamental en la FAO, y no como había dicho anteriormente dentro de la FAO. Gracias

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, je crois que ce que vous venez de dire, Monsieur le Président, l'ensemble du Conseil s'y associe. Madame Williams, c'est avec plaisir que nous vous avons avec nous sur ce sujet.

Puisque nous avons travaillé de façon très pragmatique, avec une complémentarité des interventions bien préparées dans les groupes régionaux, ce dont je vous félicite, nous avons terminé nos travaux pour la journée, car le point qui était prévu ce matin, le point 4 sur le PAM, sera vu demain matin. Pardon, il y a encore un autre point à l'ordre du jour concernant la désignation du membre du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour la région Pacifique Sud-Ouest, qui n'avait pas été élu lors de notre dernier Conseil.

10. Appointment of a CCLM Member from the Southwest Pacific Region (CL 139/10)

10. Nomination d'un membre du CQCJ pour la région du Pacifique sud-ouest (CL 139/10)

10. Nombramiento de un Miembro del CCLM de la región del Pacífico Sudoccidental (CL 139/10)

Mr M. CHANDRA (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

At the outset I would also like to share what has been mentioned by others, that the CCLM on the occasion of the last meeting also already welcomed Ms Lorraine Williams as the newly-appointed Legal Counsellor. The CCLM wishes to place on record its deepest appreciation for the outstanding service provided by Mr Giuliano Pucci, the former Assistant Director-General and Legal Counsellor from March 2000 until February 2010. That is why the CCLM would also wish to acknowledge this exceptionally-long and successful career of Mr Pucci.

We would also like to inform the Chairman that our friend and colleague Ms Suzanne Heinen, the Representative of the United States of America on the Committee, will be leaving us and we wish

to place on record our appreciation for Suzanne's work and her most useful contribution throughout the last two terms of the Committee.

LE PRESIDENT

Monsieur Tavares, vous voulez préciser cela?.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (LEGAL OFFICE)

I don't have much to present, but at the last session if you recall, the South West Pacific Region had not put forward a candidate for its seat on the CCLM. That gave rise to a debate that we all recall.

It was agreed that the Region would propose a candidate who would be able to participate in the Session of the Committee in April 2010 and then the nomination would be ratified at this Session of the Council. The South West Pacific Region put forward a candidate, nominated a candidate, who did participate in the April session of the CCLM. The Council is now invited to ratify that nomination and formally elect that person by clear general consent. There is only one candidate for that seat, so there is no need to have a ballot.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de passer à l'élection formelle, la Jordanie demande la parole.

Mr Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

What is proposed by the Committee is in full agreement with what we had decided in the CoC-IEE, when the text stipulated seven members, one from each Region. Then we faced this problem in the previous session. Now we have the solution, and I welcome the solution and I commend the subregion for having chosen that candidate.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie. Je remarque que le Représentant de la Jordanie a de la suite dans les idées, puisque c'était lui qui avait demandé la dernière fois que l'on respecte bien les règles, ce qui semble tout à fait normal. Je crois que cela été fait. Je vous demande donc d'approuver cette présentation de Monsieur Lawrence Kuna Kalinoé, parce qu'on n'avait pas encore donné le nom du représentant, c'est Monsieur Lawrence Kuna Kalinoé.

Merci au Président et à Monsieur Tavares pour les travaux du Comité. Nous en avons terminé avec nos travaux de cet après-midi, puisque le point 4 de l'ordre du jour sera discuté demain matin. Si nous respectons nos horaires comme nous l'avons fait ces deux jours, il nous est possible de gagner un peu de temps et, j'espère, pouvoir adopter le rapport jeudi soir, ce qui nous permettrait ensuite, vendredi matin, d'avoir notre réunion hors Conseil sur les partenariats et sur Haïti et qui sera précédée par une présentation de la campagne de communication "1billionhungry" qui a été évoquée la semaine dernière. C'est l'objectif que nous nous sommes fixé, mais je ne veux pas que cela empêche tous les débats nécessaires demain. Au cours de la journée, nous verrons à peu près l'heure à laquelle notre rapport pourra être approuvé. Je vous souhaite une bonne soirée et à demain à 9 h 30 tapantes.

The meeting rose at 16.57 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 57

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.57

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session Cent trent-neuvième session 139º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 17 - 21 May 2010 Rome, 17 - 21 mai 2010 Roma, 17 - 21 de mayo de 2010</p>
<p>FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>19 May 2010</p>

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.43 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 43
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.43 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (CONT'D)

II. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PROGRAMME ALIMENTAIRE MONDIAL (SUITE)

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (CONTINUACIÓN)

4. Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 2009 (C 2011/INF/10)

4. Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités de 2009 (C 2011/INF/10)

4. Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre las actividades del PMA en 2009 (C 2011/INF/10)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, bonjour. Je déclare ouverte la cinquième séance de la cent trente-neuvième session du Conseil de la FAO. Je souhaite, dans un premier temps, la bienvenue aux collègues du PAM, qui sont parmi nous, pour traiter le point 4 de l'ordre du jour, à savoir le rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM et ses activités en 2009.

Nous avons un document qui porte le symbole C 2011/INF/10 et je donne tout de suite la parole à Monsieur Lopes Da Silva, Directeur exécutif adjoint du PAM, afin qu'il présente le rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration, et ensuite nous aurons l'occasion d'échanger avec eux.

Mr Ramiro LOPES DA SILVA (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme)

I am happy to present to you the Annual Report to ECOSOC and the FAO Council for 2009, which was approved by the WFP Executive Board in February 2010.

As you are aware, the Annual Report to ECOSOC and the FAO Council for 2009 is in line with 2004 General Assembly resolution on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development, and has taken into consideration comments helpfully provided by a number of delegations during last year's discussions of the 2008 Annual Report.

The year 2009 was a critical one for food security. The combined effects of the economic crisis and conflict, as well as severe weather shocks were particularly challenging in a year when the number of hungry and undernourished people exceeded 1 billion for the first time. In order to respond to complex emergencies and within the confines of its mandate, WFP actively engaged in international dialogue on food security and related governance mechanisms, while strengthening partnerships and collaboration at the national and global levels to be more effective, as part of the United Nations System, in meeting the Millennium Development Goals and in responding to immediate humanitarian needs.

The first Millennium Development Goal of reducing the proportion of hungry in half by 2015 – just 5 years from now – is slipping through our fingers. It is among the worst-performing of the MDG targets. And yet, we know that the eradication of hunger is fundamental to other goals. Missing it puts other MDGs at risk, as hunger has devastating downstream effects on economic development, health and education. As the Secretary-General has noted in the Keeping the Promise Report: "Our world possesses the knowledge and resources to achieve the MDGs. Falling short of the Goals would be an unacceptable failure, moral and practical." This could not be more true than of the hunger target. We know what works, we just need the continued focus, determination and commitment of the nations of the world to achieve it.

WFP is committed to supporting this quest, and the 2009 report tells a coherent story of how WFP partnered with UN Agencies and NGOs, as well as the private sector to ensure efficiency of food assistance and address the needs of the most vulnerable. It reflects a large range of inter-agency activities with some of our major partners such as UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR, UNDP, UNAIDS, FAO and IFAD, as well as cooperation with NGO partners which remain of crucial importance in ensuring humanitarian response in the field.

Let me highlight a few initiatives from 2009:

WFP participated in 88 joint programmes in 33 countries. The Delivering as One initiative accounted for 35 percent of all joint programmes. Most of these joint programmes took part in sub-Saharan Africa.

Through its partnerships with UN Agencies, NGOs and the private sector, WFP tested innovative tools aimed at finding long-term solutions to hunger challenges. In Mozambique, as well as in 20 other countries, under the Purchase for Progress (P4P) programme, WFP tested innovative food procurement practices to support smallholder farmers. In Egypt and Kenya, experts of the private company DSM worked on home food fortification and assessed local capacity for local production of fortified food. An national NGOs in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Zambia engaged with us in a number of cash and voucher activities.

On the humanitarian front, WFP continued to lead the logistics cluster, and co-lead the telecommunications cluster while retaining an overall responsibility for the food assistance sector. We also continued to work in other global clusters including nutrition, protection, education and early recovery. In 2009, the WFP-led logistics cluster responded to eight new emergencies (Benin, Gaza, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Pakistan, the Philippines and Samoa). As you are aware, WFP and FAO have been engaging in discussions to create a joint-led global food security cluster.

The year 2009 was also a critical one for international dialogue on food security and related governance mechanisms. WFP continued to work with other members of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis in an unprecedented inter-agency collaboration for food security. This resulted in the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative being launched at the G8, with a USD 20 billion pledge, and the World Food Summit last November reviving international commitments for a comprehensive approach to food security.

The CFS Reform Process was another initiative in which WFP actively engaged in a collaboration effort with all stakeholders, resulting in enhanced collaboration among the Rome-Based Agencies, FAO, WFP and IFAD as full participants of the CFS Plenary and members of the Advisory Group for the CFS Bureau, the Secretariat, as well as the Committee for the Selection of the High Level Experts.

In an effort to strengthen a more comprehensive approach to food security in 2009, our Governing Bodies approved the joint paper "Directions for Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies". The paper provides a road map for collaboration and we are currently discussing how to move forward on the implementation of joint action such as:

Transition from relief to recovery and development in selected countries, of which the Joint Task Force on Haiti is an excellent example of collaboration, with FAO, IFAD and WFP joining forces to ensure that immediate food assistance needs are met, while supplying seeds and agricultural inputs for the current planting season;

Alignment of early-warning information systems to enhance food security reporting; and Joint advocacy to achieve the MDGs.

In parallel, our Agencies are exploring innovative areas of cooperation, including support to smallholder farmers, such as in the case of World Food Programme, P4P. For example, in Mozambique, P4P is implemented through a WFP, FAO and IFAD Joint Programme that aims to facilitate direct purchase of maize and beans, with training activities focused on improving post-harvest management and direct provision of equipment and credit. FAO is focused on capacity-building for post-harvest handling, and technical assistance in the construction of silos and provision of equipment, IFAD will provide the necessary credit and WFP will offer a concrete market opportunity to local producers and traders to dispose of their surplus.

I look forward to your questions, thoughts and ideas not only on the information provided in this Annual Report, but also on how we can continue enhancing our partnerships to end hunger and malnutrition.

Sr. Elías José GUÍA LÓPEZ (España)

Es un honor para mí hablar en nombre de la Unión Europea y sus 27 Estados Miembros. Los países candidatos a la Unión Europea, Croacia, la ex-República Yugoslava de Macedonia y Turquía, también se asocian a esta declaración.

La Unión Europea toma nota del informe anual para el ECOSOC y reconoce el incremento de esfuerzos por parte del PMA para colaborar con otras organizaciones de Naciones Unidas, y en especial con las agencias con sede en Roma, así como con otros socios como el sector privado, las organizaciones no-gubernamentales, la sociedad civil y los bancos multilaterales de desarrollo. El objetivo es mejorar la eficacia y la eficiencia. La Unión Europea quiere que el PMA continúe su participación activa en la iniciativa de Naciones Unidas "Unidos en la Acción" para favorecer las transiciones suaves de operaciones de emergencia a asistencia al desarrollo. La Unión Europea también valora mucho la implicación del PMA en el Proceso de Reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, así como la primera evaluación conjunta del PMA y la FAO sobre el Apoyo a Sistemas de Información para la Seguridad Alimentaria.

La Unión Europea da la bienvenida al uso de nuevas herramientas como los cupones y transferencias en metálico. Elogiamos la implementación del IPSAS y la continuación del WINGS II en el PMA, así como la mejora de la gestión financiera en el PMA y la supervisión por parte de la Junta.

La Unión Europea apoya fuertemente la reforma humanitaria y quiere animar al PMA a continuar su compromiso con el trabajo del Comité Permanente Inter-Agencia concretamente en las valoraciones de necesidades comunes. Animamos al PMA a continuar centrándose en sus Informes Anuales, dada su ventaja comparativa como agencia de asistencia alimentaria. Esto significa la priorización de programas y políticas que impactan directamente en el consumo de alimentos y en las necesidades nutricionales de las personas más vulnerables y severamente afectadas, cuyo número excede ya el actual cupo de beneficiarios.

Valoramos que el PMA haya dado pasos importantes en cuestiones de género, con una nueva política y un Plan de Acción Corporativo en línea con el sistema de Naciones Unidas.

La Unión Europea está al tanto de los difíciles retos que tiene que afrontar el personal del PMA en países como Afganistán, Pakistán, Somalia, Sudán y Yemen, debido a la inseguridad y a las amenazas. Apreciamos mucho por tanto el compromiso del PMA con su mandato humanitario en estos contextos tan complicados. Por consiguiente, la Unión Europea apoya completamente la mejora de la seguridad para el PMA y para sus socios.

Finalmente, la Unión Europea anima al PMA a llevar a cabo la mejora para que los documentos de las reuniones se repartan en plazo, y así permitir a los delegados consultar a los expertos en el tema y preparar adecuadamente sus contribuciones.

Mr Mohamed ELTAYEB ELFAKI ELNOR (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Sudan has a very good relationship with WFP and with UNHCR, with the Ministries and all related bodies in Sudan. Sudan appreciates the great efforts undertaken by WFP in terms of humanitarian assistance, and stresses the importance of coordination in terms of the development interventions from FAO and WFP as well as the national development plans designed to reach the MDGs and to ensure food security, our ultimate goal.

We in Sudan will not spare any effort to facilitate the work of WFP and FAO and all parties working in the field of development and humanitarian assistance. We also stress and emphasize the importance of coordinating efforts to ensure development and provide assistance. This assistance, however, should come in a timely manner, in the right way, because when food is sometimes provided in the wrong season, this can lead the farmers to delay their work in the

fields. We also emphasise the need to organize the efforts of the NGOs in the area of humanitarian aid that should take place under the umbrella of WFP.

These efforts also should be coupled and coordinated with the efforts of FAO. In other words all efforts should be coordinated and streamlined. We look forward to the continued efforts and support by WFP and FAO.

Sr. José Arsenio QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

Gracias Sr. Presidente. La delegación cubana agradece a la Secretaría por la presentación del documento sobre las actividades del PMA en 2009. Este documento ya fue debatido y aprobado en la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA durante su Primer Período de Sesiones en el 2010. La delegación cubana reitera su apoyo a la aprobación del mismo.

Algunos breves comentarios sobre el documento. Reconocemos los esfuerzos llevados a cabo por el PMA para atender las necesidades de ayuda alimentaria en el mundo durante el 2009. A pesar de las limitaciones de recursos financieros, los efectos de la crisis financiera internacional y el incremento de las situaciones de crisis alimentarias. De igual modo destacamos la labor desarrollada por el PMA en la movilización de recursos, en especial con nuevos donantes, incluidos algunos países en desarrollo. Reconocemos también la labor realizada por el PMA en materia de cooperación con los organismos radicados en Roma, FAO y FIDA y la inclusión de este tema en su Plan Estratégico.

Invitamos a la Secretaria del PMA a continuar trabajando en la elaboración de un Marco Estratégico Común con la FAO y el FIDA para el trabajo en el terreno.

Para concluir, la delegación cubana, desea insistir en la importancia de continuar trabajando bajo el liderazgo de los Gobiernos en la rápida recuperación de las poblaciones afectadas por las crisis alimentarias, incluyendo las acciones de prevención, desarrollo y fomento de la capacidad.

Mr Indroyono SOESILO (Indonesia)

On behalf of the people of the Republic of Indonesia, I would like to thank the World Food Programme for the humanitarian assistance extended to Indonesia in the week of the earthquake in West Sumatra last September 2009 and also for WFP's tremendous assistance during and after the tsunami in Aceh, Jakarta and West Java back in 2004 and 2005. This assistance has indeed further strengthened the bond and relationship between Indonesia and WFP.

WFP has played a significant role in providing assistance to the Government and to the people, especially through its Emergency Operations (EMOP) and Protected Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO) Programmes which contribute to the rehabilitation of nutrition and assist education and provide nutritional and recovery support for vulnerable families in Indonesia.

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia signed a new PRRO No 10069-2, operating from April 2008 to December 2010 and covering 845 000 targeted beneficiaries. Considering that the PRRO will be terminated in December 2010, Indonesia would like to propose that for the next five years WFP assistance be directed to its the eastern region and focus on activities as follows:

First, WFP should not develop a new programme but streamline the existing government programme so that sustainable development may be achieved.

Second, WFP could provide assistance on the provision of ready-to-consume food on emergency conditions and food reserve systems at district level.

Mr GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation agrees and appreciates the report presented by WFP. For the assistance provided by WFP to the hungry people and people in emergencies in the world, we would also like to express our appreciation and we would like to point out that this report was discussed in WFP. However, there was no Chinese version and that presented a problem for the Chinese delegation. I hope in the future this kind of Report will be provided by FAO also in the Chinese version according to the rules in FAO. Then it will be streamline its adoption process.

Mr Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I should like to extend my thanks to WFP for this document which was previously presented to us in the Executive Board and which we approved *en bloc*.

It is also my pleasure to note that new countries have contributed on a voluntary basis to WFP work. This is a positive indication if we take into account the number of challenges faced by the programme and the important humanitarian role played by WFP to reduce hunger and poverty and in facing and responding to emergencies throughout the world. This is obvious from the increase in the budget in 2009 in comparison with the previous years. This would not have been possible without the efforts made by WFP to mobilize resources and donations. It is also a source of pride to all of us to work with WFP in all its humanitarian activities. We should highlight some of its achievements like the implementation of IPSAS, and the local procurement system and how they assist farmers and enhance their capacity at the national level.

In brief, I should like to add my voice to my previous colleagues and I strongly appreciate and approve this Report.

Sr. Renato MOSCA (Brasil)

Brasil quiere agradecer el Informe del Vice Director General Ejecutivo y hacer referencia al desarrollo de programas de adquisición de alimentos en el terreno "Compras para el Progreso".

Brasil piensa que el programa de adquisición de alimentos es una importante herramienta para promover la seguridad alimentaria, apoyar la producción de los pequeños agricultores, estimular el desarrollo rural y mejorar la renta de las áreas rurales. Se trata de una herramienta muy importante que valoramos mucho porque no solamente es una manera de prestar asistencia inmediata en términos de seguridad alimentaria, sino también es una herramienta capaz de estructurar, apoyar y estimular la producción local durante el período después de las emergencias.

Brasil es un creciente contribuyente del Programa Mundial de Alimentos en la prestación de asistencia humanitaria a los países que solicitan apoyo durante sus emergencias y a la comunidad internacional. Valoramos mucho este trabajo del PMA, y queremos seguir colaborando.

También valoramos mucho la integración del trabajo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos con la FAO y con el FIDA. Sabemos que el Informe trata de las actividades llevadas a cabo en 2009 y que ya deja constancia de la importante presencia de las Agencias de Roma en la recuperación de la emergencia en Haití. Creemos que en este momento la integración de las ventajas comparativas de cada Agencia es algo emblemático, dado que tuvimos el PMA allí haciendo un trabajo de prestación de asistencia alimentaria muy importante e inmediato. La FAO se ocupó del período de plantío y el de la capacidad de proveer semillas, herramientas y todos los insumos para la producción. También el FIDA contribuyó con su apoyo en la financiación de muchos de esos programas.

Por todo esto estamos muy contentos con la obra realizada y creemos que estamos al principio de un nuevo período entre todas las Agencias, y no solamente las de Roma sino también las otras Agencias y organizaciones interesadas en alimentación y agricultura. Como dijo muy bien el Vice Director General, tenemos que cumplir este objetivo dentro del 2015 y aunque éste se ha alejado un poco de nosotros todavía tenemos las condiciones para llegar a cumplir esos objetivos. Es un deber moral y ético de la comunidad internacional emplear todos sus esfuerzos políticos y financieros en lograr estos objetivos.

De manera creciente, Brasil ya está realizando esta obra en términos de prestación de asistencia humanitaria, de cooperación técnica y de transferencia de tecnología. Se acaba de organizar en Brasil una reunión de nuestros Ministros de Agricultura con aquellos de algunos países africanos. Fue una reunión muy importante para poder establecer vínculos en la prestación de asistencia brasileña a los países que quieren promover incrementos en su producción agrícola, igual que tratar todas las cuestiones relacionadas con aumentos en la producción y la seguridad alimentaria de sus pueblos.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

The United States of America congratulates WFP for yet another well-written and comprehensive Report, as well as for your presentation this morning.

We would like to align ourselves with the positive comments of many of our colleagues, particularly Spain on behalf of the EU and Brazil regarding the coordinating efforts of WFP and the work that you are doing with FAO and IFAD. In that regard, we would also like to encourage WFP to continue to move forward with your work in the cluster system, particularly the leadership that you have demonstrated and as outlined in the report and discussed this morning on the logistics cluster.

We particularly look forward to receiving additional information about the work that you are doing with FAO regarding the creation of the food security cluster, the development of that cluster and the progress that you have made to date.

In that same regard, the United States of America would be very interested in hearing what progress has been made in the coordination work between the Rome-based Agencies on your procurement activities since this Report was first delivered to us at the Executive Board meeting.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela expresa sinceramente las gracias a los directivos del PMA por la elaboración y la presentación de este excelente Informe, el cual fue aprobado por la Junta Ejecutiva de esa Institución y que a la vez, está siendo presentado en el Consejo. Igualmente será llevado hasta las instancias del ECOSOC.

En este Informe es importante resaltar, tal como lo hizo el expositor, el reconocimiento a el papel fundamental y a la necesidad del cumplimiento del logro del primer Objetivo del Desarrollo del Milenio, como lo es la eliminación de la pobreza y el hambre. El énfasis que hizo el expositor y que se aprecia en el Informe, según el cual se tiene la certeza de que no será posible alcanzar los restantes Objetivos del Desarrollo del Milenio sin que el primero de éstos sea posible.

Las tres Agencias de las Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma tienen un importante compromiso en el tema de la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de los pueblos, porque esto es esencial, necesario y obligante. De lo contrario estamos, como efectivamente se aprecia hasta este momento, poniendo en riesgo el logro para el 2015 de todos los demás Objetivos del Desarrollo del Milenio. Por esto tenemos que tener absoluta conciencia de llevar a cabo este compromiso.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela felicita igualmente las Agencias con sede en Roma, PMA, FAO y FIDA por el trabajo conjunto que han realizado, especialmente en la conciencia que se tiene, ya que juegan un papel fundamental y pueden perfectamente armonizar sus trabajos combinando sus acciones, en especial en lo referente a la transición del socorro al desarrollo, la armonización de los sistemas de información, alerta, la presentación de informes sobre seguridad alimentaria y en cualquier campaña que permita expresar la necesidad del logro de los Objetivos del Desarrollo del Milenio.

Valoramos la obra que ha hecho y que viene sosteniendo el PMA para la incorporación de una perspectiva de género en consonancia con la política de todo el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y el papel activo que está llevando a cabo en aras de detener la violencia basada en género en las situaciones de conflicto y posteriores al conflicto.

Asistimos a una reunión en la sede del PMA donde el responsable del Sub-grupo de las Naciones Unidas sobre este tema nos hizo una excelente exposición, sobre cómo pudiéramos aprovechar la obra que justamente desarrolla el PMA en estas zonas de conflicto, en donde a la vez se combina esta lamentable situación de la violencia como forma de dominación y en donde la mujer, quien debe encabezar a nivel familiar y a nivel de tareas agrícolas en sus respectivos países, se ve limitada por esta situación, y por lo tanto se obstaculizan las obras que las Agencias desean llevar a cabo en países que padecen situaciones de conflicto y posconflicto.

Venezuela, progresivamente, esta asumiendo un papel de mayor articulación con el PMA desarrollamos obras en distintos países, en términos del desenvolvimiento de nuestras actividades de integración y de cooperación Sur-Sur. Actualmente llevamos a cabo en algunos países de África estas obras tal como en Zimbabwe, Malí y Sudán. En estos países estamos desarrollando obras conjuntamente con el PMA y esperamos al futuro, dado esta calidad de Informe y este esfuerzo en proceder con las reformas respectivas.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela va a seguir contribuyendo y comprometiéndose cada vez más con las actividades del PMA. Nuevamente queremos expresar nuestras felicitaciones por este extraordinario documento que sintetiza las actividades del año 2009 del PMA.

Mr Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation would like to thank the Secretariat of the WFP and its staff for a succinct and a very full report on the activity in 2009. Compared to previous years, 2009 was an unprecedented year in terms of the number of emergencies. The Russian Federation considers it a very important aspect of the activity of the WFP and of the cooperation between FAO and WFP and building a bridge between the activity in terms of dealing with emergencies and also promoting sustainable agriculture. As we can see from the Report, the programme has managed to ensure the mobility in 2009 through effective cooperation between the donor countries, the rational use of facilities and the proper use of information communication. Furthermore, we would like to point out that a good base for the implementation of the World Food Programme's task is its energetic, the dynamic approach, as well as its positive work ethic and its ambitious staff who are extremely mobile and who have a great sense of responsibility.

The Russian Federation fully supports the work of WFP. Unquestionably, a very positive role was played through the control and the use of resources. We commend the work of the Executive Board of the WFP in its choice and use of the External Auditors programme, and commend the professional work of the Committee on Procedures, and on the selection of the programmes and the Representative of India. Unquestionably, the implementation of systems such as IPSAS will improve the long-term efficiency of the WFP. We would like to point out, in agreement with Brazil, that this development is highly significant for agriculture, and for those who have suffered in developing countries and those who are in dangerous zones in the producer countries. The on-site procurement for the Programme is a very important aspect. This is one of the components of the bridge-building effort in emergency situations in enhancing sustainable agriculture through programmes and projects under the WFP. FAO should be involved in feeding children and in using the agricultural labour force to prepare and train them in meeting their needs. This is reflected in the Report and we commend the direction of the work of the WFP in cooperation and in providing food security. In the future, it will be very useful to strengthen cooperation between WFP, IFAD, and FAO in establishing food security in all regions of the world. I would like to point out that a very important point for the programme is providing security for field staff in dangerous places. It is a very difficult task, especially in regions where there is unrest. The WFP is handling these tasks successfully, and we would like to wish them every success.

Mr GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

I thank my colleagues for answering some of the questions which were addressed to three of Roma-based Agencies and, indeed, just to supplement what our colleagues from World Food Programme have provided, a number of countries have appreciated and indeed stressed the continued cooperation and coordination between the three Rome-based Agencies. What I want to submit here is that in addition to what is going on already in the cooperation domain such as joint Senior Management meetings which took place two times now, a joint procurement pilot and joint information services and communication, there are a number of important things taking place in the recent past in the direction you mentioned. One, is the establishment by the three Rome-based Agencies of joint task force in February to support the Government of Haiti in food security and related agriculture interventions after earthquake disasters. These joint task forces have prepared a joint plan of action on the three Agencies over the next 12 months at that time was to ensure that food security is safeguarded of increasingly sustainable base in Haiti-post earthquake.

The food security and nutrition plan for post-Haiti includes five key areas of support: short-term humanitarian intervention for which food distribution already amounted to 2.5 to 3 million people in 2010, national nutrition programme to prevent malnutrition particularly for children, improved household food securities, and risk reduction management, finally the enhance national policies and institutions including the legal framework for food security and capacity development both of decentralized and national institutions. I should report here that the cooperation has been very active and fruitful as many of you have already mentioned.

World Food Programme as my colleagues have mentioned has already transported over 670 net tonnes of seeds and inputs for FAO from Dominican Republic to there. In addition to this immediate joint appeals that FAO, WFP and IFAD has also joined in the work on the joint assessment which lead to the preparation of medium and long-term investment plans at the request of Government. This investment plan for food security and agriculture which identifies the need of 721 millions for the next ten years which has been already incorporated into the Government plan. Of course, the action is further follow up to this L'Aquila initiative to try to find in cooperation with partners, particularly donor countries, the funding support for these programmes.

On the Horn of Africa under the framework of IASC, as mentioned by my colleagues, FAO and WFP have been entrusted by the Chair of IASC to develop a concept note for the UN System-wide collaboration involving NGOs, civil society organizations to work on food security and sustainable agriculture in a humanitarian context in the Horn of Africa. This concept note is being built on the existing strategy, programme and existing intervention of the partners including in particular the Secretary-General's Special Envoy's report in 2007. The note has already been submitted to IASC which is further evaluating the note.

The third important activity being jointly undertaken has also been mentioned by my colleagues from WFP, the global food security cluster. Again this is at the request of the IASC principle meeting. During that meeting, WFP and FAO jointly announced our commitment to enter into dialogue to establish a global food security cluster built on as you indicated earlier comparative advantage to the two Agencies to work at country-levels. We are expecting to establish FAO-WFP co-led global food security cluster sales to be established. This is to ensure that more predictable and more comprehensive response to food security within the humanitarian context. The two Agencies are currently working very earnestly in further developing this concept note which have been in principle reviewed by the technical neighbours. We are expecting to submit this to higher levels for final consideration.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

We believe that strong collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies and indeed with other partners will provide strong coherence in ensuring food security. In our country we have seen FAO, WFP and other bilateral partners participating in joint-assessments and advising the government on the level of food availability and gaps, and drawing lessons from previous harvests. My country therefore welcomes the cooperative work that we have observed on the ground, and we hope that this can be strengthened to ensure that small-holder farmers can recover whenever they undergo some crisis. We see this as a strong foundation for agriculture recovery.

We also like others, wish to underscore the importance of ensuring that the transition is seamless. This has been discussed this week in relation to FAO's work and we take this opportunity today to table this to WFP. We believe that in achieving food security, the transition from emergency to development should be seamless because the families that depend on your help are at times vulnerable. So, if you just pick up your bags and leave them tomorrow they will really be in the deep end. I think that the example that you are giving on Haiti is a case in point. We know the crisis that country has just gone through. So transition here should be a lesson that we all look at carefully. This can be achieved through stronger cooperation among the Rome – based agencies and, indeed, their partners. The CFS platform is the basis from which to undertake this endeavour. The Delivery as One process that the UN organizations have undertaken is very important.

In referring to a statement that was made by my colleague here from Venezuela, we view Pledges for Progress as a very welcome development, particularly for those recovering from hunger because this gives them some kind of income with which to plan their future and plan their lives. This bodes well as it is already tackling the Millennium Development Goals. So fighting poverty is synonymous with fighting hunger because if you are buying from small-holder farmers, you are making them more resilient to fight hunger on their own.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ (El Salvador)

Nuestra delegación aprovecha de esta oportunidad para dar las gracias a la Secretaría del Programa Mundial de Alimentos por la elaboración y la presentación de este Informe y comparte plenamente lo que aquí han indicado las delegaciones de Cuba, Brasil y Venezuela. Creemos que ellos han ya hecho llegar a este Consejo el sentimiento y los puntos de vista de nuestra región.

Queremos puntualizar en esta oportunidad nuestro reconocimiento por la excelente labor realizada en Haití por el PMA, y los otros organismos de Naciones Unidas residentes en Roma, y es por esto que hemos pedido la palabra, para reiterar, para insistir en la importancia a que se profundice aún más la colaboración entre los tres organismos FAO, IFAD y PMA, tanto en la sede como en el terreno para que en el marco, como lo acaba de señalar la distinguida delegada de Zimbabwe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, podamos trabajar en forma conjunta para la seguridad alimentaria de todos los países que más lo necesiten.

M. Noël BAÏOT ONANGA (Gabon)²

Ma délégation intervient au nom de la région Afrique. Notre intervention comporte deux parties. La première a trait aux questions relevant du Programme alimentaire mondial et renvoie aux rapports de la 130^e et de la 131^e sessions. La deuxième traitera des questions relatives à la FAO et fait référence au document CL 139/8, qui est le rapport de la 132^e session du Comité financier.

Sur la première partie, nous approuvons la démarche prudente du Secrétariat du PAM quant à la fixation, dorénavant, d'un plafond des honoraires du Commissaire aux comptes, lors de la signature du contrat liant les deux parties. Le Conseil d'administration aura ainsi, comme il ressort du rapport, la latitude d'exercer pleinement sa fonction de contrôle de la gestion du Programme.

Notre région attend avec impatience la « mise à jour de l'examen du cadre de financement : catégories d'activités » dont le document sera examiné par le Comité financier au cours de sa 133^e session prévue du 31 mai au 1^{er} juin 2010.

Par ailleurs, nous nous félicitons du rapport du Commissaire aux comptes sur les bénéfices attendus de l'application des normes IPSAS et de la volonté du Secrétariat de prendre en compte les recommandations formulées pour ce référentiel international, outil de renforcement de l'analyse et de l'aide à la décision dans le domaine de la gestion financière du Programme.

Nous notons avec intérêt que le Secrétariat du PAM a soumis au Comité la mise à jour de son Plan de gestion pour l'exercice biennal 2010-11 – plan de gestion qui fait apparaître des besoins supplémentaires de 595 millions de dollars et qui intègre les préoccupations de notre région, notamment, sur les mesures pour assurer une meilleure sécurité du personnel et la couverture des risques financiers dans une situation d'imprévisibilité partielle des interventions du PAM.

En conclusion de cette première partie, nous marquons ici tout l'intérêt que nous a suscité le dernier rapport d'activité sur le projet WINGS II. Nous formons le vœu que rapidement, à l'issue de sa période de stabilisation, cet outil pourra améliorer la capacité redditionnelle du PAM.

En ce qui concerne les questions relatives à la FAO, nous notons avec satisfaction l'appréciation de la situation financière de l'Organisation suite notamment, à l'amélioration du solde des

² Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

contributions dues et des arriérés à la fin de la période biennale écoulée et au versement rapide des contributions en recouvrement au début de cette année. Puisse cette tendance se poursuivre en dépit des difficultés économiques de plusieurs contributeurs et non des moindres, afin de permettre à l'Organisation de remplir pleinement sa mission.

Nous avons cependant une inquiétude. Faut-il rappeler, Monsieur le Président, que nous vivons dans un monde globalisé, avec des marchés financiers interconnectés, des économies interdépendantes et des processus industriels dont la bonne fin exige souvent l'entrée de composants en provenance d'autres parties du monde.

Faut-il noter que la plupart de nos entreprises fonctionnent avec des niveaux de stock proches de la limite de sécurité ? Des niveaux de stock qui souvent ne représentent que quelques jours de production.

La presse économique internationale nous a rappelé récemment, à l'issue du nuage de cendres volcaniques qui a paralysé l'espace aérien européen, la fragilité de notre système économique.

Dans un tel contexte, nous osons croire, Monsieur le Président, que les perturbations financières du moment, que les choix budgétaires opérés par certains contributeurs de premier plan – que ces choix budgétaires soient d'ordre conjoncturel ou d'ordre structurel – ne viendront pas remettre en cause la vitesse de recouvrement des contributions observée depuis le début de l'année, ce qui conduirait à une situation d'insuffisance de liquidités et comme résultat une source de tensions pour l'Organisation.

L'ampleur de la dégradation du Fonds général au 31 décembre 2009, soit de 20 pourcent par rapport à l'exercice précédent, appelle des propositions claires et urgentes de la part du Secrétariat quant au financement des obligations à long terme relatives au personnel.

En dépit des contraintes tant financières qu'organisationnelles liées à l'élargissement du périmètre du projet des normes IPSAS afin de doter l'Organisation d'un cadre conceptuel performant et adapté à la complexité de son organisation administrative, nous saluons les progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre de ces normes comptables.

Nous apprécions également la transparence du Secrétariat quant aux informations fournies sur les placements de l'Organisation au cours de l'année 2009 – informations aussi bien sur la provenance et la destination des ressources, sur leurs niveaux et sur leurs rentabilités.

Nous encourageons le Secrétariat à poursuivre ses efforts de collaboration avec les services de trésorerie des autres organismes des Nations Unies aux fins d'une meilleure sécurisation des placements.

La région Afrique se félicite par ailleurs de l'adéquation observée au cours de l'exercice biennal écoulé - adéquation entre les dépenses effectives et les crédits ouverts. De même, elle apprécie les décisions de gestion prises par la direction au niveau des virements entre programmes et chapitres budgétaires au cours de l'exercice 2008-09.

Nous louons également la performance de la gestion qui a conduit à des économies (aussi bien en termes de gains d'efficacités que d'économies ponctuelles) d'un montant de 22,1 millions de dollars au cours de l'exercice biennal clos le 31 décembre 2009.

En ce qui concerne les ajustements au PTB pour tenir compte des économies ponctuelles et des gains d'efficacité supplémentaires non identifiés, nous faisons nôtres les conclusions du Comité tout en rappelant que les niches d'économies se situent à tous les niveaux de l'Organisation.

Sur la question de la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie de l'Organisation en matière de ressources humaines, la région Afrique loue les efforts accomplis dans ce domaine dans l'optique bien pensée de la couverture de toutes les ressources de l'Organisation par le cadre de planification axé sur les résultats. Elle fait sienne la recommandation du Comité sur la répartition par sexe des postes de rang supérieur, pour être en phase avec l'objectif des Nations Unies tout en reconnaissant que la qualification, le mérite doivent demeurer les critères principaux de recrutement et de promotion.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, nous apprécions l'accueil fait par la Direction à l'évaluation des capacités opérationnelles de l'Organisation dans les situations d'urgence et le fait qu'elle ait accepté la majorité des recommandations, elle qu'elles sont soulignées dans le rapport du Comité. Nous sommes d'accord avec les recommandations du Comité sur cette question.

Pour terminer, la région Afrique demande l'approbation des rapports qui nous sont soumis. Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie tous de vos interventions très complémentaires les unes des autres et je donne la parole à Monsieur Lopes Da Silva pour des compléments d'information ou des réponses. Excusez-moi, il y a encore une demande que je n'avais pas vue, le Danemark a demandé la parole.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Observer for Denmark)

My delegation fully supports the intervention made by Spain on behalf of the European Union, and we would also like to underline that Denmark very much appreciates the activities of World Food Programme. As we are also quite a substantial donor to its activities, there should be no doubt about that, but I have a question regarding the procurement in 2009. From the website on 28 April, a very interesting piece was published (eight things you never knew about feeding the hungry) and in that press release, you could see that in 2009, 80 percent of World Food Programme food assistance was purchased in the developing world. At the same time, from the Food Procurement Annual Report 2009, you can read that in 2009, 80 percent of the 2.5 million metric tonnes was purchased in 2009 in developing countries, primarily India, Pakistan and Ukraine. As I believe that total food assistance in 2009 was some 3.9 million metric tonnes and as we know that a number of donors still provide their assistance in kind, I would just ask you to verify if you calculate these in-kind contributions within the share of food assistance purchased in the developing countries and whether this figure is only approximately 55 percent. Could you please verify that figure?

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Solamente quería aclarar que en el momento en que señalé las actividades que Venezuela cumple con el Programa Mundial de Alimentos en África por razones de la inicial de la primera letra de los países, en verdad trabajamos en Zimbabwe, en Malí y en Somalia.

En segundo lugar quería reiterar el respaldo absoluto al programa que desarrollan en Haití las tres agencias, FAO, IFAD y PMA. Este es un ejemplo de programa en el terreno bien importante que puede ser tomado en cuenta y que mi país valora, porque efectivamente, nosotros hacemos todo un esfuerzo, por contribuir también a levantar la situación tan difícil de destrucción por la que quedó azotada Haití después del terremoto.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie de ces compléments; il n'y a plus d'autres interventions? Monsieur Lopes Da Silva, je vous donne la parole pour apporter des précisions, des réponses ou d'autres informations.

Mr Ramiro LOPES DA SILVA (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme)

Thank you very much for the positive feedback from the Members of the Council today. Let me address two or three very specific questions, and if I may start with the last very specific question from Denmark. The figures we published are the figures of our procurement activities. So the World Food Programme, with the cash made available to us to buy purchased 2.6 million tonnes of commodities, and most of which were purchased in developing countries. So we exclude those commodities that have been provided to us in kind, whether they are from developed or from developing countries. So, we are essentially speaking about procurement activities, and we make purchases with the cash made available to us. I hope that thus clarifies, so in that context, 80 percent is purchased in developing countries. For those who are not very familiar with all the specifics, we tend to purchase most of the cereals and pulses we require for our programmes in Africa and we tend to purchase rice and most of the oil we require for our presence in Asia. This

reflects the different stages of development of the different continents. In the case of Latin America, we tend to purchase mostly in Latin America for Latin America.

As regards the two other very specific questions, on the food security cluster, we hope that at the margins of the WFP Executive Board in June, we can organize a session with our colleagues from FAO to brief the Membership. But, in February this year, both FAO and WFP, formally approached OCHA and in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in February, announced that we had been consulting each other and that we were now prepared to engage on this journey to create the food security cluster. Now, the food security cluster as you are aware is in the context of the humanitarian reform. The objectives of humanitarian reform was: for national governments to acknowledge they had a role to play and were not freelancers and for NGOs to play a substantive role in the context of organizing and managing the response. So the two organizations are, at this stage, going through the process of consulting our NGO partners, and, as you can imagine, food security involves a large number of NGOs. As this session is taking place in this room, somewhere else in Building D there is a meeting going on between the joint FAO-WFP team and a group of NGOs on actually pursuing clarification, terms of reference, scope and approaches. I hope that in about two weeks' time, we will be able to offer to the Membership of WFP a more in-depth progress report.

On the joint programme procurement activities, the three Rome-based agencies have agreed on a pilot. We have created a joint procurement team based in FAO, and includes staff from WFP and staff from IFAD. We are looking, at the moment, at a portfolio of joint procurement activities of approximately USD 100 million of activities that we have identified as being able to pursue jointly. We are pursuing those on the basis of lessons learned. We have harvested information from our previous joint tenders for travel, for banking systems and others. We hope that we will be able to, indeed, achieve efficiencies and savings in this process, looking at this portfolio and then looking at opportunities to expand further. An additional area that we are looking at is to see where we can possibly make more use of each other's facilities in the countries where we have programmes, in what we call our Country Offices, and see if we can in some cases generate cost efficiencies and savings by merging two Offices since it is primarily FAO and WFP that have Offices in the field.

On Haiti, and I should not even dare to speak about Haiti and the Task Force in the presence of the Deputy Director-General for Operations as the Deputy Director-General and my colleague, the Deputy Executive Director of WFP for Operations are co-leading the Task Force. But as you know, we had a plan for six weeks that was fundamentally an immediate response which involved the three Agencies. We are now in the process of developing a set of joint assessments to determine the future programming. We are still, however, continuing to look at opportunities where we can work together and one of those is for instance, an ambitious cash voucher programme in Haiti. Part of it is focused on the urban areas, but part of it also is focused on rural areas in an attempt to encourage those who are displaced from Port-au-Prince to stay in those rural areas. FAO and IFAD, but particularly FAO, have been playing an important role in defining the activities that we can jointly undertake.

I would like to thank the Membership for the comments and guidance we have received today from the Council. It provided WFP with additional inspiration for us to continue to pursue some of these main elements of our Strategic Plan.

I would like to conclude by expressing to the FAO Council our commitment to continue enhancing the collaboration within the humanitarian system with all the stakeholders. Our collaboration with FAO and IFAD is based on our mandate, and on our comparative advantage. I wish to express the World Food Programme's commitment to continue to do our utmost to ensure that our activities in the countries where we have food assistance programmes will respond to the country needs of national government priorities, and are, indeed, part of national programmes. We are committed to this permanent journey, were FAO, IFAD, and also WFP, aim at achieving excellence in our programming, in the way in which we provide assistance to those in need and in the way we govern and manage our available resources.

Mr Changchui HE (Deputy Director-General Operations)

I thank my colleagues for answering some of the questions that were addressed to the three Rome-based Agencies. I noted that a number of countries have appreciated and indeed stressed the need for continued cooperation and coordination between the three Rome-based Agencies.

I wish to supplement what our colleagues from WFP have provided. What I want to submit here is that, in addition to the ongoing cooperation, such as the Joint Senior Management Meeting which took place two times, a Joint Procurement Pilot and information and communication service, etc. which have been mentioned, there are a number of important things taking place in the recent past which were in the direction you proposed, which I should like to mention. One is the establishment by the three Rome-based Agencies of a Joint Task Force in February to support the Government of Haiti in the food security and related agriculture interventions after the earthquake disaster. This Joint Task Force prepared a joint Plan of Action for the three Agencies to ensure that food security is safeguarded on an increasingly sustainable basis in post-earthquake Haiti. The specific food security and nutrition planning for Haiti includes five key areas of support: short-term humanitarian intervention (food distribution to 2.5 - 3 million people in 2010); a national nutrition programme to prevent malnutrition, in particular for children; improvement of household food security and risk management; and, finally, enhanced national policies and institutions including a legal framework for food security on capacity development, both of decentralized and national institutions.

I should recall here that the cooperation has been very active and fruitful as many of you have already mentioned. WFP, as my colleagues mentioned, has transported over 670 tonnes of seeds and inputs for FAO from the Dominican Republic to Haiti, and IFAD has re-allocated funds also to this relief operation based on its existing programme there. In addition to this immediate joint appeal, FAO, WFP and IFAD have also joined in the field on the joint assessment which led to the preparation of a medium- and long-term investment plan at the request of the Government. This investment plan for food security and agriculture, which has identified a USD 721 million need for the next ten years, has already been incorporated into the Government plan and, of course, further follow-up action is needed, especially within the context of L'Aquila initiatives to find cooperation partners and donor countries for funding support for these programmes.

As regards the Horn of Africa, under the framework of IASC as mentioned by my colleagues just now, FAO and WFP have been entrusted by the Chair of IASC to develop a concept note for the UN System-wide collaboration involving NGOs and civil society organizations to work on food security and sustainable agricultures in a humanitarian context. This concept note is being developed on the existing strategy programme and existing intervention of partners, including in particular, the Secretary-General's special envoy report in 2007. The note has already been submitted to IASC.

The third important joint activity is the global food security cluster. Again, this is at the request of the IASC principals meeting. During that meeting, WFP and FAO jointly announced our commitment to enter into dialogue to establish a global food security cluster, built on, as you indicated earlier, the advantage of the two Agencies in working at country level. We are expecting to establish a FAO-WFP co-led global food security cluster cell. This is to ensure more predictable and more comprehensive responses to food insecurity within the humanitarian context. The two Agencies are currently working very earnestly in further developing this concept note, which has been, in principle, reviewed and agreed at the technical level. We expect to submit this concept note to higher levels for final consideration.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie. Je voulais justement dire en fin d'intervention que nous venons de vivre un moment important qui dépasse, et de loin, l'information entre le PAM et la FAO, mais qui montre tous les progrès et tout l'intérêt que nous avons les uns et les autres à mieux travailler en commun,

à faire plus de coopération, et aussi tout l'intérêt que vous avez montré les uns et les autres, à travers les nombreuses interventions, d'en être les acteurs.

Les équipes administratives du PAM et de la FAO collaborent pleinement mais il est aussi important que les États Membres et les délégations permanentes soient véritablement acteurs tout au long du processus parce que c'est comme cela que l'on peut en assurer la pérennité. Je dois dire, puisque c'est dans la mission du Conseil et de son Président de contribuer à la coordination, que j'ai déjà pris pour juin/juillet rendez-vous avec des intervenants du PAM pour voir comment avec les délégations et les États Membres nous pouvons encore aller plus loin sur ce sujet là. Je pense que cette heure que nous avons passée ensemble a été tout à fait profitable et je vous rappelle que, vendredi matin, nous aurons une discussion sur les partenariats et sur l'expérience d'Haïti, sur un plan plus pratique.

Entre l'urgence et la continuité, il ne faut pas qu'il y ait de rupture et il est important que l'on puisse continuer ce travail. Et puis, c'est important aussi parce qu'à l'extérieur de Rome on regarde et l'on dit souvent: "ces trois institutions romaines pourraient mieux travailler ensemble". Et bien, aujourd'hui, nous disons que ce n'est pas encore parfait, mais de gros progrès ont été faits et je souhaite simplement que nous puissions continuer.

Voilà Monsieur le Directeur adjoint le message que le Président voulait vous transmettre. Merci encore de votre participation ce matin.

IV. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (CONT'D)

IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (SUITE)

IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS (CONTINUACIÓN)

12. Open-ended Working Group on measures designed to increase the efficiency of Governing Bodies, including representation (CL 139/INF/7)

12. Groupe de travail à composition non limitée sur les mesures à prendre pour accroître l'efficacité des Organes directeurs, y compris leur représentation (CL 139/INF/7)

12. Grupo de trabajo de composición abierta sobre medidas destinadas a aumentar la eficiencia de los órganos rectores, incluida la representación (CL 139/INF/7)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose de continuer notre ordre du jour avec le point 12, qui porte sur le Groupe de travail à composition non limitée sur les mesures à prendre pour accroître l'efficacité des Organes directeurs, y compris leur représentation. Le document qui nous concerne est le document CL 139/INF/7. Je vous rappelle que la mise en place de ce Groupe a été décidée lors de la Conférence de novembre 2009, suite au report de la proposition faite par le Groupe des 77, représenté par la République dominicaine, d'augmenter de 49 à 61 le nombre de sièges au Conseil de la FAO. La Conférence a convenu que le Groupe de travail serait à composition non limitée et examinerait les mesures à prendre pour accroître l'efficacité des Organes directeurs, y compris leur représentation, et qu'il ferait rapport à la Conférence par l'intermédiaire du Conseil.

Le Groupe de travail a donc été constitué le 9 avril dernier, lors d'une réunion de tous les Membres que j'ai convoquée à cet effet. Sa composition, ses fonctions, ses méthodes de travail, ses rapports et son financement ont ainsi été définis. Vous trouverez les détails en annexe du document qui se trouve devant vous.

Les réunions du Groupe de travail ont été fixées en principe aux dates suivantes: le 13 juillet et le 23 septembre 2010, et le 22 février 2011.

Bien entendu, il n'y a pas de rapport d'activités en dehors de ce que je viens de vous dire. Donc nous n'avons pas de décisions à prendre, mais un échange de vues pour aller plus avant sur ce sujet. Je donne maintenant la parole à qui veut la prendre. L'Espagne.

Sr. Antonio LIZCANO PALOMARES (España)

Hablo en nombre de la Unión Europea y de sus 27 Estados Miembros, los Países candidatos a la Unión Europea, Croacia, la ex-República Yugoslava de Macedonia y Turquía también se asocian a esta declaración.

La Unión Europea da la bienvenida al establecimiento del Grupo de Trabajo de composición abierta sobre medidas destinadas a aumentar la eficiencia de los Órganos Rectores, incluida la representación. Este Grupo de Trabajo debe concentrarse en asuntos relevantes tales como el más eficiente y efectivo funcionamiento y revisión de los Órganos de Gobierno de la FAO, y en particular del Consejo, para permitir al Consejo que ejerza su nuevo papel como brazo ejecutivo de los Órganos de Gobierno de la FAO.

Recomendamos que este Grupo de Trabajo consolide el gran espíritu de propiedad y consenso que ha sido iniciado y desarrollado con éxito a lo largo de todo el proceso de elaboración y aprobación del Plan Inmediato de Acción.

También apoyamos que el Grupo de Trabajo de composición abierta no duplique el trabajo del Comité de la Conferencia para la Evaluación Externa Independiente y los asuntos tratados por los Órganos de Gobierno de la FAO durante este bienio, pero que sí actúe en consonancia con estos.

La Unión Europea toma nota del Calendario de Reuniones del Grupo de Trabajo de composición abierta, ya que sólo hay previstas dos reuniones en 2010. Apoyamos el trabajo entre sesiones para alcanzar los objetivos.

La Unión Europea querría que se circularan antes de la próxima reunión todas las contribuciones recibidas sobre este Grupo de Trabajo así como toda la documentación relevante como la actual representación de todos los Grupos Regionales en el Consejo. Por último, la Unión Europea espera informes sobre su trabajo el cual debería ser remitido a la próxima Sesión del Consejo.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Me estoy dirigiendo a usted en la oportunidad de solicitarle un derecho de palabra a la Representante de Argentina, Presidenta del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC) quien expresará la posición de este grupo regional sobre el tema que usted ha expuesto.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Observadora de Argentina)

Nosotros también, como GRULAC, damos la bienvenida al Grupo de Trabajo de Composición Abierta sobre medidas destinadas a aumentar la eficiencia de los órganos rectores, incluida la Representación.

Como GRULAC, nos vamos a referir únicamente a la nota enviada a usted, Sr. Presidente, a raíz de la solicitud realizada en la reunión del 9 de abril en la que nos pidieron propuestas sobre los temas que debería considerar dicho grupo. En este sentido, el GRULAC propone que el Grupo de Trabajo y de Composición Abierta examine la composición del Consejo y recomiende cambios en el número de sus puestos y en su periodicidad, analice de manera transversal la cuestión referida a los Comités Técnicos, y en especial a sus mesas. Nos referimos al Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos, el Comité de Agricultura, el Comité Forestal, el Comité de Pesca, teniendo en cuenta sus respectivas particularidades.

Por último nos interesaría que el Grupo considere el Calendario de Reuniones de la Organización y examine el funcionamiento de los diferentes Órganos a fin de contribuir a su mayor eficiencia.

Como Grupo Regional es todo lo que tenemos que decir por el momento y seguramente va a ser enriquecido por las intervenciones de los miembros del GRULAC, que son miembros plenos del Consejo.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

As stated in paragraph 8 of document CL 139/INF/7, the Open-Ended Working Group will have only three formal sessions from now until February, 2011. Therefore, the work plan of the OEWG

needs to be planned urgently and meticulously. In this connection, it would be advisable for the Bureau of the OEWG to meet as soon as possible in order to finalize the list of topics for submission to the July meeting of the OEWG subject, of course, to the provision of the two bullet points of paragraph 7 of the document.

We know that you requested suggestions from the Members about topics to be considered in the agenda of OEWG. Our colleague from Gabon has just made a proposal on their part. It is needless to say that the principal issue before the OEWG is the number of the Council seats. As this matter has been discussed exhaustively in Working Group II of the CoC-IEE in 2009, we feel no more time should be spent on repeating the positions taken by different regions during last year. Instead, informal consultations should be held among regional groups with a view to reaching an amicable solution to the problem, based on consensus and bringing that decision to the OEWG for approval. We think this could best be done under your leadership with the chairs of the Regional Groups. Your predecessor, Professor Noori-Naeini, tried it several times but unfortunately was not successful. We hope that you will be able to break the deadlock.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie des encouragements puisque, comme vous le dites, il faut réussir. Mais c'est bien dans cet esprit là que j'ai présidé ce Groupe et le résultat dépendra aussi de vous tous.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

As my colleague from New Zealand communicated to you, we are consulting on this among our region, and given the fact that our region, of course, is primarily not represented in Rome, it is taking us some additional time to do that. We are however, in a position to advise on the level of importance that we attach to this work, and our interest in making sure that the governance of this Organization is dramatically improved. Contrary perhaps to some of the other statements, we do not really see the size of the Council being the fundamental issue here. We actually see the title of the working group being the fundamental issue, which is the efficiency of the Governing Bodies. On that basis, our preliminary thought on this issue is that, like GRULAC, we think we should actually be considering issues around the Bureau size for Technical and Committees, given the wide range of different approaches taken in each Committee.

We would also be interested in this Group considering the chairing arrangements for the Technical Committees of FAO. The chairing arrangements vary substantially as well, whether they be independent or not, whether there are Vice-chairs or not, etc. We are also quite interested in looking at some of the efficiency aspects, and in that I would suggest that the timeliness of papers is a critical one. I know that even for this Council Session not all of the papers were available in advance.

We are also interested in perhaps talking about how there could be better prioritization of the agendas for these meetings, and perhaps focus on how we might be able to compress the time taken for these meetings. We have all acknowledged that the agenda for this Council is relatively light, and it would be good to see if we could have compressed it into three full days. Another area my region is quite interested in is the use of technology to facilitate the intersessional work of Committees. We have certainly started this work through the CFS with bulletin boards, other panels and mechanisms to facilitate discussion. We would like to see how that work could be extended to other parts of the Organization.

The last issue in addition to the operations of the Council which of course would need to be discussed, would be the transparency of working arrangements, especially how we might improve the transparency of working arrangements across the board in all the Committees to make sure that those non-Members of those committees are able to have full access to the decisions and discussions undertaken within them. I do not think there is anything secret in these Committees, I think we are there representing our entire region and anything we can do to facilitate the transparency of those Committees would be useful.

Ms Bettina CORKE (International Alliance for Women)

As this is the place to discuss possible changes, I wonder if I might, in order to change the present day failure of alleviating hunger and increasing food production in a proper manner, to increase domestic national economic growth and domestic food production. I would like to ask the Council how do they intend to do this when we are being presented with programmes based on existing programmes, and where is the point that we can make a change. Is it in the Immediate Plan of Action? For example is it possible, and in our view this must be done on behalf of women living and working in agriculture and in the rural areas, we would request that we be given a priority slot in any programming immediately that is being considered. We also would like not only to have a priority programme, but we would also like to be considered in financing programmes so that they can be funded properly. I would also like to ask your advice as to exactly how that can be done at this Council meeting. Is to be done in the form of recommendations? Where does this possibility exist for us in what you are discussing today about the effectiveness of the governance of the Council?

Mr Fazil DÜŞÜNCELİ (Turkey)

We understand the comments of delegations from various countries with regard to the Open-ended Working Group. We welcome the creation of this Working Group, and we appreciate its efforts to facilitate increasing the efficiency of the Governing Bodies. We would like to emphasize that one size would not fit all the Committees. The Committees have different natures, different responsibilities, different numbers of Members and different mandates and different sizes, so they should be given the flexibility to organize themselves, their Bureau and the functions and working methods of the Bureau. So in that respect, of course we would welcome a common framework for the functions of the Bureau. We would very much appreciate that, but in the meantime we believe that there is a need for the Committees to be flexible enough to organize themselves and their work. We had seen this approach in the report of the CCLM that we discussed yesterday, and we appreciate that. We should refrain from limiting the roles of the Committees, and allow them to organize themselves and not constrain them to a standard form and even a standard size.

Mr Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

As I do welcome this paper which reflects the discussions that took place in order to establish the Open-ended Working Group, I can see that we are tackling different details in this respect here, and we don't have sufficient time to examine all suggestions here. However, the suggestion from my colleague from Afghanistan is good, so let us prioritize our work without disregarding the issue of the size of the Council and the number of seats in the Council. This was one of the reasons why this Open-ended Working Group was established, but we should also take into account the need to increase and improve the efficiency of the Governing Bodies.

As my colleague from Afghanistan said, we should take into account the number of sessions scheduled for this task. I believe that three sessions may not be enough, although it says the "initial" schedule of the meetings, which means that we may look into increasing these meetings or sessions to study all of the related matters, should the need arise.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

The Africa Region is still consulting on this issue. Nonetheless some of the following views are being put forward. We are open to discuss most of the topics that our colleagues have tabled, including the size of the Council. We are open to look into improving the efficiency of the Governing Bodies, chairing of the Committees where the need arises, improving participation in certain Governing Bodies, transparency and also in decisions regarding the development of agendas.

We also concur with the need to re-examine the framework and structure of the Bureau, particularly to address the under-representation interest in the old structures where the size was a determining factor when the Membership was small.

Mr Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Corporate Services, Humanitarian Resources and Finance Department)

I realize that you are at the preliminary stage of your discussion on this topic, and my comments are therefore framed very much in that light.

The Independent External Evaluation recalled the fundamental role of improved governance for an FAO fit for the Twenty-first Century. On its part, the IPA that was approved by the 2009 Conference included many actions to improve Governance arrangements. So improved Governance arrangements are included within the 150 action items that were mentioned under Item 8 yesterday.

Management, of course, shall continue to support this process in view of its fundamental importance. This process primarily requires agreement between Members and decisions by Members very much along the spirit of ownership and consensus which has prevailed. Our role will be to support this process.

We have taken particular note of the emphasis that you have given to improving effectiveness and efficiency. I note that this includes areas where Management can facilitate your Governance work, regarding, for example, the timeliness of documents - indeed the availability of documents in a timely fashion in all languages of the Organization. We shall redouble our efforts in this regard, in line with your guidance.

We also look forward to supporting Members in examining the better use of technology in your Governance discussions. This will, of course, need to be done while preserving the multilateral character of your work and the transparency of your working arrangements, as you have yourselves mentioned.

So, in synthesis, I wanted to underline our commitment to this process, and you can count on our full support.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme je préside ce Groupe, vous me permettrez de faire quelques réflexions complémentaires. Premièrement, c'est la décision de l'ensemble des représentations de faire en sorte, pour éviter la concurrence avec l'activité du CoC-EEI, que le Bureau soit le même. Donc, je le préside avec les deux Vice-Présidents du CoC-EEI, ce qui permet plus de synergie afin d'éviter de faire deux fois la même chose.

Deuxièmement, il a été dit aussi que, compte tenu du temps qui nous est imparti – je vous rappelle que la période de deux ans qui sépare les Conférences est réduite de quatre mois –, il est important que nous soyons rationnels dans les discussions. Donc, toutes les contributions écrites qui peuvent précéder les réunions sont les bienvenues. Toutes les rencontres intersessionnelles entre les différents groupes qui pourront se faire sont les bienvenues. J'ai bien entendu que vous me demandez de les faciliter, ce que j'essaierai de faire de mon initiative ou pour répondre à votre demande.

De plus, le Groupe a également dit clairement que, compte tenu du temps, il ne fallait pas reprendre les discussions qui avaient déjà eu lieu et qui n'avaient pas abouti ou qui avaient été tranchées. La mission de ce Groupe, c'est l'efficacité des Organes directeurs, dont la question de la représentation, et non pas uniquement la représentation. Les questions concernant plus d'efficacité dans nos organes, les Comités et le Conseil, pourront être étudiées, en évitant les discussions qui soient en concurrence avec d'autres comités. Mais il peut y avoir des discussions à la marge du juridique et nous ferons appel, si nécessaire, au CCLM.

Le Représentant de l'Afghanistan, qui connaît bien cette maison, l'a sans doute dit avec un petit sourire, mais avec aussi la volonté de m'aider. La tâche de ce Groupe n'est pas facile, mais la

Conférence nous a chargé de le mettre en place. Donc il dépend de nous d'avancer. Nous avancerons à notre rythme, comme nous le pourrons, mais sachez que je suis déterminé à pouvoir faire un rapport positif à la prochaine Conférence. J'y mettrai toute mon énergie et chacun sera responsable de l'évolution de ce dossier. Et, comme cela a été dit, il faudra peut-être d'autres réunions. Nous avons volontairement limité à trois le nombre de celles-ci dans l'immédiat, et nous verrons s'il est nécessaire d'en faire une autre avant le Conseil. Mais avec le travail intersessionnel, avec les contributions des Présidents des Groupes régionaux, j'espère que nous pourrons aboutir.

Voilà donc sur la mise en place du Groupe et je souhaite à nous tous bon courage pour le travail à accomplir.

Merci aussi au Secrétariat pour ses contributions techniques mais aussi de rassemblement de tous les documents relatifs aux discussions antérieures, qui nous permettent de partir sur de bonnes bases et pouvoir aboutir. Merci à chacun de bien vous mobiliser sur ce sujet.

Je vous propose de passer au point suivant et je demande au Représentant de la Turquie, un de mes Vice-Présidents, de me remplacer à la tribune.

V. OTHER MATTERS

V. AUTRES QUESTIONS

V. OTROS ASUNTOS

13. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2010-2011

(CL 139/LIM/2)

13. Calendrier des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des principales réunions 2010-2011 (CL 139/LIM/2)

13. Calendario para 2010-2011 de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores y de otras reuniones importantes de la FAO (CL 139/LIM/2)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons examiner le point 13 de l'ordre du jour: le calendrier des sessions des Organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales pour 2010-2011, dont vous avez le détail au CL 139/LIM/2.

Les modifications apportées au calendrier en 2010 sont soumises au Conseil pour approbation, et le calendrier en 2011 pour information seulement.

En ce qui concerne le calendrier de 2010, il y a lieu de noter les deux sessions du Comité financier des 1^{er} et 2 février, des 31 mai et 1^{er} juin, le report de la session du CQCJ aux 28 et 29 avril, ainsi que le changement de date de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient qui aura lieu du 4 au 8 décembre. Il est en outre prévu que la prochaine session du CQCJ soit décalée aux 20 au 22 septembre. De plus, au début de l'année prochaine, le Comité du programme devrait tenir une session additionnelle, dont les dates seront convenues plus tard.

Le Comité financier n'a pas demandé de nouvelle session mais s'est interrogé, compte tenu du travail complémentaire qui lui incombe, si cela ne sera pas nécessaire. Une décision pourra être prise ultérieurement à cet égard.

Voilà les modifications qui vous sont proposées et je vous propose de les adopter, sauf si vous avez une remarque ou une question à poser sur ce sujet. La Chine.

Mr GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation examined the Calendar very carefully. As for the meeting of the COFI, we have some suggestions. The meeting will take place at the same time as some Asian festivals, for example, the Chinese New Year. So we were wondering if the timing or the schedule could be changed. Can we have the meeting one week earlier or a little bit later, because we are not sure if

the Capital could send delegates to attend the meeting. For Asian countries, the Chinese or Asian New Year is very important. It is like Christmas for Western countries. I know there is no meeting taking place during the Christmas period, so I hope the cultural heritage and habits of all Members can be respected as well. We noticed that the meeting of COFI has always taken place at the same period of time for Asian festivals. Last year and the year before last year we had the same situation. So it has some impact on our work. We really hope that the Secretariat can take this into consideration, so that we can have a successful meeting.

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

We agree with the proposal to hold a special session of the Finance Committee in late January to address the draft Programme of Work and Budget, and recommend that the meeting be no longer than two days without a Joint Session with the Programme Committee. In addition, we wish to propose moving the Hundred and Forty-third Session of the Council, which is currently scheduled for 15-21 November 2011 which is during the Thanksgiving holiday week for the United States, back one week, as like our colleague from China said, this would improve the ability for us from Washington to send the appropriate high-level delegation to attend to this meeting.

Sr. Renato MOSCA (Brasil)

Yo quisiera comentar tres puntos. En primer lugar, sabemos que este bienio es un bienio de transición, por lo tanto algunas fechas están un poco fuera de los entendimientos del Plan Inmediato de Acción. Quiero solamente reafirmar la idea de que tengamos las Conferencias Regionales en el primer semestre del próximo bienio, 2012-13, para tener posteriormente los Comités Técnicos, a efectos de tener efectivamente una coherencia de discusión de los temas que serán finalmente los insumos para la definición del Programa y de Presupuesto durante el Consejo.

El segundo punto se refiere al COFI, el Comité de Pesca. No tenemos problema de alterar la fecha, pero aclaro que ya hubo una discusión larga sobre esto. En América Latina el mes de enero es como agosto en Europa, es un mes que prácticamente no hay actividades oficiales, por lo tanto sería un poco difícil adelantar en una semana la reunión del Comité. Vuelvo a recordar la larga discusión que tuvimos sobre esa fecha, y que se convino buscar una manera que no sea tan tarde la sesión del Comité de Pesca para no tener sus insumos para el Consejo, y no tan temprano como es enero, ya que sería un poco difícil para los Países Miembros de América Latina.

En tercer lugar, aunque no se trate de una reunión oficial, sería importante prever con cierta antelación la reunión con los potenciales donantes. Se trata de la ocasión para la gobernanza de la FAO y la Secretaría de presentar y poner en conocimiento de los potenciales donantes las prioridades del programa ordinario de esta Organización a los efectos de que puedan aportar sus recursos para la realización y ejecución de dicho programa ordinario acordado por todos los Estados. Esto me parece que sería diferente de lo que se propuso inicialmente en enero-febrero y creo que tendríamos espacio en abril para que se realizara esta reunión, después del Consejo. En ese momento tendremos muy bien definidas las prioridades del programa, dado que ya hemos empezado con tres Conferencias Regionales que presentaron sus definiciones de prioridades a este Consejo.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Gran parte de lo que quería indicar y señalar lo ha ya señalado el distinguido Representante de Brasil en especial para el GRULAC. Hemos conversado mucho la necesidad de la coherencia y de, tal y como está previsto, entender que la reunión de esos otros Órganos Rectores, y las Conferencias Regionales ya lo son en este momento, puedan elevar sus planteamientos adecuadamente a la reunión del Consejo que esté prevista seguidamente de esas Conferencias Regionales, igualmente podría decirse para las reuniones de los Comités. El representante de Brasil lo ha indicado con detenimiento y sería para señalarles que seamos lo más condescendientes con la programación en el caso de nuestros Países Miembros de América Latina, además de lo que indicaba él de la celebración el Brasil, en verdad el año que viene tenemos los procesos de consolidación de los bicentenarios que iniciaron este año, así que todos

nuestros Países Miembros tienen bicentenarios el año que viene. Imagínese lo que pueda significar que adoptemos pues todos los criterios parecidos, que seamos todos condescendientes y tratemos de consensuar una efectiva agenda que nos permita traer al Consejo elementos de discusión y de debate para seguir avanzando en el Proceso de Reforma y en los procesos que consoliden la acción de nuestra Organización.

Ms PARK Sujin (Republic of Korea)

As a country which celebrates the Lunar New Year's Day, we fully support the suggestion made by China. After hearing the remarks by Brazil, we could understand that there might be some difficulties and other considerations, but we hope we can get some solution after discussion on all the points raised.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pas d'autres questions? J'ai entendu les souhaits de chacun et il est vrai qu'il est difficile de programmer les différentes réunions compte tenu des impératifs que vous avez évoqués. Pour les conférences régionales, il est vrai que l'on a intérêt à bien les programmer pour qu'elles s'intègrent bien dans le cycle et d'éviter, autant que possible, comme cela a été le cas cette année, d'en avoir trois en trois semaines successives. C'est difficile pour le Secrétariat, pour le Directeur général et pour tout le monde. Je pense que si l'on peut les étaler, mais les avoir avant un Conseil, cela nous facilitera les comptes rendus et les synthèses.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

There were a few suggestions to either anticipate or postpone some of the meetings, in particular the session of COFI and also one suggestion to either anticipate or postpone by one week the next session of Council. The Council may recall that the proposed calendar was discussed at length during the two previous sessions and the calendar we have before us was agreed by Council Members taking into consideration the comments that were made at that time, in particular the request made by the Chairperson of COFI to hold the session of COFI in the days that are indicated now on the calendar. That was made at the specific request of the Chairperson of COFI, and a number of technical reasons were put forward to explain why that date was decided. Similarly, with regard to the Council, as you just said, the dates are also set to take into consideration the time needed to prepare the documentation and the necessary lead time between Council Committees and the Council itself. This said, we have a procedure whereby if there are requests made to modify a calendar that was already approved by Council, those requests are considered by the Independent Chairperson of Council in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chairpersons of the relevant Governing Bodies. This is perhaps something that you could take up and, if you feel that it is feasible, you could consider those proposals.

With regard to the comment made by Brazil which is to schedule the meetings of the Technical Committees after the Regional Conferences, or rather the Regional Conferences before the Technical Committees, this is exactly in line with the IPA as well as the decisions made by Conference last year, and it is the intention of the Secretariat to take that comment into consideration. Finally, with regard to the meeting on extra-budgetary resources, you may recall that this question was discussed at the last session of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees and the decision taken was that they would expect the Secretariat to come up at the next session of the Joint Meeting with proposed dates for that meeting.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci de ces informations. Pour les deux premiers points concernant les changements de dates éventuels, je vous propose de ne pas changer dans l'immédiat et de regarder s'il y a des possibilités plus tard, car chaque fois que l'on établit le calendrier, on tient compte de la participation d'un certain nombre d'entres vous aux instances de la FAO, du PAM et du FIDA, ce qui complique les choses. Et puis, il y a aussi la demande de réunions informelles ou de bureaux qui s'ajoutent aux sessions formelles.

Donc on va regarder, mais pour l'instant, en termes de décision, je vous propose de ne pas changer le calendrier. Pour les derniers points évoqués par le Brésil, comme l'a dit Monsieur Mekouar, je crois que nous allons tout mettre en œuvre pour que cela s'imbrique bien, pour faciliter le travail de chacun, mais aussi celui du Secrétariat et de notre Conseil qui suit.

Je vous rappelle par la même occasion que notre cent-quarantième session du Conseil se tiendra du 29 novembre au 3 décembre 2010. Voilà pour le point 13 et je vous propose de passer au point 14 et de céder la présidence à un de mes Vice-Présidents, Monsieur Düşünceli de la Turquie.

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

14. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO (CL 139/INF/6)

14. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO (CL 139/INF/6)

14. Resultados de los foros con implicaciones importantes para el mandato de la FAO (CL 139/INF/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We are on the last part of this morning's session. We will discuss Item 14 on Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of FAO. In the document that you have in front of you is CL 139/INF/6.

In this part, we will have quite a number of speakers. In this regard, I recall that this item is on the agenda and in response to Action 2.31 of the Immediate Plan of Action, which calls upon the Independent Chairperson of the Council to ensure that the Council is kept abreast of developments in other fora of importance for FAO's mandate and that the dialogue is maintained with other Governing Bodies, as appropriate, in particular, the Governing Bodies of the Rome-based food and agriculture agencies. In this regard, I now have the pleasure to join me on the podium a number of high-level Directors and Assistant Director-General, Mr Hafez Ghanem, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department, Mr Nomura, Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Ms Annika Soder, Assistant Director-General, Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations. Then we will have Mr Alexander Muller, Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department, Mr Katz, Chief, Acknowledgement Management and Library Services, Office of Knowledge Exchange Research and Extension, Mr Abdul Kobakiwal, Chief, Integrated Food Security Support Service, Technical Cooperation Department and then finally we will have Mr Shakeel Bhatti, Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department. In this regard as the first speaker I invite Mr Ghanem, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department to make his presentation - the presentation on Decision of the Forty-first Session of the United Nation's Statistical Commission on Agricultural Statistics.

Mr Hafez GHANEM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

As you will all recall we had a discussion at the last Conference on the Global Strategy for Agriculture Statistics. As a quick background, there is a realization by everybody that the quality of agriculture statistics around the world has declined and this is creating a major problem both for policy-makers at the national as well as at the global level when we are making decisions on agriculture and food security. So there was this initiative to try to reverse this decline, an initiative taken by the UN Statistical Commission and where we, in FAO, worked with other partners in order to develop this strategy. It has been an intergovernmental process that was led by the UNSC and National Statistical Officers, and it also involved us and the FAO Governing Bodies, especially the Conference.

The main pillar of this global strategy is to agree on a minimum set of core data, data that all countries need to collect and maintain. The second pillar is to integrate agriculture into the national statistical systems, and the third pillar refers to the governors and capacity-building. What happened since we last talked about it, first, there has been a decision by the Statistical Commission in February to endorse this Strategy. So this Strategy has now been endorsed by the UNSC. At the same time, the Commission requested FAO, working with the Group of the Friends of the Chair, which is a group led by Brazil and where FAO and the UN Divisional Statistics act as a Secretariat and the World Bank as an Observer, to prepare an Implementation Plan and that would include technical assistance, training research, agenda and governance arrangements. Now we have started working on this Implementation Plan. The approach that was decided by the Friends of the Chair was to develop this Implementation Plan on a regional basis. So we then agreed on adopting a regional approach, where each region would have regional coordinators or drivers to implement the global Strategy.

At the same time, we need to build a donor coalition to support the Strategy and to have a Trust Fund, and obviously if we do that then we need to build a governance structure. We started in the first region where the Implementation Plan was most advanced, namely Africa. It is also the region where we need to do most in terms of improving agriculture statistics. We had a meeting in February in Tunisia to work with development partners on this implementation plan for Africa and where it was also agreed that the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa, the ECA, will act as regional coordinators in the implementation. We are now working on a Draft Implementation Plan, that will be presented to a Conference of all the stakeholders in Addis Ababa early August. We also plan to adopt the same approach in the other regions. At the same time obviously, we need to have a global consultation on the Implementation Plan and we are planning to hold a first consultation in Kampala, in Uganda in the middle of October just before the CFS. The objective is to have a complete Implementation Plan to be presented to the UN Statistical Commission in February of 2011, so the time is very tight.

I think it is very important for us to work together to ensure that this desired improvement in agriculture statistics actually occurs. This is the responsibility of the secretariat in FAO to provide leadership in working with other partners, which we are already doing within the UN Statistical Commission. It is also the responsibility of the Member Nations themselves. We are looking forward to countries giving much higher priority to the collection of information on statistics on agriculture and food security. Finally, the role to be played by donors is also important. In order to improve the agriculture statistics worldwide, we need to provide support to countries for capacity-building, for technical assistance and for development of methodologies, etc. So now what we need to do is to begin to implement the Strategy and actually achieve a significant improvement in the quality of agriculture statistics and information which, in our view, is a very important public good.

CHAIRPERSON

With your permission, we have now seven speakers, including Mr Ghanem. I propose that we listen to the speakers first and hopefully before lunchtime we can finish. Then we can perhaps have our discussions in the afternoon. If you permit me to proceed along these lines then I would invite Mr Nomura to the podium to give his presentation on involvement of CITES, known as the Washington Convention in the Conservation of Commercially-Exploited Aquatic Species.

Mr Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

Regarding our cooperation with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, called CITES, I can report that in December 2009 FAO convened the Third Expert Advisory Panel to review proposals to list commercially-exploited aquatic species in one of the Appendices of CITES. The Expert Advisory Panel advised that four out of six proposals had met the CITES listing criteria, i.e. three shark species, plus two sharks under the look-alike clause, and Atlantic bluefin tuna. The Panel rejected two proposals, i.e. one shark species, plus two sharks under the look-alike clause, and a proposal to list Red and Pink corals.

At the Fifteenth CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP15) in March 2010, the scientific conclusions of the FAO Panel were widely-acknowledged. Even so, none of the proposals regarding commercially-exploited aquatic species achieved the two thirds majority required for adoption. The main arguments by those countries that opposed the proposals were that CITES might not be the right instrument for regulating commercially-exploited aquatic species and that they should instead be managed by the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations or under the auspices of FAO.

As we explained in the last Council session, the CITES Secretariat has repeatedly challenged the science-based interpretation of the criteria for making decisions on listing commercially-exploited aquatic species agreed by FAO and CITES in 2004. In response to this problem, CoP15 established an intersessional process to clarify the interpretation of the CITES criteria for commercially-exploited aquatic species and requested FAO to participate. Another issue at CoP15 of relevance to FAO is the clarification of the interpretation of the so-called 'introduction from the sea' text in the Convention related to species listed by CITES and caught in international waters, including clarification of the role and responsibilities of Flag States and Port States.

Many CITES Parties at CoP15 emphasized the leading role of FAO and the Regional Fishery Management Organizations regarding the conservation and management of commercially-exploited aquatic species. In this context, the FAO Secretariat will strengthen its efforts to facilitate greater progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the associated International Plans of Action.

CHAIRPERSON

The next speaker will be Ms Annika Soder, the Assistant Director-General, Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations, and she will present the paper on the Intergovernmental Process and Interagency Cooperation in the United Nations General Assembly. Ms Soder, the floor is yours.

Ms Annika SODER (Assistant Director-General, Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations)

We have put a question mark on this slide because I think we all agree that UN collaboration is our most important partnership, but System-wide Coherence is a challenge for all the individual Agencies Members and as well as for the UN Secretariat in New York that is driving this process forward. You would also agree that the Rome-based agency collaboration is a very important feature within the framework of UN collaboration.

While we look at this quote, I would like to tell you why we want to talk about System-wide Coherence today. That is because we are all longing for UN Reform because we all want multilateral liaison to prevail. It is also because we want to highlight that there are two Reform Processes in the United Nations that maybe the more successful ones. One is the Reform Process on the humanitarian side in which the Technical Cooperation Department here in FAO takes very active and constructive part. The other one is the Delivering as One process with the eight country pilots. That is more related to long-term development, where we also play a very active part.

This is particularly topical now as we are approaching the Summit on the Achievements and Non-achievements of the MDGs. That summit will take place in September in the United Nations Headquarters. I mention this because System-wide Coherence and Reform are the systems' contributions to the MDGs because if we work better and more effectively we will also achieve the MDGs in an easier way.

There is a debate going on in the General Assembly on the Report of the Secretary-General Follow-up to General Assembly Resolution 63.311 on System-wide Coherence, and the purpose is to find ways to govern the UN operational activities for development. With more alignment in the field, there is a discussion underway on how to also govern operational activities at the central

levels. A Resolution will be submitted to the General Assembly in June and consultations are ongoing.

The issues relate to the discussion on an increased centralization of the governance process that would go against the wish to have country-owned processes with more engagement from all partners at the field level.

The other issue is how to improve the existing work in the Governing Bodies for them to contribute to more coherence, more coordination and more common views.

A third issue has been how the Specialized Agencies will be involved in the discussion since, there is very often a tendency in New York to focus on the Funds and Programmes, since they are a natural part of the UN Secretariat.

So the discussion is about how to strengthen the coherence between the General Assembly, the ECOSOC, the Executive Boards of the Funds and Programmes and the Governing Bodies of the Specialized Agencies.

Another discussion, since this is about operations, is how a possible Common Country Programme, owned by the Government and the UN system, can be aligned with the different decision-making mechanisms that we have in the Executive Boards of the Funds and Programmes and in our own Governing Bodies.

Another issue regards predictable funding and the discussion is around core-funding and non-core funding, extra-budgetary funding and assessed contributions. It is about stability and predictability of funding and it is about results based programming – all features that we are very well acquainted with from the discussions here in FAO.

There is also a discussion about better burden-sharing among donors, and a stronger link between performance and funding for the Agencies.

In the context of System-wide Coherence there is also a discussion about the establishment of a new gender entity that would cover the four different entities that we have today in the UN System that dedicate their work to gender. There seems to be agreement in establishing this new entity by 1 January 2011, but all the modalities are not agreed upon yet. For FAO, which is very active in gender work, as you know, this will not change much in the sense that we have good collaboration with all the four entities already, and we will also be able to work in any new setting.

As you know we have started to have regular Senior Management Meetings between the three Rome-based Agencies and you see in front of you a quote from the three heads when we met together in November. The most recent meeting took place in the middle of April, and there we took stock of several achievements that we made very recently.

Now I will get into the territory of colleagues. We have established a common procurement team for joint tendering and we hope that this will lead to more efficient and also more value for money-activities when it comes to tendering and procurement.

We are working on a joint communication plan on the MDGs in order to have, between the three of us, a joint approach to the MDG Summit to highlight the hunger target, rural development and agriculture.

We have made progress on the Early Warning and Food Security Information Systems where we had a joint evaluation and where there is now, as you know, a joint management response. That will lead, in our case, to a Corporate Strategy for Food Security Information Systems and also to a Joint Strategy between the Three Agencies.

As you have seen, we work very well together on CFS Reform and IFAD and WFP are taking part in that work as well as in the International Alliance Against Hunger. We are also already working to come up with a great concept for the celebration of World Food Day and World Food Week in October, where you will see all of us taking a very active part.

I also could not refrain from mentioning what we are doing in some countries. I will not go through all of them I will just mention to you that in Mozambique, in the context of the overall Delivering as One project, we have also identified our different roles and we had great coordination where WFP purchases maize and beans directly from smallholder organizations to promote food assistance situations where FAO provides technical expertise to help reduce post-harvest losses, agri-product poverty and put quality monitoring into place. IFAD is also involved in mobilizing funds through financial partners to improve access to credit for the targeted producers.

I would also like to mention that through Delivering as One, the harmonization of procurement for the whole UN System in Mozambique has led to USD 1 million saving on an annual basis, which I think is quite a success. Further results from the Delivering as One process will be presented in Hanoi in the middle of June, where the eight governments in the pilot countries will come together to discuss their experiences as the Independent Evaluation of those pilot activities is going on.

On Friday, we will also organize an Informal Seminar Session on this. Briefly on the One Billion Hungry project, since many of you did not have the opportunity to see it when we launched last week and also upon the request of Members we shall have another presentation. That will start at 10.00 am in the Green Room.

CHAIRPERSON

Now we move to the topic on e-Agriculture. For this I invite Mr Steve Katz, Chief, Knowledge Management and Library Services to present the topic on "e-Agriculture: enhancing the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Rural Development and Food Security".

Mr Steve KATZ (FAO Staff)

I refer to Section 4 of the document which refers to three fora in particular that are of importance to the mandate of FAO. They cover the area of information and communication technologies for development, rural advisory services and agricultural research and these are coordinated by the new Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension.

You will find that the three fora here are very much tied to a recommendation in the External Evaluation of FAO that is encouraging the Organization not only to be involved in the production and dissemination of knowledge, but also in the facilitation of knowledge exchange between FAO and Members and between Members.

The first of the three initiatives is called E-agriculture, and it is an emerging field that focuses on the enhancement of agricultural and rural development through improved Information and Communication Technology (ICT) processes. It was born at the World Food Summit and in the Information Society held in Tunisia in 2005.

In 2007, FAO, IFAD and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) launched the e-agriculture community of practice. There are currently 6 200 members from more than 150 countries. These are active on three levels. One through a knowledge-sharing web portal, another mechanism is through face-to-face meetings and there are also in-country interventions. As you can see on the slide, these are a few more details on the agriculture initiative.

The second forum I would like to mention is the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services. This was created at the Fifteenth Neuchâtel Initiative Meeting which was organized by FAO in Assisi in September 2009. This is designed to provide leadership and advocacy at the global and policy level to provide a voice, to enable dialogue and to promote a supportive environment for rural and agricultural advisory services. The inception period for this fora began in January 2010 with financial support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation and the European Union.

The third initiative is the Global Forum on Agricultural Research. This is a multistakeholder-led initiative that serves as an open and inclusive forum for dialogue and action on strategic issues in agricultural research for development. The Global Forum on Agricultural Research is formally established through the cosponsorship of FAO and IFAD and is administered as a Multi-donor Trust Fund Project, independently governed by a Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee.

As you can see from the slide, this Global Forum on Agricultural Research has four main roles. One is to serve as an advocacy for change, to strengthen the voice and demand of society for research and key development issues, the second is to help foster the institutions of the future, transform agricultural research extension and education institutions to meet future needs, the third is to encourage interregional learning with new partnerships that catalyze rapid and efficient change. The fourth role refers to the application of knowledge and the empowerment in overcoming the barriers of knowledge flows. More information, of course, is available on these initiatives at any time.

CHAIRPERSON

Now before lunch break we can proceed and we can accommodate another presentation. For this, I now invite Mr Alexander Müller, Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department who will make a presentation on “United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: Negotiations on climate change”.

Mr Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)

I would like to present to you the current status of the climate change negotiations after CoP15 in Copenhagen on the road to Cancún. As you all know the next meeting will take place in December this year in Cancún, in Mexico, and I would like to concentrate only on issues relevant for agriculture. Please note that agriculture includes agriculture, forestry and, to a certain extent, fisheries. So I would like to start with what was the outcome of the Copenhagen meeting. Very, very briefly you all know that there was no agreement on legally-binding instruments. However, and this is important for agriculture, CoP15 in Copenhagen extended the mandates of the two Working Groups - one is long-term cooperative action and the second one is the Kyoto Protocol, and it also took decisions on guidance for REDD activities. REDD is Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. So CoP15 provided the foundation for ongoing work in the Working Groups and gave guidance on REDD. This is important for agriculture because during the negotiations in Copenhagen, a consensus was reached on a work programme for agriculture within the Working Groups. This was not decided but the consensus was reached within all Member Nations of the Climate Change Convention and we are currently now trying to support the Convention in implementing this Work Programme. A mechanism on REDD was also negotiated and progress was made, but there was no final decision.

You all know that there was a political statement, the Copenhagen Accord and this was noted, and this is very important for political reasons.

I would like now to present how the work of the Working Groups and the Copenhagen Accord are linked to each other. There are some key features of the Copenhagen Accord. It has recognized a central role for REDD. REDD will be for central mitigation, and there is a clear need for incentives, for clear mechanisms to enable mobilization of financial resources from developed countries in this regard. Second, there was an announcement of new and additional resources for the period 2010-12, the so-called fast-start period. USD 30 billion were announced for this period as a fast-start and a goal was set of USD 100 billion per year, both through public and private funding by the year 2020. So there are a lot of negotiations among countries on how to achieve the goal of USD 30 billion for the first-start period and how to create institutional arrangements to make full use of the announced USD 100 billion per year from public and private funding by the year 2020. Some developed countries have already announced their contribution for the fast-start period - United States, Japan and the European Union, and we expect others to follow. So the

Copenhagen Accord is currently used as a mechanism to clarify what are the financial mechanisms for achieving the USD 100 billion per year in public and private funding by 2020.

A very very important issue is the Annex or the Appendix to the Accord. For the first time, developed and developing countries are asked to report on decisions taken in their fight against Climate Change. So developed countries are asked to report how they will implement emission targets by 2020, and they have to indicate to the Secretariat such targets by 31 January 2010. Developing countries, on a voluntary basis, are reporting how they want to achieve their mitigation action and what kind of support they need, and the deadline was also 31 January 2010.

We have now analyzed all the submissions and I would like to give you a very brief overview. As of 17 May, 12 developed countries and the European Union representing 27 Member Nations and 35 developing countries made a submission to the Copenhagen Accord which is collected in the UNFCCC Secretariat. We have analyzed the submissions by developing countries and what is very, very important is that 15 developing countries out of 35 have mentioned agriculture as one of their features sectors in reducing and eliminating greenhouse gas emissions. So developing countries have decided to use mitigation action in the sector of agriculture to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. This was a decision made by you, by the Member Nations, and we from FAO will now support the Member Nations, if they wish us to support them, in taking the appropriate actions. So what we are doing now is that FAO tries to bring together our experience in the REDD area and our technical experience in the agriculture area to support Member Nations in implementing what they have submitted to the Copenhagen Accord.

Let me first start with REDD, Reduced Emissions on Forest Degradation and Deforestation. Currently developed countries have pledged USD 3.5 billion for a so-called Readiness Phase, that is, being ready for implementation of REDD. Most of the money is included in bilateral agreements, but there are two multilateral initiatives. One is led by the World Bank, the so-called FCPF and another one is UN-REDD, a collaboration between FAO UNDP and UNEP. These two multilateral initiatives work closely together and both initiatives are ready to support countries in the implementation of the bilateral agreements. What we can see until now is that there is a very high demand for assistance from FAO, especially in the area of monitoring and what we call MRV, Measurement, Reporting and Verification Systems. FAO has taken the lead within the UN-REDD in Monitoring Measurement, Reporting and Verification, and we are currently supporting eight pilot countries. We also have requests from many other countries to support them in implementing these MRV systems. This includes a very close collaboration between the NR Department and the Forestry Department. We are currently establishing a joint team to support countries, and we have also managed to have the first country missions together with the World Bank so that both international organizations do joint work at the country level in supporting the Member Nations. A very, very important date is the next meeting in Oslo on 27 May when Norway has invited all countries and some international institutions, including FAO, to come to a meeting to further discuss the next steps in implementing REDD and in developing a financial mechanism. FAO is in close partnership with IFAD, the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, the CGIAR, and also farmer associations, in supporting the negotiations. This should only give you an overview of what we have done. I would highlight that FAO has organized together with IFAD, the World Bank, the CGIAR and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, the first Agriculture Day during COP15, and we are now requested to organize another Agriculture Day in Cancún in Mexico at the end of this year.

So overall, we can say that we have achieved over the last two years two very important issues. First of all, REDD is now positioned as a cornerstone of future mitigation efforts. This is agreed by all Member Nations and FAO is well placed to contribute to all these efforts through UN-REDD and in leading Monitoring, Measurement, Reporting and Verification issues. We support Member Nations as required and we have been successful in having agriculture recognized as part of the solution for the climate change. We know that there are multiple benefits for mitigation, for adaptation and for sustainable development. We are always making a strong case that mitigation and adaptation have to support sustainable development, and that adaptation has to support food security. There is no contradiction between fighting climate change and achieving

food security. We have to bring these together, and we have been quite successful in conveying this message at the global level.

Many activities will take place, beginning with the meeting in Bonn at the end of May till 11 June. The parties there, the Member Nations if they wish, could accelerate action to establish the agriculture work programme under the SBSIA. The FAO submission requested by UNFFCC has clarified procedural options. We have made proposals how a work programme on agriculture could be implemented and we have also identified possible elements of an agriculture work programme to stimulate party reflections and considerations in this regard. FAO can only act on request of the Member Nations since this is a country-driven process. But we are very, very happy that the Member Nations have asked us to make a proposal how to implement this agriculture work programme.

If the Member Nations decide to establish such a programme on agriculture, we will concentrate on technical, methodological, scientific and socio-economic aspects of a development-smart agriculture mitigation process. We want to bring together sustainable development and climate change. This is one of our main goals.

We will provide input if it is requested on how to establish institutions and architecture for agriculture within the Climate Change framework. If we bring together both activities, the work programme and the institutions, we can better support Member Nations in implementing their programmes under the UNFCCC and the Copenhagen Accord.

CHAIRPERSON

Mr Müller, thank you very much for your presentation.

Now it is almost lunchtime, and I feel that we should pause now. We shall begin again at 2:30 p.m. sharp to see another two presentations. Then we shall discuss the presentations in their entirety.

Thank you very much for bearing with us, and we will meet at 2:30 pm sharp.

The meeting rose at 12:34 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 34

Se levanta la sesión a las 12:34

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session Cent trent-neuvième session 139º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 17 - 21 May 2010 Rome, 17 - 21 mai 2010 Roma, 17 - 21 de mayo de 2010</p>
<p>SIXTH PLENARY SESSION SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>19 May 2010</p>

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.44 hours
Mr Fazil Düşünceli
Vice-Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 44
sous la présidence de M. Fazil Düşünceli,
Vice-président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.44
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Fazil Düşünceli,
Vicepresidente del Consejo

V. OTHER MATTERS (CONT'D)**V. AUTRES QUESTIONS (SUITE)****V. OTROS ASUNTOS (CONTINUACIÓN)****14. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO (CL 139/INF/6)**

(Cont'd)

14. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO (CL 139/INF/6)

(suite)

14. Resultados de los foros con implicaciones importantes para el mandato de la FAO

(CL 139/INF/6) (Continuación)

CHAIRPERSON

I believe to ensure the efficiency we should try to keep our promises. We are a little bit delayed for this afternoon's session, but I hope you enjoyed your lunch and you have come back here refreshed. Our speakers are ready to present their papers.

First this afternoon, I invite Mr Abdul Kobakiwal, Chief, Integrated Food Security Support Service, Technical Cooperation Department. He will present his paper on FAO's participation in the relevant conferences and meetings on South-South Cooperation.

Mr Abdul KOBAKIWAL (FAO Staff)

The first item is related to South-South Cooperation and the role of FAO and the South-South Cooperation at the national and global level. Later on, I will try to provide a very brief reference also to the role of FAO in food security team groups.

But let us first start with the South-South Cooperation. The South-South Cooperation programme, or initiative, was launched by FAO in 1996. It was launched within the framework of the Special Programme for Food Security, which I think many of you are very familiar with. The Special Programme for Food Security, as you recall was implemented based on your decision from 1994 – 95 to 2008 in 106 countries. The basic objective of that Programme was to help Member Nations on a pilot basis, to pilot ideas, and was basically targeted at improving production and productivity. The Special Programme for Food Security was actually executed by FAO, but nationally-implemented. The technical assistance to the programme was largely provided through the South-South Cooperation mechanism.

In 2002, we had an external evaluation of the SPFS, and this was the basis for asking FAO to launch what we call the National Programme for Food Security. For convenience, I'm calling it here the National Programme for Food Security, but as you will understand, as these are national programmes, they are called different names in different countries. But I just categorize them as the National Programme for Food Security and conceptually they are quite different than the SPFS. They are built on some of the results of the SPFS as well as many other activities, and they also vary in scope, both regarding availability and access. So it's very comprehensive in terms of coverage at the national level and they are quite large.

At the moment we started in 2002, the process has been rather slow, and I think it's deliberate because what we would like to see in this Programme, is for FAO just to facilitate. The basic idea is for the countries themselves to fully own this Programme at the technical, institutional and political levels. And that's why it takes some time, something like nine months to a year, to develop these programmes. I already said they are large, quite large, in scope, and they could be as large as several hundred million dollars. The individual programme could be implemented in five years, or ten years, depending on the country where they are located. As these programmes increase in size, the demand for South-South Cooperation has also increased. We have 18 programmes partially, or fully under implementation right now where the countries receive partial assistance from FAO, and there are 41 in different stages of formulation and approval.

South-South Cooperation, from FAO's point of view, is the supplement and complement to North-South Cooperation. I think this is a very important point to make. Second, it's very simple, and it is based on providing practical and easily understandable experiences shared between different countries, depending on their comparative advantages. Normally under this programme, the emphasis is on practical actions at the field level. That is the most important element of this programme and, therefore, the expertise provided is divided in two components. The largest component comprises the actual technicians, people who know how to do things, as well as experts who are helping the national coordinators of the National Programme for Food Security, or regional programmes for food security, in planning and programme activities countrywide. What are the operational modalities of this programme? Again they are very simple. They are based on a Tripartite Agreement. If a donor is involved, they become a Quadripartite Agreement. Who are the three parties? The three parties are, the recipient country, the provider and FAO. These are the three parties that take the decisions. The South-South Cooperation agreement is prepared jointly by a joint mission in the country to work for two to three years. The obligations and the requirements define the type of expertise required for who is going to do what.

The second step is very important. These people don't go for just a couple of weeks or a month, they stay there for two to three years. So the assignment is for two to three years, and they normally stay in the villages with the farmers, and I think that this is very important. Obviously it requires costs. Even if it is very cost-effective in terms of US dollars if we speak, the costs are still shared by the three parties that is, FAO, the recipient country and the cooperating country.

Now the cooperating country that provides the experts, in my view, assume the maximum amount of the cost because they provide their experts for two to three years. During these two to three years, they continue to pay their salaries at home and they are not taken off their books, so the continuity is there. There is a question of formulation for which FAO is normally responsible. International travel depends on the level of the economy of the country. If it is a the Low Income Food Deficit, FAO or a donor will assume those expenses. If the country is an oil exporter or a middle income level country, the country itself pays for these expenses. There is a monthly allowance that staff receive while on mission. The monthly allowance is USD 1500 per month for an expert, which implies someone with either a Masters Degree or a PhD, in terms of qualifications, and who also has at least ten years of experience. The technicians receive USD 900 per month. These expenses, depending on the status of the country, are either paid by the country itself or are shared by the three or four parties. And there is a one time installation grant which is paid to them when they arrive in the country which is about USD 450. There is also the question of medical coverage either provided by the country or by one of the parties in the agreement. The technical supervision of these experts over two years is normally the responsibility of FAO.

Now I have explained to you earlier that with the national and regional programmes for food security, we see the demand for the South-South Cooperation increasing. That gave FAO the idea of discussing programme with a number of our development partner country members, and request from them whether they would be amenable to enter into a strategic alliance with FAO in support of food security. The Strategic Alliance also has some new elements, with the provider countries assuming more responsibility in terms of South-South Cooperation.

The last item is very important, and that is to provide the possibility for the people from the recipient country to go to the cooperating country for training. This is very important so that we have a two-way flow.

I would like to say, in this connection, that the Government of Japan is very much involved in these training endeavours and has provided over USD 7 million in support under the inter-regional project that promotes the transfer of expertise from Asia to Africa. This has been especially helpful regarding project work on rice and aquaculture.

Where are we with South-South Cooperation? Let me explain that to you. Since 1996, 41 South-South Cooperation agreements have been signed. We have fielded over 1 400 South-South Cooperation experts and technicians who stayed for two to three years in recipient countries. With the Strategic Alliance, we have also made some more progress. The Strategic Alliance was

signed with China a couple of years ago. China has gone even one step further, and has provided USD 30 million to FAO to be used for implementing this programme. We have already, under the Strategic Alliance, formulated four programmes which will be signed very soon. One is already signed in Mongolia. There are two at the moment under formulation and there are five others that will be formulated between now and the end of the year. We have recently signed also a Strategic Alliance with Argentina that we would like to support, and also with Indonesia. And we are in quite advanced stage of discussions with Morocco. We are also discussing with many other countries as well.

Let me just very very quickly explain to you, after 14 years of experience, why we believe that the programme has worked and has been useful. The recipient countries have very much appreciated the fact that technicians have been working directly in the field and have been available to the farmers on a 24 hours-basis, because they lived there. The question of ownership by all parties has also been very important. That means FAO's role as a facilitator, with the recipient and donor, working together has been significant. This is an emphasis on actually doing something rather than talking about it. This is very interesting and people like that. These are high-level commitments on all sides and links with the ongoing programme. One of the successes has been because SPFS and NPFS can be implemented. You know what the requirements are, so it makes it a lot easier. And very important, is the fact that implementation costs are very low. Finally, the methodologies are understood by farmers and easily implemented.

At a global level FAO has actively participated in various meetings during the last 14 years on behalf of this Programme. Very recently, we participated very actively in a Conference in Nairobi and another in New York. We also participated at Expo on global South-South Cooperation, which was held last December, and also there was a meeting organized very recently by Colombia that we also attended. So FAO has been quite active. Many of our Sister Agencies are very happy to see the results of our Programme, and they have been requesting us to provide information regarding our experiences. We have very close collaboration and discussions with the UNDP unit for South-South Cooperation, and we will be providing them with the feedback on the many experiences we have had. We also had discussions with the World Bank because as you know the South-South Cooperation is of interest to many many bodies. So FAO's experience has been quite useful, and we will do a lot more along these lines.

I will quickly go back to the question of the Food Security Theme Groups which were established by FAO, IFAD and WFP after the CED meeting in 2006. The idea was that we would work together in the area of food security as a step forward, and it would also help us in coordinating activities among ourselves, and more importantly, exchanging information with each other. I am pleased to report to you that there are 55 countries that have such a mechanism. These mechanisms are not new, I would like to emphasize that. I know in the morning there were references to various mechanisms in place, but the idea is that the three Agencies, and others more because in some countries UNICEF and WHO are also involved and are working so that the UN can provide support with one voice.

CHAIRPERSON

Mr Kobakiwal, thank you very much for your presentation. Now we move on to the last speaker for this session. This is Mr Shakeel Bhatti, the Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, and he will present his paper on Developments Under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Mr Bhatti, the floor is yours.

Mr Shakeel BHATTI (Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

Thank you Mr Chairman and good afternoon. It is a pleasure for me to brief you on the progress of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and to keep the Council abreast of the developments under the International Treaty.

Progress with the implementation of the Treaty has been very rapid since the last session of the Council and I will highlight just three main developments for you which result from the implementation of the Treaty and which might be of most interest to the Council.

First, there is the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing for plant genetic resources of the Treaty, second, its Benefit-Sharing Fund, and third is dispute resolution procedures for which FAO has agreed kindly to act as the third party beneficiary of the multilateral system of the Treaty.

All these developments take place within the context of the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing of the Treaty, and its Benefit-Sharing Fund which are the two main operational mechanisms established by the Treaty. Under this multilateral system we have established a global gene pool which by now includes more than 1.3 million accessions of plant genetic material, including the 64 most important food crops for global food security. In the last 12 months we have had more than 440 000 transfers of genetic material within this system, and at present this amounts to approximately 600 – 800 transfers of genetic material per day within the Treaty system, that is, among the 123 Contracting Parties.

Access to the material in the multilateral system is facilitated in order to ensure food security through the exchange of basic food crops. When a product results from genetic material that was received from the multilateral system and when that product comes under restriction, for example when it is patented, then the recipient shall pay 1.1 percent of the net sales of that product to the Benefit-Sharing Fund of the Treaty. This Benefit-Sharing Fund then supports the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic diversity by farmers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Last year, the Treaty's Governing Body and the Fund already initiated the first 11 grants made for projects for conservation and use of plant genetic diversity.

I would like to highlight, as I mentioned, three main developments that have taken place most recently in the context of these treaty systems. The first one is that I am very pleased to inform you, this month we have received the first payment to the Benefit-Sharing Fund which results directly from genetic material transferred within the multilateral system of the Treaty in Canada.

Second, after the Governing Body of the Treaty adopted a strategic plan for the implementation of the Benefit-Sharing Fund last year with an objective of USD 116 million over a period of five years, I am grateful to say that the initial leadership investments into the Fund have been made, one just yesterday by Italy which has announced a voluntary contribution of USD 1.2 million on the occasion of the International Week of Biodiversity, and a contribution early this year by Spain of USD 2.2 million to the Fund.

Subject to the advice and the decisions of the relevant Treaty Committee and the Bureau of the Governing Body of the Treaty, these resources will now initiate the next project cycle of the Fund over the course of the next year. If it were decided to follow the advice that was received from a policy seminar held last year in Bari, and subsequent expert advice, then it is possible that this next round of funding of the project cycle of the Fund would apply the Treaty systems to facilitate the adaptation of the key food crops to climate change.

And finally, Mr Chair, the third development concerns the role that FAO has taken in the resolution of any disputes that might arise from the transfer of genetic material within the Treaty systems. Under the International Treaty, FAO will perform the function of the third party beneficiary on behalf of the Governing Body of the Treaty. The so-called third party beneficiary is a legal concept based on which entity who is not a party to a contract but for who's benefit that contract was concluded, has the legal right to enforce that contract. To that effect, FAO initially accepted an invitation by the Governing Body of the Treaty in 2006, and after approval of the final procedures for the operation of the third party beneficiary by the Treaty's Governing Body, and following the subsequent positive opinion of the CCLM and your subsequent decision, the FAO Council at its Hundred and Thirty-eighth Session approved, the third party beneficiary procedures and they are now fully operational. Thereby the third party beneficiary's function that FAO will perform witnesses the continuous commitment of the Organization towards the

International Treaty, its core principles and the implementation mechanisms that translate those principles into action.

And I would like to add that FAO, with the procedures and the Treaty's multilateral system, has created the first fully-operational multilaterally-managed gene pool which establishes full benefit-sharing and full dispute resolution in an operational system. Other UN Agencies now see the Treaty systems as a model. For example, the World Health Organization is developing virus-sharing and benefit-sharing mechanisms modeled on these treaty mechanisms for sharing of influenza virus streams.

So in summary, the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources is progressing rapidly and well, and if the operational budget of the Treaty allows, the current progress can be sustained and the main Treaty system components will be fully operational in the near future.

CHAIRPERSON

At this moment, I would recommend that you have your written statements ready and transmit them to the Secretariat so that the interpreters can interpret them easily, during discussion. I would recommend that once you take the floor you make your comments on all of these items regarding the seven topics. We will have your comments first regarding all these items, then we will give the floor to each speaker in order of their presentations.

M. Hassan ABOUYOUB (Maroc)

J'interviens par rapport à la présentation faite par Monsieur Kobakiwal. J'ai l'occasion de réaffirmer ici l'engagement du Maroc pour le développement de la coopération sud-sud dans le cadre des programmes nationaux et régionaux de sécurité alimentaire. À cet effet, le Maroc opte pour l'institutionnalisation de la coopération située en appui à un Membre plus important des pays en développement notamment des pays africains. Dans ce cadre un projet de lettre d'intention définissant les modalités pratiques et des formes d'appui de cette coopération a été élaboré et finalisé en étroite collaboration entre le Gouvernement marocain et la FAO, et sera approuvé incessamment.

Par ailleurs, il est lieu de souligner que le Maroc entretient d'autres relations de coopération tripartites impliquant d'autres organismes, notamment le programme sur la formation dans le domaine de la pêche et le machinisme agricole avec la CICA et cinq autres pays africains.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

As mentioned by our colleague from Morocco, Canada would certainly like to thank the Secretariat for the document, as well as the presentations made by senior FAO officials. As we have always indicated and strongly highlighted in the IEE Report FAO must ensure its appropriate focus in areas upon which it has a global competitive advantage. This is certainly evident in the examples that were provided during this agenda item.

Canada would like to provide its views and perspectives on four key issues; number one, the UN Commission on Statistics. FAO's work on the collection and dissemination of statistical information of food and agriculture represents a core element of the Organization's mandate and is a key strategic priority for Canada. In the most recent evaluation of FAO's statistics and mentioned by Mr Ghanem this morning, the evaluation team came to an overall conclusion that FAO's basic statistics programme was crumbling. Having said this, Canada does take note and is quite pleased with the extensive work which has been undertaken by FAO Management to improve this activity, as highlighted by Mr Ghanem this morning. We hope the inclusion of statistics as an impact focus area will also allow this programme activity to rebuild and assist developing and developed countries in improving their capacity and quality of the data being generated. In reviewing this item in the document, Canada would request that FAO Management provide a clearer assessment on how the various FAO partnership arrangements within the Global Strategy on Statistics is actually assisting on the implementation of the strategy itself. While the presentation did provide a timeline and some additional insight, Canada urges Management to

engage Member Nations at key points in time as to the progress achieved prior to the final submission in February 2011, possibly using Programme Committee as an option.

Item number two, regards the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Canada would like to acknowledge FAO's positive engagement in ensuring increased awareness and in highlighting the strong linkages between agricultural activities, climate change and its implication to food security; as was evident during the Copenhagen Conference last fall and reinforced by Mr Mueller this morning in his presentation. Further to the discussions that took place on the first day of the Council regarding CFS and in light of the meeting in Cancun at the end of the calendar year, Canada would very much appreciate FAO Management's view on how we can use the upcoming October CFS meeting to advance a discussion in addressing the challenge of adaptation to climate change and its impact on food security, both at the global, and of course, at the country level. This is a key potential topic that would consider current circumstances.

Number three regards developments under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. Canada would like to acknowledge and reinforce their support to the activities and the partnerships generated over the last few years in this extremely important domain. As this is the International Year for Biodiversity and as plant genetics play a very important role in areas such as food security and climate change, multilateral cooperation is of utmost importance and must be enhanced. Canada is very pleased to indicate that we have contributed financially to the Treaty, as mentioned by Mr Bhatti, as a direct result of the varieties we acquired through the Treaty's Transfer Agreement. This further reinforces the fact that the multilateral mechanism of the Treaty is working as intended.

Finally, issue number four deals with the involvement of SIDIS and FAO engagement. Canada would like to reiterate the importance of the positive relationship and the values of the initiatives undertaken jointly by the Secretariats of FAO and SIDIS. As such, Canada supports the excellent work of the FAO Expert Panel; We support the MOU between FAO and SIDIS and the current terms of reference for the panel. Our goal is to ensure that the best tool for management and conservation is used. Canada sees benefits in the recommendations provided by the FAO's Expert Panel as it focuses on science-based advice and provides some comments on implementation while leaving the remaining considerations to the state, as it should be. Although we understand at times, that SIDI recommendations do differ from those of the FAO Panel, as stated by Mr Nomura this morning, Canada does see value in the work of this Panel and therefore believes it should continue.

Canada would like to reiterate our support to the FAO Secretariat on strengthening its efforts to facilitate the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and its associated international action plans.

Mr Shobhan K. PATTANAYAK (India)

I take this opportunity to compliment the eminent speakers who spoke on different topics of importance. On the issue of agricultural statistics, I would like to commend FAO for taking positive and proactive steps to ensure that the quality of the information systems is improved. We all know that, as far as agricultural statistics are concerned, there is a robust mechanism to assess production and productivity of cereal and food grains as well as many other crops. In the case of horticultural crops however, the quality of information is not up to the standard.

We in India have faced the problem of assessing information systems relating to production and productivity of horticulture crops, especially relating to fruits and vegetables and aromatic and medicinal plants as well as tuber crops. They are all very important. Some of them are harvested twice a year, some once a year, some are grown above the surface, some are grown below the ground. It is very difficult. We don't have standard methodologies to assess their production. It would be of great help to Member Nations if the collection methodologies can be standardized and we can learn from each other's experiences as we cannot have accurate statistics without them. We have always looked forward to accessing FAOSTAT on the web since it has been providing a very important service to most of the Member Nations. But unless they are reliable, as

pointed out, they won't serve the purpose. So I would appeal that some sort of standardization is necessary in respect of horticultural crops, and that is also true for both "capture" fisheries and also fisheries from the Oceans.

Apart from this I would like to highlight that FAO is really playing a very important role in the development of the ICT. In India FAO's exchange programme is doing a commendable job, especially on behalf of the smallholders who do not have access to the regular mechanisms of information, either from the Government or the extension measures. We look forward to this as a solution and we have learned from each other's experience in controlling diseases and in trying to share the best practices. Smallholder agriculture has especially benefitted because of the exchanges of knowledge taking place through the web portal. Incidentally, these portals should be strengthened in every country of the world, and more and more knowledgeable people should be associated with this portal so that we learn from each other.

Apart from this, the GFAR has played a very important role. It has been outlined that it is a multi-stakeholder, layered initiative that serves as an open and inclusive forum for dialogue and action on strategic issues and agricultural research for development. We commend FAO for having organized the SFAR Conference in Montpellier just a month back, but we would like to see that it should not be restricted only to that forum. Such type of initiatives should take place at the regional level, as well as the sub-regional level, so that the SFAR system and the research institutions in each of the countries get geared up to meet the challenges which the farmers face today. It is unfortunate to say that the agricultural research institutions always speak from a pedestal. They are not fine-tuning themselves to meet the demands of the small-holders. So the research has to be action-oriented, and we have to ensure that this meets the immediate needs of the farmers. We can't wait for ages to find solutions to our problems, and I am happy that FAO and IFAD have got together for this purpose. We want SFAR to play a much more active role in the days to come.

On the issue of UNFCCC, today the fixation is more on emission reduction mechanisms, but I think this fixation should be replaced! We must think more about how to adapt ourselves to the new climate change because much of the agricultural areas have been reduced, and productivity is decreasing because of the adverse effects of climate change. Now what do you do if a particular crop is grown in a particular part of the country, and it cannot be grown anymore because there is a temperature rise or there is a flood, or there is something else? How do you meet the needs of the country under these circumstances? So we should rather, re-focus ourselves to meet that challenge. Of course, emission reduction is an important aspect which still needs to be taken into consideration. In the COP's, however, the fixation is primarily mental in nature is on emission reduction only and therefore we must give it a shift and a push to ensure that agriculture remains on the main agenda.

I am certain that I compliment FAO for taking forward these steps but in the COP system it should be our main agenda. I am certain that FAO will focus this in a much bigger way so that the countries stand to benefit.

On the issue of South-South Cooperation, we are very happy that a lot of work has been done but I am certain in the days to come more and more countries will join this partnership and will stand to benefit. On the ITPGR, it is a welcome development and there are mechanisms in place for not only accessing the genetic materials, but also for benefit-sharing and the implementation of dispute resolution mechanisms. We should not forget that many of the varieties which are in this world to day exist as a result of this treaty. They have been here for millions of years. Who is the custodian of this gene pool? They are the farmers belonging to the different countries of the world. They have protected this gene pool throughout the ages and carried it forward to the present world. So therefore the benefit should actually flow to the farmers who have jealously guarded these varieties over centuries. Therefore the Benefit-Sharing Fund should be re-focussed on how to adequately compensate the genetic resources which have been protected by these farmers for centuries. Unless they are rewarded I don't think they will have much of an incentive to continue to guard them. This is one mechanism but we must reward them so that more and

more of the farmers' varieties get into the system. The research institutes and the private parties who access them should be paying a better price for the genetic material than the national governments. These are some of my comments.

Mr Abdulatif Ahmed IJAIMI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Of the various subjects and topics that were presented, seven of them are valuable and deserve an in-depth debate. However we do not know whether they will be discussed technically because each and every one of those topics needs an entire session. Be as it may, in Sudan we believe that agriculture statistics are indeed, the most feeble part in the chain. Animal and plant resources statistics are very weak although they are the cornerstone of development since the planner who relies on feeble, weak statistics or unreliable statistics will plan exactly like those who do not plan at all because they will plan for failure. How can we plan with feeble and weak statistics? That is what happens in developing countries. We need reliable and strong statistics, as well as census of all animal and plant resources every ten years. However, when we look at developing countries we believe that these censuses and these statistics are not collated, not even over forty years. So those studies are made on a very weak basis, very weak foundations. The sources are very weak, and feeble, and this is why the plans elaborated cannot be relied upon to achieve development. We have to set up a fund from the partners of the agriculture alliance to improve the quality of statistics. Hopefully, this will achieve success and we look forward to FAO assisting us in setting up such an alliance fund for statistics. Indeed, FAO has a very strong comparative advantage in statistics and capacity-building. That is why we look forward to FAO giving us the needed assistance since investments and agriculture development require significant funding that is way beyond our capabilities and those of the different organizations. That is why we have to build capacities to collate information and to create statistics. FAO can help us make a bank of studies to be funded by the donors.

As regards climate change, we believe that developing countries are especially vulnerable and since they are primarily agricultural countries, they can indeed lower the impact and the adverse effects of climate change. However, the Organization can help us by raising awareness and helping us mitigate the impact of and adapt to climate change.

A last point, food security is not a matter of self-sufficiency any more. It is a matter that encompasses electricity, gas, infrastructure and agriculture inputs. The capability and potential of small farmers to interact with markets acquires a high importance so that those farmers can access them, sell their produce, and benefit from the proceeds. That is why it is so important for FAO to support small farmers in having access, as well as raising awareness of farmers on how to market their products through feasibility studies, competitive edge. This will assist those countries in achieving food security. We should focus on this matter including the interaction of the international community with national governments.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

This document CL 139/INF/6 which emanated from the IPA is a very useful document. I thank the Secretariat for preparing it. We also appreciate the presentation by members of the Secretariat. All the seven topics included in the document are pertinent to the mandate of FAO. We note that some of these documents will also be presented to the Technical Committees. For instance, UNFCCC will be presented at the COAG and also I believe there is an information note for COAG regarding crop and livestock statistics, so that will be also relevant. I am sure CITES will be covered by COFI and read by COFO. While recognizing the importance of all the seven topics, we wish to underline the following three topics:

First, we are pleased to see that the United Nations Statistical Commission has given its strong support to the FAO Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics. This Strategy is the positive response of the Economic and Social Department of FAO to the evaluation report that dealt with the work of statistics there. We also commented the work of the Statistics Division of the ES Department in the development of the Implementation Plan for the Global Strategy in the course of this year, as mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the document. We look forward to the

endorsement of the implementation plan by the Fifth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics, which should be held in Kampala in October this year.

The Implementation Plan of the Global Strategy which is to be differentiated by region, will go a long way in improving the statistical system for agricultural development in the rural sector at country level, which is currently fragile in many developing countries. Partnership, of course, is essential for the implementation of this Plan. An information note on the forthcoming COAG meeting, COAG 2010/INF/8, clearly spells out the efforts under which several organizational results will enhance the capacity of the developing countries in crop and livestock statistics within the COUNTRYSTAT Framework. As lack of funding is a major constraint, we urge potential donors to support national projects in developing countries for the creation of a strong and sustainable institutional base for agriculture and rural statistics. This should be possible, as support to statistics is included in the impact focus area for extra-budgetary resources. Moreover, a Global Trust fund will be the best mechanism for achieving this. In this connection, my country is fortunate. Afghanistan now has a comprehensive national project for three years funded by the EU to the tune of EUR 5 million and it is implemented by FAO. The aim of this comprehensive project is to build the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock in agricultural statistics, market information, agricultural economics, early warning systems and line-use mapping. The project will also provide assistance to the Central of Statistical Office of Afghanistan and to the Ministry of Rural Development in their statistical activities. The Government of Afghanistan is grateful to the EU and FAO for this valuable assistance.

Second, we commend the efforts of the Rome-based Agencies in the so-called E-Agriculture events which are designed to enhance the role of information and communication technology in agricultural development and food security. In particular, we appreciate the start of the Global Forum on Rural Advisory Services and the Global Forum for Agriculture Research. These are initiatives which can greatly benefit developing countries. We associate ourselves with India that GFRAS should focus on the needs of smallholders.

Third, we welcome FAO's active participation in the UN meeting concerning South-South Cooperation. With the rising trend in the capabilities of developing countries regarding policy analysis, technology and institutional expertise, in the agriculture, fisheries, forestry and natural resource management sectors, there are many opportunities for South-South Cooperation, and this is gaining momentum. For example, in my country the Government of India will assist in the establishment of a modern agriculture university in Kabul which, in turn, will oversee the modernization of 16 other agriculture colleges in the country. This assistance is estimated to be at USD 25 million. FAO is active in South-South Cooperation, especially in connection with the Special Programme of Food Security. We highly appreciate South-South Cooperation in the context of the Special Programme for Food Security. and based on the experience gained therefrom I think the time has come for this field of knowledge-sharing to be extended to FAO's other work, including emergency operations. In this connection, an independent evaluation of the ongoing programme of FAO's South-South Cooperation, including the mechanism for the Tripartite Agreement, may help in guiding the scope of FAO's future projects within this Programme. One area is the Tripartite Agreement, but through the other area FAO assists developing countries in assisting each other. These endeavours will not require tripartite arrangements.

Mme Martine VAN DOOREN (Belgique)

Bon, j'essayerai d'être brève comme vous nous l'avez demandé. Tout d'abord, je voulais prendre la parole pour remercier réellement la FAO. Je crois que ses exposés ont été un élément rafraîchissant de notre Conseil, ils nous ont permis de voir ce que faisait la FAO concrètement dans ce qui est vraiment son métier, c'est-à-dire, le travail normatif, la gestion des connaissances et le partage des connaissances. Je pense que ces exposés ont été intéressants mais évidemment comme nous n'avions pas beaucoup de temps, ils ont été un peu courts. Je propose donc qu'à chaque Conseil, on remette ce point à l'ordre du jour de manière à ce que nous puissions suivre ce que la FAO fait dans ces différents domaines.

J'ai maintenant quelques questions: concernant les statistiques, j'ai assisté récemment à une réunion d'évaluation des Objectifs du Millénaire et tous les intervenants mettaient en avant la question des statistiques et les faiblesses des statistiques. Donc, je félicite la FAO d'entreprendre ce travail de renforcement des statistiques et aussi, je l'espère, de renforcement des capacités dans les pays en développement. Je pense d'ailleurs que ce type de projet devrait être soutenu par les TCP, c'est exactement le rôle de la FAO. J'aurais une question cependant: vous savez qu'à l'OCDE il y a un programme qui s'appelle "Agenda vingt-et-un - Paris vingt-et-un" et je ne vous ai pas entendu mentionner une collaboration avec l'OCDE dans le domaine des statistiques. J'aurais voulu savoir s'il existait.

Deuxièmement, concernant l'ONUM, je vous remercie pour cet exposé et vous savez que de nombreux pays sont très attentifs à ce qui se passe. J'aurais voulu savoir ce qu'il en était de l'évaluation du système qui était prévu depuis longtemps et revenir sur un point que vous avez soulevé à différentes reprises, c'est-à-dire, la difficulté que rencontrent les organisations spécialisées des Nations Unies pour faire part entièrement du système. Je crois que c'est important que nous creusions ce point de manière à pouvoir informer nos capitales et aider éventuellement les organisations spécialisées des Nations Unies à surmonter ces difficultés parce que je crois que c'est un problème récurrent, depuis le début du système.

Troisièmement, encore merci aussi pour l'exposé sur les changements climatiques. Nous nous réjouissons que l'agriculture devient un thème vraiment intégré et que les climatologues acceptent de discuter d'autre chose que des questions purement climatiques. Vous nous avez démontré à maintes reprises que l'agriculture était un élément fondamental à la fois à l'impact du changement climatique négatif sur l'agriculture mais aussi le rôle que l'agriculture pouvait jouer. Mais je ne vous pas entendu prononcé le mot «biodiversité»; or hier nous avons assisté à Rome au lancement de la Semaine sur la Biodiversité. Je crois que ce couple "agriculture-biodiversité-changement climatique" est tout à fait fondamental et, donc, je vous proposerais de nous expliquer comment est-ce que vous envisagez d'intégrer réellement cette notion de biodiversité dans le changement climatique à la FAO ? Je vous remercie.

CHAIRPERSON

Now the list is growing as we hear more from the Members. Now I will mention the countries who would like to speak. We have Senegal, Mexico, Russian Federation, Cuba, and Indonesia and then we have Observers and Nongovernmental Organizations. So I would like you to be as brief as possible, and perhaps not repeat the subject matters that have been mentioned. You can, of course, emphasize points should you so desire. We continue with Senegal.

M Ndiobo DIENE (Sénégal)

Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président. A mon tour également, je voudrais remercier le Secrétariat de la FAO pour ces informations si importantes. Je partage un peu l'idée annoncée par la Belgique pour que ce soit un point qui revienne à chaque fois qu'on se rencontre pour nous donner des informations plus détaillées.

Je voudrais insister sur les statistiques. C'est vrai que tout le monde en a parlé, mais je voudrais insister sur un fait, nous avons fait des recensements de statistiques agricoles cela fait plus de dix ans. On est dans une phase où le processus de planification a changé dans beaucoup de nos pays, nous sommes dans des systèmes de gestion axés sur les résultats. Nous sommes en train d'élaborer des cadres de dépenses sectorielles à moyen terme pour le secteur agricole. Et, en même temps, on réfléchit sur une décentralisation du système des statistiques. À côté de cela, il y a aussi une réforme du système national des statistiques. Je pense que c'est important que Monsieur Hafez Ghanem soit revenu la-dessus, et nous partageons très hautement les informations qu'ils nous a données. Je voudrais surtout attirer l'attention sur le fait que nous sommes confrontés, comme le disait le délégué du Soudan, à des faiblesses des statistiques et on ne se rapproche plus simplement à la collecte des données des statistiques. Il faut non seulement collecter les données des statistiques, mais il faut aussi aller dans un sens où on a des structures

qui peuvent analyser les données des statistiques et, en même temps, participer à un processus de décentralisation.

Nous estimons qu'aujourd'hui, dans le cas de la décentralisation au niveau des régions, il est important que ce processus-là puisse aller de l'avant. Et je crois que la FAO peut apporter un élément important dans ce domaine-là.

Le deuxième point que je voulais également annoncer, c'est que nous saluons effectivement la cohérence qui existe entre les Agences des Nations Unies à Rome. Pour suivre cette cohérence, au Sénégal, nous avons également mis en place un point focal national pour ce qui concerne les activités de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM.

Le troisième point concerne le PSSA. Je crois que le Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire a fait des preuves importantes de succès. Au Sénégal, nous l'avons déjà expérimenté en 1996 avec l'assistance du Vietnam. Nous avons obtenu des résultats spectaculaires dans le domaine de la riziculture, de l'horticulture et de l'irrigation. Je crois qu'il est également important aujourd'hui que dans ce processus-là, comme le disait un délégué tout à l'heure, qu'on arrive à pouvoir enclencher aussi un autre processus de coopération sud-sud avec l'appui de la FAO pour justement consolider les acquis. Je crois qu'une chose est certaine, on a fait des progrès pendant un temps où il y avait la coopération sud-sud avec un pays coopérant. Parfois, consolider les acquis pose un important problème. Je vous assure que c'est quelque chose qu'il faudrait qu'on regarde de très près.

Sra. Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Quiero felicitar a todos los oradores por su importante trabajo en los diferentes foros aquí abordados.

Adicionalmente, aunque este tema no fue presentado en esta sesión, quisiera dejar constancia de que México está complacido en que en nuestro país se haya realizado con todo éxito la Conferencia Técnica Internacional de la FAO sobre Biotecnologías Agrícolas en los Países en Desarrollo y, particularmente, en el logro de los objetivos de la misma. Las experiencias y conocimientos compartidos y los avances obtenidos en dicho foro son de relevante importancia en este contexto y por este motivo que me atreví a mencionarlos.

Mr Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation would like to note with satisfaction that FAO is very actively participating in the major international fora in relation to the activities of the Organization and its area of competence. We hope that FAO is not just transmitting its knowledge and its expertise, but that it is also receiving its equal share of information, knowledge, expertise from other organizations, so that it can make the most of it. This is something which has been imparted through all the presentations made today. It has quite rightly been pointed out that the synergies among the activities of the various agencies of the United Nations must continue to be enhanced. Information exchanges, exchanges of data, as well as practices should also be pursued. Of course, in this regard statistical data is playing a very significant role. So it is quite significant that the very last session of the Statistical Committee of the United Nations actually named an International Day of Statistics. This is a very important aspect of activities for any organization.

Suffice it to say that the Climate Change Convention that Mr Müller was referring to, at least the IPPC *per se*, contain a great array of statistical information on land use, planning, agriculture, water, land, forest resources use. I think that climate is important for FAO to the extent that it has to adapt to the changes taking place. However, we must not forget that we also have to think about the footprint that we will leave regarding agriculture, water, land use and animal husbandry. I believe that, indeed, we are certainly taking into proper consideration what has been put into the Kyoto Protocol and the other instruments because at that level there are regular presentations that provide a wealth of statistical data.

Fish resources are also very important and here FAO is certainly consolidating approaches that are holistic as Mr Nomura quite rightly said. Very recently we adopted a very important

agreement which is going to have an impact on this, that is, on what the States can do to counter illegal, unreported and unregulated activities in this sector. We are certainly seeking to work on tightening up the fisheries codex.

On the 29 April, the Russian Federation signed an agreement in this sector, and we are going to be taking measures in the very near future so that our closest neighbours align themselves with this agreement.

Exchanges of statistical data and information collection, of course, are going to be of vital importance for those countries whose data collection and processing systems are not quite up to par, as is the case in various developing countries. However, in collecting data and information, FAO is going to necessarily have to pay close attention to the development of criteria because statistics also have a commercial value. In other words, some of the integral characteristics developed by FAO with national inputs, could be effectively applied in developing agriculture throughout the world.

We also believe that cooperation should also be fostered between the South-South Member Nations, and we would certainly promote their activities in this regard. Local communities are often fully cognizant of their capabilities and needs, and they should certainly be tapped for their inputs because their approaches to agricultural development is of undisputed value.

Retention and conservation of biodiversity are very important issues indeed. Very recently the Russian Federation proposed cooperation with FAO, and we have just developed a Memorandum of Understanding with one of the most important collections in the world, that is, that of the Vavilov Institute of Genetic Resources. We hope that scientists from many other countries who are already working with FAO will be able to participate in this work. Russia is also considering adhering to the International Treaty on Genetic Resources and this will undoubtedly contribute to retaining and conserving diversity in the way that agriculture's cultivation, crop and communities adapt to changes that are going on. Indeed this is work that has to keep going at various levels and it is necessary to turn to those who are the keepers of these genetic resources. That is what is important.

In concluding, I would just like to say that this is very important work which FAO is conducting with other organizations in the UN family, in its interests and in the interests of other Organizations. This can only be welcomed and supported.

Sr. José Arsenio QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

Ante todo deseo darle las gracias a los expositores por las informaciones que nos han aportado y quiero hacer, muy brevemente, sólo unos pocos comentarios sobre algunos de los temas.

Sobre estadísticas agrícolas, nuestra delegación ha estado al tanto de la aprobación de la estrategia de la Comisión de Estadística de las Naciones Unidas y deseamos resaltar la importancia del liderazgo de la FAO en esta cuestión. Nos parece que es importante que la FAO logre mantener el liderazgo en este tema dada su trascendencia y la necesidad de muchos países en desarrollo de acceder a la formación de capacidades y de recursos humanos para poder enfrentar todos los temas relacionados con las estadísticas. Todos sabemos que hay muchos países en desarrollo que no tienen las capacidades para procesar las informaciones, recopilarlas, procesarlas y calcular todos los indicadores necesarios para muchos informes de rendición de cuentas.

La delegación cubana cree que, dado el liderazgo de FAO en este tema, los Órganos Rectores de la FAO debieran buscar una forma atinente de entrar en conocimiento del plan de aplicación que debe ser sometido en febrero de 2011 a la Comisión de Estadística de las Naciones Unidas previo a su presentación, para darle su visto bueno.

A la delegación de Cuba le resulta agradable lo que está haciendo la FAO sobre el tema de Cambio Climático y su relación con la agricultura, más que los resultados obtenidos de la última Cumbre sobre el Cambio Climático fueron muy pocos. Nos interesa resaltar el papel que puede jugar la FAO en la ayuda a los países en desarrollo para enfrentar el Cambio Climático. Nos interesa recalcar solamente que, a nuestro entender, la FAO debe priorizar los temas de

adaptación más que los temas de mitigación. Creemos que a los países en desarrollo el primer y principal problema que les presenta el cambio climático es el problema de adaptación. La mitigación es una de las tareas que es responsabilidad de los países desarrollados. Por lo tanto creo que la FAO, en su apoyo a los países en desarrollo, debe concentrarse en la adaptación al cambio climático.

Sobre la Cooperación Sur-Sur, a nosotros nos gusta mucho y nos congratulamos con la presentación que se ha hecho esta mañana. Es una actividad que siempre hemos pensado que la FAO debe priorizar. Creemos que hoy la Cooperación Sur-Sur no tiene la prioridad que debería tener dentro del Programa de Trabajo de FAO. Ya lo han dicho algunos delegados, la Cooperación Sur-Sur y el trabajo de los técnicos de esta cooperación permiten que el trabajo de apoyo y de asistencia se pueda concentrar en las necesidades de los pequeños agricultores. Este es un resultado innegable y por eso creemos que la Cooperación Sur-Sur, el PESA y otras acciones que desarrolla la FAO, deben ser priorizadas con un mayor sentido dentro de la Organización. Por último, deseo reiterar el continuado apoyo de Cuba a esta iniciativa de Cooperación Sur-Sur. Ya hemos trabajado en algunos acuerdos tripartitos con un grupo de países, y estamos en disposición de continuar haciéndolo en el futuro.

Mr Dominicus SUPRATIKTO (Indonesia)

First of all, I would like to extend my highest appreciation to the seven speakers for their excellent presentations. My comment relates to the ITPGRFA. In his concise presentation, Mr Bhatti has reported to us on the progress of implementation of the Treaty. He mentioned some countries that have benefited from the Treaty in developing their national gene pool. In this regard, Indonesia can take a more active and strategic approach in promoting the Treaty, especially regarding countries that have not benefitted from the Treaty. I am able to guarantee that the beneficiaries of the Treaty are the small farmers. In addition, I am pleased to inform you that Indonesia is in the final preparation stages in hosting the Fourth Governing Body Session of ITPGRFA in March next year in Bali.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for your comments. Dear delegates, are there any other request from the Members to take the floor? I cannot see any, so with this we are very close to finish with the Members but at this stage I would like to seek your permission to speak not for long on behalf of my country, on behalf of Turkey.

Mr Fazil DÜŞÜNCELİ (Turkey)

We believe this report is an important document informing us about recent developments in international fora and collaboration of the Organization with other relevant international organizations. We appreciate the information provided, although we understand that an account of all specific topics and activities cannot be expected in this report, information as the paper focusses on issues which are of global importance would be appreciated. Since water is one of the key resources for agriculture, an establishment of an internal Water Platform should be. We need to follow-up on international developments regarding this matter. In this regard, significant events have taken place recently such as the World Water Forum, World Water Day, World Water Week, and we are aware that FAO has been involved in many of these events. We encourage FAO to strengthen its dialogue and cooperation on water issues with other international organizations and platforms such as UN Water, UNEP, Unesco, the International Water Management Institute, the International Water Research Institute and the World Water Council.

We believe the Organization can use its resources more efficiently by taking advantage of the expertise of other organizations in this field, and concentrating its work on the areas for which it has the capacity and comparative advantage. So this would be a statement with regards with this paper. On the whole, however, we support and we appreciate the work of FAO in all the areas that have been mentioned by all the speakers.

CHAIRPERSON

With this dear delegates we finished, the comments from the Member Nations and now we can ask the Observers if they want to speak, as well as the non-governmental organizations. We have Denmark who would like to speak on this topic, so we give the floor to Denmark.

Mr SØREN SKAFTE (Observer for Denmark)

I do not intend to engage in a deep substantial discussion on the issues. I think we will have opportunity for that elsewhere, but just to emphasize appreciation from my delegation on the selection of the seven topics, and also for the short, and even crisp, presentations made from the Podium. Of course, you could always discuss if other issues should have been included in the document but, as I said, I will not open a discussion on that.

I will take the opportunity also to mention that even if we have decided to include this type of information point on the Agenda of FAO meetings in connection with the IPA, we would also appreciate if the Organization, whenever there is an occasion, use other channels to inform us about these developments. It was very much welcome by us, to receive the letter of 5 May with the Report from the Senior Management meeting of the Rome-based Agencies as also mentioned by Annika Soder in her intervention. We are very pleased to learn that there seems to be an agreement among the three Organizations to prepare jointly for the New York MDG Summit in September, and put some emphasis on demonstrating that it is actually very useful to invest in agriculture and food production if you want to promote general growth in countries.

In that connection, we could maybe ask for the latest development in this regard, as I understand there was an important meeting on Monday and Tuesday in Dublin with the High-level Task Force to update the Comprehensive Framework for Action. I take it that it goes without saying that also FAO has been active in preparing for and participating in that meeting.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Observateur du Cameroun)

Nous sommes contents de vous voir présider cette session et nous avons également apprécié votre intervention de toute à l'heure. Permettez-moi déjà de féliciter le Secrétariat pour ce document qui nous a été présenté pour information et sur lequel nous sommes en train de débattre maintenant, parce qu'il est d'une portée tellement dense que nous apprécions vraiment l'idée qui a été émise de le discuter en session du Conseil.

Nous faisons nôtres la plupart des commentaires apportés ici par les Membres d'une manière générale, notamment en ce qui concerne le Plan d'exécution de la stratégie mondiale des statistiques. Nous savons que c'est le lieu pour nous ici de remercier la FAO, qui a engagé un certain travail dans ce contexte dans notre pays, notamment dans le cadre du renforcement des capacités. Nous savons que le travail ne fait que commencer, et nous pensons pouvoir entrer dans les discussions avec la représentation FAO-Cameroun pour pouvoir mener plus avant cette initiative, car vous savez que les statistiques agricoles sont très importantes pour les pays qui ont une économie orientée vers l'agriculture, parce sans elles il sera difficile de planifier. Nous voulons donc mettre en œuvre un travail de base qui puisse permettre de faire une assiette plus large de la mise en œuvre de la collecte des données statistiques. Celles-ci ne sont pas seulement collectées au niveau central, mais c'est directement chez les paysans et sur le terrain qu'on les collecte. Donc, il faut réfléchir sur la collaboration nécessaire à ce niveau avec la FAO et d'autres organisations pour pouvoir mener à bien cette activité.

Je voudrais faire un commentaire très simple à propos des négociations au niveau de la Convention cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques. Je voudrais relier cela avec les processus intergouvernementaux et la coopération inter-institutionnelle à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies qui a été présentée par AMICALE.

En fait, nous savons très bien que la question du changement climatique affecte, et de manière profonde, l'agriculture sur tous les plans. À notre connaissance, au niveau des institutions des

Nations Unies ici à Rome, le FIDA est en train de mettre en place une stratégie globale pour intégrer les processus liés au changement climatique dans tous ses projets et programmes.

Est-ce que ce n'est pas, dans ce contexte précis, une ouverture pour qu'une relation inter-institutionnelle puisse naître entre ces deux institutions? Je crois que c'est peut-être un élément de réflexion sur lequel j'aimerais peut-être entendre la voix de la FAO, et qui pourrait alimenter notre argumentation au Conseil du FIDA, car la stratégie va être discutée en septembre pour pouvoir argumenter pour une liaison entre les institutions.

Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président de nous avoir accordé la parole en cette dernière heure. Je m'excuse auprès de tous les Membres du Conseil d'avoir été un peu long. Je vous remercie.

CHAIRPERSON

Lengthy, but very useful. Thank you very much for the comment, Cameroon.

From the Observers are there any other requests, any further requests for the floor? In this case, I do not see any flag from the Non-Governmental Organizations. We have a request from the International Alliance of Women. So with your permission, I give the floor to the International Alliance of Women.

Ms Bettina CORKE (International Alliance of Women)

I appreciate the opportunity to intervene on behalf of the International Women's Movement at the UN which was one of the signatories to the UN Charter and has produced four UN Conferences on Women, has produced a Decade for Women, and has produced a Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, but still find themselves in an informal situation.

Thank you very much, I want to make one comment if I may, and request advice here, on the UN System-wide Coherence process. In the presentation, we were told that the International Alliance Against Hunger was playing an important role, and it seems to be the only NGO/CSO with FAO dealing with this matter. I analyzed the mailing list of the last communication from the International Alliance Against Hunger on 16 April 2010, and I discovered that of the 124 people listed, 59 of them were FAO, WFP or IFAD-related, that 13 were international business/international NGOs and government NGOs outside of the parameters of ECOSOC, and that only five were openly identified as NGO's in consultative status with ECOSOC. Of those, two were very, very narrowly focused on a religious sense, and one is very much identified with the chemical industry.

I would like to say that I think FAO should revise its methods of working, and I would like to make a suggestion, that, in perhaps considering how statistics may be improved, we should also look at the informal sector. We have found in the whole of our work in the women's movement that one of our problems is that most of our work, certainly in subsistence farming, is done in the informal sector. Neither the World Bank or the International Labour Organization recognizes labour or outputs that do not have a market value. So when you are discussing the problem of food security and considering that 80 percent of food is grown by women and poor farmers, and when you are discussing the need to bring in people at the survival level, I really think that you need to take a new track in what you are doing, if not it may not be what you consider to be scientifically-based in a technological sense.

I have discovered today, which I did not know before, that there is a Council Women's Working Group here, that is advising the Council. I would like to suggest that you look at the ways and means in which the women's international non-governmental organizations and the strengthened CFS and the strengthened work within the three Agencies can be accomplished.

In closing I would say that I have received an email today that there was a meeting recently, at the UN on ECOSOC IGOs, in which one of the major delegates to that conference said that he thought international NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC should not work any longer with UN Agencies because they were being completely neglected. So, I hope this does not happen

with FAO. But as it is, we must stop working in an informal for some, and a formal for others, manner and I think together we could solve this problem of hunger and food security.

CHAIRPERSON

Madam, thank you very much for your comments, and I am sure they will be taken on board. With this we have exhausted the list, unless there are any further requests for the floor. I see no further requests, so now I believe it is time to hear again from the speakers. I will give the floor to the speakers in order of the delivery of the speeches. I see according to my notes we have comments and questions to all the topics. So I shall start first with Mr Hafez Ghanem. Mr Ghanem, the floor is yours.

Mr Hafez GHANEM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

First of all, I'm really gratified that so many of the speakers stressed the importance of agricultural statistics. Everybody stressed the importance of agricultural statistics. I'm very gratified because as the Representative of Canada reminded us, the evaluation report for statistics said that agricultural statistics in FAO were crumbling. I am personally convinced that there is no way that we will be able to save the system and to move to the quality statistics that were needed by our Member Nations in making good policies and choices at the national and global levels unless we work together and unless the Secretariat makes statistics a priority, as well as Member Nations and the donor community. These are the three partners who need to give high priority to the area of statistics.

In order to improve the quality of agricultural statistics, the evaluation report summarized and simplified, and basically stressed three things: the need to strengthen the work of FAO Secretariat work on statistics and that includes strengthening the Statistics Division and improving coordination within the House; the need to strengthen partnerships; and, most importantly, the need to implement capacity development and support to national statistical systems. Unless we have good statistical systems in countries, whatever we do here will be useless. I used this expression in the Programme Committee once "If you put garbage in, you get garbage out". You need good data from your Member Nations. So I'm really pleased and gratified that there is this realization of the importance of this fact. On our side, we are already doing a lot of work as you have seen, including reallocating more resources to the Statistical Division, providing it with more capacity, including creating a coordination mechanism for all the statistical systems in FAO, promoting its work with all the partners and developing the Global Strategy for Agriculture Statistics. Now as we move towards implementation, we will need much more support from all Member Nations.

There were some specific questions that I would like to respond to. Both Cuba and Canada asked that we engage Member Nations of FAO in the discussions for the implementation of the Strategy before we present it in February of next year, and I think this is an excellent idea. We will have to find the right forum, but I'm sure that this will be found and, yes, we would like to keep you informed of what we're doing on the implementation side because we do need your guidance and we do need your support to be successful in implementation. There was a question from India on horticultural crops, on methodologies and standardization. It is a very important issue. The point is made, which is absolutely correct, that in most national systems statistics for horticulture are particularly weak, even within a system of weak statistics. Moreover, these crops are becoming increasingly important, not just for commercial and for agricultural development reasons, but also for food security and nutrition and that is why building and developing a methodology and standardizing approaches to horticulture statistics is part of the research component of the overall Strategy and will be part of the Implementation Plan. It is a very important point, and I thank you for raising it.

There was a question from Belgium on our relations with Paris 21. We work very closely with Paris 21 and it is a partner in the implementation phase of the Global Strategy. We have developed joint guidelines with Paris 21 on the integration of agricultural statistics in the National

Strategies for the Development of Statistics. Those guidelines that we have developed together are also being piloted together in three countries – Mozambique, Laos and Peru. Finally, just to emphasize this partnership, we have been invited to become a member of the Board of Paris 21, and we take our seat next month.

I would like to end with the point made by the distinguished Representative of Afghanistan. He said that lack of funding is a major constraint, and he is absolutely right. Actually, for me it is a paradox. Everybody seems to agree that statistics are a priority, but when we go out to try to find funding for capacity-development of statistics in developing national statistics systems, it is extremely difficult. It is not an area where we have been particularly successful in attracting donor support. So I really hope that through this global partnership that has been developed around agricultural statistics, through the Global Strategy and its implementation phase, we will be able to get more donor support and we will be able to develop this trust fund so that we can support the implementation phase and we can support activities in-country to make this improvement in statistics a reality.

CHAIRPERSON

Mr Ghanem, thank you very much for your response. At this stage, I would refrain from going into extensive discussions but I would like to hear from you if you have any specific burning further question for Mr Ghanem. Has he missed any of the questions you have asked? Personally I am satisfied, and I see that there are no requests for the floor, so that we can proceed with the next speaker.

Mr Nomura, it your turn to take the floor to respond to the matters raised.

Mr Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

We appreciate your comments on our relationship with the CITES Secretariat, our implementation of MOU between the two, and our Expert Advisory Panel meetings.

If I understand his presentation correctly Canada has stressed that the current terms of reference of the Expert Panel be maintained. He seems to be cautious about these Terms of Reference shifting toward the technical implementation issue at the expense of focusing on biological and scientific issues.

The Terms of Reference of the Expert Panel were agreed at the 2003 Session of COFI, and it specifically said that for each specific proposal the Panel shall assess each proposal from a scientific perspective in accordance with a CITES biological listing criteria.

As regard the technical aspects of the proposal in relation to biology, ecology, trade and management issues, as well as to the likely effectiveness for conservation, for the Panel to address technical issues is still completely in line with the ToRs. The question probably arises as to the extent of technical issues which the Panel should be addressing. This particular issue was discussed at the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade which took place at the end of April in Buenos Aires. At that time most of the delegates requested the Panel, subject to the availability of funds, to also address more technical and implementation issues, but at the same time unanimously cautioned that it should not be done at the expense of continued or improved quality of biological and scientific analysis. I think it was very constructive direction that was given to the Secretariat, and the Sub-Committee was very happy with that.

If I understand correctly the delegation of Belgium referred to the lack of biodiversity in relation to Climate Change and I am sure that Mr Müller will respond to this comment in a more comprehensive manner. However, as far as the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department is concerned, we think conservation of biodiversity is central to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Climate Change has major implications for inland and marine biodiversity and we are therefore giving it very high priority in the work of our Department. In the view of the Secretariat, the core approach to ensuring the resilience of aquatic eco-systems is to ensure effective implementation of the eco-system approach to fisheries, thereby maintaining diverse and healthy eco-systems best able to adapt to changing environments.

Lastly, we are very much pleased and encouraged by the recent signature by the Russian Federation on the Binding Agreement on Port State Measures to combat IUU Fisheries.

Ms Annika SODER (Assistant Director-General, Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations)

My first comment regards the International Alliance Against Hunger and the observations made by the International Alliance for Women. The International Alliance Against Hunger is a partnership, and not an NGO as we all know. It is a combination of the four Agencies here in Rome and national alliances, some of them with NGOs in them, some of them with Governments in them, some of them with the private sector in them. So it cannot be looked upon as an NGO. We expect to take a new and even more important role now in the context of the Committee on Food Security. Upon the request of the Bureau of the Committee on Food Security we are organizing a Workshop with the National Alliances later this year to further see how the National Alliances can play a role in food security. As regards the mailing list mentioned, I have not seen it. I assume that the activity of colleagues in the four Agencies here in Rome, in relation to the alliances is very promising indeed. We have so many colleagues taking interest in that work. Certainly, it was not a mailing list meant for the members of the alliance itself, but I will look into this and get back to you on.

Further to the questions on the One UN, first regarding the evaluation of the eight country pilots that are doing Delivering as One, I should like to say that this evaluation is an independent one from the UN System with the eight governments playing a key role. It is not ready yet, but we know from the preliminary studies that have been made that there has been an upfront cost for the one budget, for the one programming and so on. This is something that FAO can also testify to because we are so small in the field that when we were to take part in big activities regarding programming, we had to put in some extra resources in order then to benefit from the One Programme since many donors are willing to give to the One Programme. So in the end, we benefited from it and we think this will come out also in the evaluations. Also the evaluations are very likely to show that the transaction costs of the Governments in the eight country pilots were reduced and this is, of course, a very important gain. Finally, we do not think the evaluations will provide concrete development results on the ground. It is too early, since we have only been doing this exercise for about two to three years but, of course, that is the main idea behind the Delivering as One process to have more streamlined work that will produce more results for less money.

As regard the role of the Specialized Agencies, what I was referring to was the situation where the four Executive Boards of the four Ex-Com Agencies could work together very closely so closely that the Governing Bodies of the Specialized Agencies that are also in other locations (we have the three of the four Ex-Com Agencies in New York) could be excluded from playing a pro-active role in the development of Delivering as One. I do not think that this is a danger anymore, but this was something that we feared. Of course, it is important that all of us that work with Specialised Agencies, Secretariats and Members also address these issues with our colleagues in New York, with capitals and so on. In general, I would like to that we are now a big family between Ex-Com Agencies and Specialized Agencies. So I am not saying that there is a big problem there, but we have different business practices and our technical role was initially being adquatly addressed. Now I think that all Agencies are moving upstream meaning that we want to work more in capacity-building, and more in policy development. So this is a general development in the UN where, of course, the Specialized Agencies are well-positioned because this has been our role all along.

I thank Denmark for the comments on the One UN, and in particular on Millennium Development Goals communication that we are doing within the UN framework and with the other two UN Agencies here, IFAD and WFP.

Mr Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)

First of all, I would like to thank all Members of the Council and Observers for comments and input to this debate. I would like to start by underlining what many of you have said, that Adaptation to Climate Change is a major issue. This was brought up by Canada, India, Belgium, the Russian Federation, Cuba and others, so we will, within the Working Group on Agriculture, make a very strong comment regarding Adaptation to Climate Change. We know that small-scale farmers especially have to face new challenges and they need appropriate information. They also need technical support in order to be able to adapt to Climate Change. This is also my response to the comment made by Belgium and others - biodiversity is essential. We will not be able to adapt to climate change if we do not have the genetic resources. Here we are in a really difficult situation because we all know that Climate Change is threatening biodiversity. There is a dramatic loss of biodiversity. We see threats to eco-systems and, at the same time, we know biodiversity is needed to adapt to Climate Change. Therefore, we have to develop strategies to conserve biodiversity for Adaptation to Climate Change. Here, additional financial resources are urgently needed. This is one of the really pressing issues in the Climate Change negotiations, but I have to say, until now it was not really recognized at the highest levels.

Let me continue with the second comment. From my perspective, there is a close link between mitigation and adaptation. The degree to which agriculture has to adapt in climate change is very closely linked to mitigation efforts. It makes a huge difference if farmers have to adapt to an increase of two degrees centigrade in temperature or to four or five degrees, so we have to ensure that all mitigation efforts at the international level also include an adaptation component. We have to avoid a situation where mitigation does not support adaptation or, even worse, conflicts with adaptation. So we need an integrated approach, and this is what we try to achieve in the Working Group for which we have now provided new input and which will meet at the end of May and the beginning of June in Bonn.

Additional comments were made regarding the fact that we need more awareness-raising on Climate Change. Sudan raised this issue. This was one of the reasons why together with IFAD and other partners in the CGIAR system, we organized the first Agricultural Day in Copenhagen. We have to bring to Ministers for the Environment all necessary information, and we have to raise awareness that without integrating food security in the climate change negotiations, they will not be successful. This is one of the big challenges, to develop a coherent approach at the national and international levels between environment and agriculture. So this Agriculture Day in Copenhagen, and next in Cancun, is a very, very good mechanism to focus on partnership with our UN partners at the highest level.

There was a question raised by Turkey as to why we have not really presented and highlighted all the important international events related to water. We would be happy to do so in one of the next meetings because over the last two years we have made significant efforts in participating at international conferences related to water. Agriculture is the biggest user of renewable water resources, and we will not solve the problems of providing water for growing urban areas without looking into how to provide enough water for agriculture. So we will be happy to present what we have done over the last few years, and also present the first steps regarding the Water Platform.

My very last comment is linked to the opening question of Canada, that is, whether CFS should look at the linkage between food security and Adaptation to Climate Change. As I tried to explain in my first answer, there is a very close link between adaptation and food security. We need adaptation to a changing climate, and we will not achieve food security if we are not successful in adapting to it. However, you have decided that the CFS Bureau will make the proposal as to what should be put on the Agenda, so allow me to send the question back to you. If the CFS Bureau wants to include it on the Agenda, then we will be happy to provide information that will facilitate the discussions.

Mr Steve KATZ (FAO Staff)

There are only a couple of comments on these issues. First, there were a couple of general observations that came from the Membership in general on the importance of sharing best practices, the vital role of information and data exchange and access to knowledge. As you know, this is one of the core functions of FAO in the new Strategic Framework, and also including statistics within that domain of work. We are working very closely to support that. Specifically on the access to knowledge, we have the intervention from the distinguished delegate from India referencing to solution exchange, which is again one very good example of how knowledge exchange can work very effectively. We see this is a model that enhances FAO's role as a facilitator of knowledge-sharing, and one that we can learn from and use as a methodology for replication in other countries. Regarding the Global Forum for Agricultural Research, there was also a comment from India on having the regional and sub-regional perspectives. In fact, these are key components of GFAR. Reference was also made to the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development. The lead up to that was done through regional and sub-regional consultations and also through the engagement of small-holder farmers. Farmers are an integral part of the GFAR system. I think that also addresses the same comments made by Afghanistan. I think that covers the areas that came up from my intervention.

Mr Abdul Kobakiwal (FAO Staff)

We had very few comments and suggestions, and we will just mention those. There was a comment from Afghanistan regarding the need to extend South-South Cooperation to other activities of FAO including emergencies an evaluation of the South-South Cooperation to provide further guidance in improving the programme and how best to provide assistance through bilateral deals. We have taken note of the need to extend South-South Cooperation to other programmes. We are having discussions with Argentina regarding their involvement in some emergency activities. So something we have done, but indeed we need to do more.

With regard to the comments from Senegal, I should like to say that as time was very short, I did not go into many details. The question of consolidation is very, very important. In fact, the MPFS which is based on the consolidation of the results of this PFS that we have had. Indeed that is the direction in which we are going and it is very important for us.

With regard to the comments from Cuba, on the need to accord high priority to the programme, I think the South-South Cooperation is receiving high priority globally now. This is very, very important. It is playing a very important role in terms of complementing and supplementing North-South Cooperation, so Cuba's point is well-noted.

Mr Shakeel BHATTI (Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

Thank you for your questions, and I appreciate your comments on the International Treaty. I would like to briefly respond to two questions that were raised by Belgium and India. Belgium had asked how the International Treaty integrates with the biodiversity theme, especially this year in the International Year on Biodiversity. Here, I should like to point out that there is a very strong integration between the International Treaty and the biodiversity theme overall in terms of institutional integration and in terms of treaty to treaty relationships between the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity. This relationship is fundamental to the Treaty, beginning with Article 1 dealing with "Objectives" which says that they are exactly those of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and that they are to be achieved in harmony with the Convention. So we maintain a very close working relationship with the CBD and its Secretariat, regarding joint activities and work plans and mutual attendance of our respective intergovernmental processes.

Then the second level is that of the broader awareness-raising and outreach in terms of the International Year on Biodiversity 2010, and here the Treaty has been very actively involved.

There will be a High-Level Roundtable on the Treaty hosted by the Government of Italy during the International Year on Biodiversity late this year.

Secondly, this week there was the 'Settimana della Biodiversità' here in Rome. After yesterday's announcement that Italy will continue contributing to the Treaty there will be further events, including a call to action on biodiversity on Saturday and a panel on adapting to climate change, whose importance in ensuring that small-holder farmers were able to adapt to climate change was especially highlighted by Cuba. Here, the Treaty is making its contribution by ensuring the ability to adapt the key food crops in its multilateral system to climate change.

Finally, at the more local level, we will have to increase and improve information-sharing and information flows on the Treaty's work and progress. We shall have a briefing for Permanent Representatives, as in the past which will also, particularly, focus on the Treaty in the International Year of Biodiversity.

I would like to very briefly respond to the very valuable comments raised by India on the importance of farmers who are essential to the Treaty as both the custodians of the plant genetic diversity that the Treaty governs, and as beneficiaries of the Treaty systems. Here there are two main parts of the Treaty that I would like to refer to. The first is Article 9 on "Farmers' Rights". This Article is the only provision in public international law, in a binding international treaty, that recognizes Farmers' Rights. This Article, states that farmers' rights subject to national law and policy and to countries priorities consist of three rights. The first is the right to protection of traditional knowledge related to the use of the plant genetic resources covered by the Treaty. Second, is the right to participate in benefit-sharing of the benefits that arise from the use of the genetic material and third, is the right to participation in decision-making over plant genetic resources at the national level.

The Governing Body of the Treaty adopted a Resolution on Farmers' Rights which, subject to availability of resources, would also foresee consultations on Farmers' Rights to be held this year and next.

The second provision in the Treaty that I would like to refer to is Article 18 on the "Funding Strategy," where Article 18.5 states that priority shall be given to projects and programmes that support farmers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition who conserve and use plant genetic resources. Pursuant to that provision, the Benefit-Sharing Fund of the Treaty that I referred to earlier today is already supporting and funding projects run by farmers and farmers' associations in Peru, India, Kenya and so on. Furthermore, the next round of the project cycle would assist farmers in developing countries to adapt to climate change by both sustaining their livelihoods and conserving the biodiversity and plant genetic resources that they have maintained.

Mr Lubomír MICEK (Slovak Republic)

Thank you very much Mr Chairman. I would like to thank the Secretariat for the very qualified presentations and the very good answers to our questions. We learned a lot today but, we would like to know more. We would like these Presentations to continue and to be better for the future, so my question is very simple. Would it be possible to receive your Presentations and some more links to these very important items to Permanent Representatives Website?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Yes, Sir, we can make those available on the Permanent Representatives Website as soon as possible.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, indeed, to the Secretariat and to the speakers and to all of you. I think we have had a really fruitful and useful discussion. At this stage, we are a little bit late but I would like to summarize these debates. On the whole, I think we can commend the Organization and the Secretariat for its efforts to represent the Organization in the international arena and to keep

agriculture high in the global agenda. I think that we can say that we have emphasized the importance of the work on fisheries, genetic resources, e-learning, Climate Change, South-South Cooperation, and the statistical work of the Organization.

Special emphasis was given on the value of statistics and the knowledge exchange services of the Organization, and it is recommended that the Organization intensify its efforts to improve its capacity in statistics and information exchange services at Headquarters and also in the Members Nations.

In conclusion, we all think that this Item was very useful, and it is recommended that such items should be included in future sessions as required.

Similar papers are also recommended for the sessions of the Technical Committees. So with this, if you do not have any other requests for the floor, I can declare that this Item is concluded.

Now we have the Item 15 before us. As I understand, we do not foresee a presentation but you have the paper before you, the paper CL 139/INF/4 to be discussed under the Item 'Any other matters'.

V. OTHER MATTERS (CONT'D)

V. AUTRES QUESTIONS (SUITE)

V. OTROS ASUNTOS (CONTINUACIÓN)

CHAIRPERSON

So, I am sure, you have studied this paper and I would like now to ask if you have any comments on this paper to which the Secretariat would respond upon request. Is there any request for the floor on Item 15?

There is no presentation for this paper. This paper is for your information, but if there is a request for discussion we can allow this, there is no problem. If not, we will wind up for the day. So, once more, I ask if there is any delegation that would like to open discussion on Item 15? So I see no request for the floor, and this is why I thank you very much indeed for your cooperative and constructive comments. At this stage, we are almost at the end of this Session, but I see a flag raised from Angola, Angola would like to take the floor.

M. Carlos Alberto Amaral (Observateur de l'Angola)

Merci de m'accorder la parole. Je m'excuse d'être le dernier mais c'est une courte intervention. La FAO a augmenté les pouvoirs des Conférences régionales auquel participaient l'Amérique latine et l'Afrique. J'aimerais savoir pour la prochaine Conférence, quelle sera la participation du Président au niveau du Conseil et de la Conférence? Quel est le format, le protocole à suivre? Par exemple, pour participer à la prochaine Conférence, il faudra mettre un point dans l'Agenda du Conseil pour la participation du Président. C'est parce que maintenant le Président Indépendant du Conseil à un mandat de deux ans et devra faire un Rapport pour le Conseil et pour la Conférence.

Ce sont des informations que nous avons besoin, car l'Angola à la Présidence de l'Afrique.

SECRETARY GENERAL

I understand that this item is not really on the agenda of the Council for this session. As was indicated when item 8 on the IPA was discussed, there will be reports from the Regional Conferences to the Council at the next session of the Council, which will take place at the end of November. At that time, this matter should be discussed.

CHAIRPERSON

Secretariat, thank you very much for this point. I think it is clear now. Dear delegates, this brings us to the end of this Session but before we close I think that the Secretary General has an announcement to make for tomorrow.

SECRETARY GENERAL

Yes, actually I have a few announcements. The first one to say that the sound recordings of the proceedings of the session are available in the language of delivery on the Permanent Representatives Website to which all Permanent Representatives have access.

The second announcement regards the Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee will meet tomorrow morning in the Lebanon Room at 9:30 hours. The Drafting Committee papers have already been distributed, and the other Drafting Committee papers will be posted on the Permanent Representatives Website as they are ready. They will also be available tomorrow in the Lebanon Room.

The third announcement regards the adoption of the report of the Council. The tentative time for the adoption of the report will be indicated in the Order of the Day tomorrow. Should there be any changes to that timing, it shall be communicated to Members in the Order of the Day that will be posted on the Council Web page as well as on the Permanent Representatives Website.

And finally, to recall what has already been mentioned several times today, on Friday morning between 10:00 and 12:00 a.m. there will be an informal briefing on partnerships, as well as on Haiti, that will take place in the Green Room. The agenda for that session is available on the Permanent Representatives Website. The briefing will be preceded by a short presentation on the One Billion Hungry Campaign. So all Members are cordially invited to this event, to be followed by the briefing on partnerships, at 9:30 hours on Friday morning.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Secretary-General. Dear delegates, I think that everything now is clear. Have you heard what has been said by the Secretary-General? Or do you have any questions with regard to these arrangements? I understand that it is all clear, we can check on the Website, and we can pick up the Order of the Day tomorrow morning.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

I'd like to ask the Secretary-General to repeat the time that we will start on Friday. Will be at 9:30 or 10:00 a.m.?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Ten o'clock for the briefing. But, before the briefing, there will be a short presentation on the One Billion Hungry Project. So, yes around 9:30 - 9:45 a.m.

CHAIRPERSON

So it is recommended to be there at 9:30 a.m.

With this, dear delegates, thank you very much for your contributions and comprehension.

The meeting is adjourned for today. Thank you very much.

The meeting rose at 17.07 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 07

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.07

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session
Cent trent-neuvième session
139º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 17 - 21 May 2010
Rome, 17 - 21 mai 2010
Roma, 17 - 21 de mayo de 2010**

**SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

21 May 2010

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 13.57 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 13 h 57
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 13.57
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, bonjour. Je déclare ouverte la septième et dernière séance de la cent trente-neuvième session du Conseil de la FAO.

Je voudrais, avant de commencer, remercier Monsieur Düsünceli, Vice-Président, de m'avoir brillamment suppléé durant la dernière séance car je n'ai pas eu l'occasion de le faire officiellement.

Nous allons donc maintenant procéder à l'adoption du rapport. Vous vérifiez bien, vous devez tous l'avoir, que vous avez le document de référence CL 139/REP et j'invite Madame Muchada du Zimbabwe, qui a présidé le Comité de rédaction, à présenter le rapport.

Madame, vous avez la parole.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (CL 139/REP/1 - CL 139/REP/10;
CL 139/REP/12 - CL 139/REP/14)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (CL 139/REP/1 - CL 139/REP/10;
CL 139/REP/12 - CL 139/REP/14)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME (CL 139/REP/1 - CL 139/REP/10;
CL 139/REP/12 - CL 139/REP/14)

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Chairperson, Drafting Committee)

Allow me, on behalf of the Drafting Committee of Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session Council of the FAO, to table the report of the said Committee.

On 20 May, the Drafting Committee met to discuss the 14 items of the Agenda (CL 139/DC/1 to CL 139/DC/14). We undertook exhaustive discussions of all the items and reached agreement on all.

The documents before you therefore enjoy the consensus of the entire membership of the Drafting Committee, but I wish to draw to your attention that there is a typographical error on page 3 of the document CL 139/REP/7 paragraph 5, line 7. The sentence states "It noted an estimated funding shortfall of USD 3.1 million in 2012 to complete the expended project" and the word that should be changed is "expended". It should read "expanded project". If there are other typos of this nature of the draft report and/or translation misinterpretations, delegations are kindly requested to communicate them to the Secretariat so that they may be corrected in the Final Report.

I therefore submit the Report for your consideration and approval *en block*.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the colleagues without whose support and active contribution I would not have executed the assignments to everyone's satisfaction.

As this is the last session of the FAO Council with you, I wish to thank you all and the FAO Management and Staff for the support and friendship we have shared during my tour of duty. I will depart sometime in summer. I have learned a lot from every one of you. This has influenced my perspective on multilateral duties and on the universality of the FAO mandate within the United Nations family. Goodbye, arrivederci, thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Madame Muchada, vous nous avez dit au revoir mais vous restez quand même pour l'adoption du rapport.

Je voudrais adresser mes remerciements et félicitations à vous, Madame Muchada, et aux Membres du Comité de rédaction pour le travail exceptionnel et long que vous avez accompli.

Il me semble que le projet de rapport devrait rencontrer l'agrément du Conseil, compte tenu de la densité du travail. S'il y a des corrections à faire, comme vient de le dire Mme Muchada, aux versions linguistiques, je vous prie de les communiquer par écrit au Secrétariat afin qu'elles soient prises en compte durant la finalisation du rapport.

Cela étant, le Conseil souhaite-t-il adopter le rapport de la session en bloc? Y a-t-il des observations à ce sujet? Canada, Mexique, Jordanie, Japon, Espagne. Le Canada, vous avez la parole.

M. Kent VACHON (Canada)

Je m'adresse au nom de l'Amérique du Nord. Tout d'abord, on constate que le rapport est, comme vous l'avez dit, long et même énorme, étant donné que nous venons de passer à travers une des réunions du Conseil les plus légères dans l'histoire de la FAO. Nous avons eu les rapports des Comités, lundi et mardi, mercredi a été consacré à des points d'information et maintenant nous sommes confrontés à un problème.

Ce n'est pas du tout une critique ni du Comité de rédaction ni de sa présidente, je dois dire qu'ils ont accumulé dix heures de travail et il faut savoir prendre du recul. A l'époque pré-réforme de la FAO, ces dix heures représentent un investissement en interprétation simultanée pour ne pas parler du temps et de l'énergie de nos collègues qui en font partie.

Monsieur le Président, c'est un gaspillage de temps et de ressources qui n'aide aucunement à la gouvernance de notre Organisation. Ce n'est pas de votre faute. Monsieur le Président, car vous n'avez pas vu les ébauches avant qu'elles ne soient présentées au Comité. Comme je l'ai dit, ce n'est pas non plus la faute du Comité de rédaction, qui a fait ce qu'il pouvait avec les ébauches fournies. Non, c'est la faute du Secrétariat, qui a fourni des ébauches non conformes au PAI, action 2.22. A l'avenir, le Canada espère que les ébauches seront succinctes et ne couvrent que les conclusions, décisions et recommandations telles qu'on l'entend, ici au Conseil, dans les sommaires de nos discussions sur chaque thème et des engagements pris suite à nos discussions. Les ébauches et le rapport final ne devraient pas caractériser des discussions sans issue ni des points donnés pour information seulement. A l'avenir, les ébauches devraient passer par vous et vous devrez assurer, en tant que Président, leur conformité avec le PAI et, suivant ce que le Conseil a décidé, avant qu'elles ne passent à un Comité de rédaction.

En plus, j'aimerais suggérer que le "*Opened-ended working Group*" (le Groupe de travail ouvert), pourrait fournir un rapporteur pour vous aider au lieu d'un Comité de rédaction.

Sra. Emma Maria José RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

En primer lugar deseo agradecer a la Embajadora Muchada por el documento que nos ha presentado y al Comité de Redacción por haber hecho los esfuerzos que entiendo fueron obtenidos durante todo el día de ayer para poder presentarnos este documento, bastante largo, como se puede ver de manera efectiva. Yo quisiera referirme a varios puntos.

El primero es que la delegación de México sigue considerando muy importante que el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos tenga ya un reglamento.

El segundo tema que es nosotros, México, quiere contribuir con el talento y la experiencia de las mujeres mexicanas a la FAO. Queremos ofrecer nuestro apoyo a la participación de las mujeres que también está ligado con la importancia de la distribución geográfica equitativa en esta organización, donde mi país actualmente se encuentra sub-representado.

Un tercer punto es que, como todos sabemos, el Comité de Redacción negoció en inglés y tenemos como resultado el texto en inglés y efectivamente, como ya mencionó la Presidenta del Comité de Redacción, habrá que enviarle al Secretariado las correcciones en los otros idiomas. Me refiero al documento en español CL 139/ REP/7, párrafo 13, relativo al tema de los Emolumentos del Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Este texto tal cual se encuentra en

español no refleja, y al contrario cambia, el sentido del texto en inglés, por eso es que considero importante y debe corregirse. Y por su puesto de haber alguna otra observación de traducción se la haremos llegar al Secretariado.

Un cuarto punto, sólo de reflexión, es que cuente con el apoyo de la delegación de México para los trabajos que usted encabeza, a través del Grupo de Trabajo de Composición Abierta para examinar la eficiencia de los Órganos Rectores. Creemos que este es un tema muy importante que tiene nuestro apoyo. Creemos que es un Grupo que se puede fortalecer de manera importante para los trabajos de esta organización, y que tiene temas fundamentales para mejorar un mejor cumplimiento del mandato de la FAO.

La delegación de Canadá, que ha precedido la delegación de México, hizo algunos señalamientos. Creemos que es importante que cualquier señalamiento indicado por las delegaciones pueda ser examinado y, de ser posible, llevar a conclusiones lo más rápido posible.

Un quinto y último punto para el próximo Consejo: es que creemos que es muy importante su liderazgo en la elaboración de la Agenda. Usted ya ha propuesto un Tema sobre los Informes que se presentaron en las Conferencias Regionales que se han llevado a cabo, y como todos sabemos, son de gran importancia para programar el trabajo de esta Organización y constituirán contribuciones importantes a los procesos de planificación para así elaborar una Agenda que tome en cuenta los trabajos de los diversos órganos, y al mismo tiempo llegar a decisiones más claras en el ámbito programático.

Damos la bienvenida a las consultas que usted haga, ya sea a través de los crecientes Grupos Regionales, de grupos de amigos, de delegaciones interesadas, para conformar una agenda substantiva y fuerte para el próximo Consejo. Cuente con el apoyo de la delegación de México.

Mr Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

In document CL 139/REP/6 we clearly stated it is necessary to work as quickly as possible in order to extend the Bureau for the Near East Region. This was not done. We need to assess the Bureau, the evaluation of the Near East Bureau should be completed as soon as possible. This evaluation really is taking up a lot of time and we are concerned about this.

Regarding document CL 139/REP/9, on the Forestry and Fauna Commissions, paragraph 9 does not make any new contribution since the Forestry Commission has to study the situation regarding forests in the Near East Region, and this is what is under way. We omitted the word 'pasture' but we stressed throughout the work of the Committee, that the Forestry and Pastures Management Body should examine these issues.

Regarding the translation of the document, I am concerned about the quality of the translation. As the Mexican delegate said, paragraph 13 of document CL 139/REP/7 confers a meaning although the Council has adopted the proposed amendment regarding the Chairperson's Emoluments and therefore, there is a discrepancy between the English and Arabic versions. In the Arabic version we say that the Council adopted the proposal but this is not the case. This matter is still under discussion, and we ask that the text be reviewed.

Mr Kazuma SHIOYA (Japan)

I very much appreciate the effort made by the Chair and the Members of the Drafting Committee and my delegation is glad to endorse the Report *en bloc*, at least the English version. However, as Canada pointed out, I think the Report is a little bit lengthy and I hope in the future we will have a more concise Report. I support the proposal made by Canada to make the Report shorter.

Sr. António LIZCANO PALOMARES (Español)

Hablo en nombre de la Unión Europea y de sus 27 Estados Miembros para comunicar nuestra aprobación al Informe.

Sr. Luis Alberto ÁLVAREZ FERMÍN (Venezuela)

En primer lugar, deseamos reiterar nuestras congratulaciones por los trabajos realizados por el Comité de Redacción, el cual apreciamos.

Con respecto al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, reiteramos nuestra complacencia con el trabajo de la Mesa, que condujo los debates y deliberaciones de manera abierta, democrática y participativa para concluir con el documento de la Reforma que nos ha presentado y que seguramente fue evaluado en las diferentes Conferencias Regionales que han tenido lugar hasta este momento.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela apoya igualmente los trabajos constructivos realizados en la implantación del Plan Inmediato de Acción como hemos reflejado en el Proyecto del Informe del 139º. período de sesiones del Consejo.

Quisiera reiterar a Usted y a la Mesa nuestra solicitud tal y como fuera planteada por nuestra delegación el día 17 de mayo en la sesión matutina para insertar, en este informe, los comentarios formulados por la República Bolivariana de Venezuela que fueron consignados a la Secretaría General de este Consejo. Pido a Usted gentilmente que las observaciones de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela sobre algunos puntos más específicos del proceso de la Reforma y del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria sean incorporados en estas actas de la reunión del Consejo.

Ms Fatma Hussein SABER (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to back up all the statements which have been made, and I would like to express our thanks to the Drafting Committee and to the Chairman for all the efforts made. We also feel that this Report could have been much more succinct than it actually is and it should not cover all the details at great length. This is what we have decided on previously. There is just one point that I would like to raise which regards Item 4 on the Annual Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme. In paragraph 3 in the Arabic and English versions it is emphasized that ".....encouraged WFP to continue its active participation...".

We would like to emphasize that Egypt feels that this initiative is a key initiative. Since it is, however, a pilot initiative, we should wait for the assessment in New York on its efficiency. Therefore, we emphasize in this regard that our Council should take note of the participation of the Executive Board of the WFP and that it is implementing this pilot initiative in the countries in which it has a presence, but we should wait until the completion of the assessment which is currently underway in New York, for its conclusions to be known.

Mr Tareq A. AL DRIWEESH (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

I have no doubt whatsoever as to the significant improvement that we have seen in the written translation of the documents. Nevertheless, it should be noted that these documents and technical data are used as reference by all the Members. What we expect from the Organization is an extra effort so that the documents we are given are irreproachable so that we avoid having to correct language-related mistakes such as these we have encountered so far. Therefore I concur with the criticisms lodged by Jordan regarding the Arabic language version. I will give you an example. Yesterday evening in the Drafting Committee. I took the floor to emphasize this problem and very succinctly stressed that in the translation of document CL 139/REP/7, just before paragraph 13 in yesterday's version, there is a reference to the compensation of the Independent Chair of the Council. During the discussion yesterday we said that the word used in Arabic, which is translated "indemnities "or" compensation". I said that the word in Arabic has to take into account the appropriate terms, which in Arabic is "remuneration". We should stick as closely possible to the meaning which is being adopted to avoid any ambiguity as to the President's remuneration or the English version should be changed and we could say the "privileges" of the Independent Chair of the Council for example.

This being said, I reiterate that we are one of the largest Agencies in the UN System and we should take emphasize the importance of the having best possible translation of our documents.

LE PRÉSIDENT

D'autres interventions? Si ce n'est pas le cas, je redonne la parole à Madame Muchada pour interpréter les questions qui ont été vues.

Je vous rappelle quand même ce que nous avons dit tout à l'heure concernant les traductions. Il faut être clair et précis et c'est à vous de transmettre au Secrétariat ces aspects-là. Aussi, toutes les interventions que vous faites sont reprises dans les procès-verbaux comme contributions aux débats.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Chairperson, Drafting Committee)

I'll try to respond to those which are within my mandate, and I think some are directed to the Independent Chair.

On the length of the document, I note the comments that have been put forward by Canada, supported by Japan, Egypt, Mexico and others, and in the context of the work of the Open-ended Working Group which was established recently. I am sure that as you have put this in the hands of the Independent Chair, this is a matter that will be given due attention.

With regards to the Arabic translations that were highlighted by Jordan and Saudi Arabia, we welcome the comments that have been made and we continue to request that any other changes in translation related to Arabic be conveyed to the Secretariat. The same applies to the Spanish version for which changes have been suggested by Mexico, as well as the comments that Mexico has made regarding geographical representation and the like.

With regard to the observation that was made by Jordan on the Near East Forestry and Range Commission, I do admit that, although we tried to remember to bring this word '*rangeland or range*' into the document. There were some paragraphs where perhaps we did not include the terminology per se, but as you can see even from the heading of the Resolution, this has now been included as a result of your earlier observations. We suggest that in the second line of paragraph 9, it should read "*The Council concurred with the proposal that the Committee on Forestry should examine the activities of the regional forestry and rangeland bodies*". So this is the addition we could make to address these concerns.

I also noted the observation that was made by the delegation of Egypt in CL 139/REP/4, and I wish to draw attention to paragraph 3. The concerns will be covered by the footnote that is in paragraph 3. A specific footnote to that effect will be included on that page, and I hope this will address the concerns.

With that I wish to thank you for all the warm wishes that you have extended to me personally and for the gratitude you have extended to the Committee that drafted your Report for you. Thank you.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Bien entendu, je voulais dire quelques mots avant d'aller plus loin concernant les questions qui sont posées sur le rapport, la longueur et la prise en compte du Président. Il est clair que tous ces aspects-là vont faire l'objet de discussions dans le cadre du Groupe ouvert. J'espère bien que pour le prochain Conseil, nous pourrions avoir un rapport encore plus succinct et, en tout état de cause, je m'engage à tout mettre en œuvre pour être encore plus présent dans sa rédaction. Mais je vois qu'il y a encore d'autres remarques.

Sr. Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Gracias Presidente. Lamento haber llegado tarde al Consejo y no he podido aún leer a fondo el Informe, pero he visto a primera vista el CL 139/REP/4 relativo a la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA, en el párrafo 3, donde se dice que se da aliento a participar activamente en la iniciativa "Unidos en la acción" de las Naciones Unidas. La posición de mi país, y creo que de muchos otros, es que si esta iniciativa está en curso y no ha sido aprobada por la Naciones Unidas. Entonces no se le puede dar ese tipo de bienvenida ni acogida y por lo tanto, mientras no se apruebe nos sumamos a

observación hecha por la delegación de Egipto. Queremos agregar la observación de mi país porque no podemos aceptar de que esto sea puesto así en el Informe.

Mr Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

Whatever the case may be we thank Madam Chair of the Drafting Committee regarding the failings in the Arabic translation. The issue of the evaluation of the Regional Office for the Near East is really going ahead very very slowly, and we have been reviewing this item for the past two years and the issue is still outstand.

I suggest the following words: "The Council emphasized the need to accelerate the evaluation of the Regional Office for the Near East in order for this to be submitted to the Regional Conference for the Near East to be held in December 2010". In other words, we will have the next six to seven months, and I think that this timeline is more than adequate to complete the work and submit the results to the Regional Conference.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Après ce que nous avons entendu, à part ce dernier amendement qui vient d'être bien identifié et les interventions des uns et des autres mises aux procès-verbaux, est-ce que je peux demander l'approbation *en bloc* avec l'amendement qui vient d'être déposé par la Jordanie? Merci. Le rapport est adopté.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vais donner la parole à Mme Bettina Corke qui va parler au nom de l'Alliance internationale des femmes. Vous avez la parole, Madame.

Ms Bettina CORKE (International Alliance of Women)

I had hoped that the Chair of the Women's Working Party would be making this intervention but as she is not here, I have consulted with her and she has given me her permission to speak on this point.

It is on the Agenda Item of the Report of the Programme Committee; the key area on "Programme Planning and Priority-Setting". I would like to be informed of what process is involved from today in which, for example, the International Women's Movement in consultative status with ECOSOC, consisting of millions of women workers and farmers and others, can ensure that women's agricultural workers, farmers and processors, and all the women involved in rural areas as covered in Article 14 of the Convention for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, can be involved in a priority programme of FAO and the other Agencies. It is not clear to me in the Report how this process takes place. I understand the evaluation, and the evaluation talks about gender balance which has very little to do with policy, and then what happens to the evaluation, the strategic aspects? How does a programme become a priority programme when it is really, basically a new intervention, a new way of doing things?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Madame. Je vous propose de prendre directement contact avec le Secrétariat, et je me réfère aussi à la réunion informelle de ce matin où nous avons parlé de partenariats, où il a été dit, puisque c'est la réalité, qu'il y avait nécessité de coordonner au mieux l'ensemble des représentations, que ce soit les femmes ou autres, parce qu'il n'était pas possible non plus à la FAO, dans toutes ses instances, d'avoir directement et en permanence des relations avec tous les groupes qui existent.

Donc, je vous demande de vous rapprocher du Secrétariat, pour voir comment, dans ce cadre là, il faut être présent.

J'en profite pour dire que j'ai cru comprendre de par mes collègues, à plusieurs reprises, dans les discussions des groupes, des comités et au Conseil, y compris avec le personnel de cette maison, combien il était important de tenir compte que plus de 50 pour cent de la population mondiale sont des femmes, que ce soit parmi les travailleurs ou les travailleuses ou dans les exploitations agricoles. Je voudrais dire que c'est un souci qui doit être permanent pour nous.

En terminant ce Conseil, je voudrais vous dire quelques éléments "après-Conseil", non pas le premier Conseil puisque j'ai présidé un Conseil tout de suite après mon élection, mais je veux dire un premier Conseil complet de fonctionnement et de discussions.

Je dois dire que j'ai apprécié, même si, comme l'a dit mon collègue du Canada, je n'ai pas été suffisamment actif, j'ai apprécié votre contribution et les efforts que vous avez faits les uns et les autres pour justement faire en sorte que dans les interventions il y ait de plus en plus de coordination entre les Groupes régionaux. Pour ceux qui ont vécu d'autres Conseils, on voyait la différence et je souhaite que l'on puisse continuer dans ce cadre-là.

Je voudrais aussi remercier une nouvelle fois Madame Muchada et lui souhaiter bon vent dans ses nouvelles responsabilités. J'en ai discuté un peu avec elle tout à l'heure avant le Conseil, et j'ai compris qu'il y avait un petit pincement de cœur après dix ans passés ici de partir, mais je vous souhaite bonne chance dans vos nouvelles fonctions et vous remercie vraiment du travail que vous avez fait ici, en particulier pour le Conseil.

Je voudrais dire aussi qu'après que nous ayons accepté notre rapport, comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, nous avons encore du travail à faire pour plus d'efficacité et de concision. Il faudra faire évoluer les choses concernant le lien avec le Comité de rédaction, le Président et le Secrétariat, mais dans le Groupe ouvert nous en discuterons.

Je dois dire aussi que, malgré tout, si c'était un Conseil relativement léger en matière de travaux, quand on met bout à bout les travaux qui ont été présentés venant du Comité du programme, du CQCG et du Comité financier, c'est un travail qui est important. Je regrette, comme vous, que l'on n'ait pas pu mettre à profit pleinement le travail qui a déjà été commencé dans les conférences régionales, mais c'était impossible car elles n'ont pas encore eu lieu toutes les cinq. Ces aspects seront au cœur de notre Conseil du mois de novembre.

J'ai retenu aussi une chose importante, c'est que nous avons accumulé un certain nombre de décisions mais nous avons aussi donné un certain nombre d'orientations pour le Comité du programme, le Comité financier, le CQCG et la coordination des comités techniques. Ce Conseil est clos et nous avons une mission très importante d'ici le prochain Conseil pour essayer d'être le plus efficace possible. Je vous rappelle que le temps qui sépare les deux Conférences n'est pas de 24 mois. Il n'est que de 20 mois et la fin de cette année et le début de l'année prochaine vont sans doute être très denses. Il faudra se concerter au mieux et je remercie, une nouvelle fois, les Présidents des Groupes régionaux de la cohérence qu'ils montrent lorsque je les réunis. A ce propos, nous aurons une réunion de coordination la première semaine de juin avec les Présidents de Comités. Je vous demande aussi, en toute simplicité, quand vous avez des idées ou des remarques à faire sur quelque chose qui n'avance pas assez vite, il n'y a pas besoin d'attendre le Conseil pour venir me voir et me le dire. Ma porte est toujours ouverte et si je ne suis pas là, vous laissez un petit mot pour m'en faire part.

Donc voilà ce que je voulais vous dire après ce Conseil, qui me semble un Conseil d'étape dans l'évolution de la FAO. Je voudrais aussi remercier l'ensemble du Secrétariat, bien sûr ceux qui sont présents ici, mais aussi tous ceux qui sont restés dans les bureaux, car il y a un gros travail qui est réalisé pour parfaire notre travail. Je ne vous cache pas que la chose que je découvre le plus, c'est le fait de travailler au mieux en six langues. Je le comprends car je ne suis pas très doué en beaucoup de langues, malgré les petits progrès, mais j'ai compris qu'il y a dans les mots, dans les expressions des uns et des autres, dans notre histoire des langues des nuances qu'il n'est pas

toujours facile de traduire. C'est un travail qui est très important et il faut absolument refaire le point sur ces différents termes pour que chacun s'y trouve bien.

Merci aussi à l'ensemble du personnel qui nous accompagne et qui facilite le travail autour de nous. Merci aussi aux interprètes, j'espère que nous ne parlons pas trop vite et je répète ce que j'ai dit en début de séance pour la prochaine fois: lorsque vous avez des interventions préparées à l'avance, de les donner au Secrétariat pour les interprètes. Cela facilite le travail de chacun.

Je pense que nous avons passé une semaine active. On aurait pu sans doute faire encore mieux, mais on ne peut que progresser. Je vous souhaite donc une bonne fin de semaine et un bon retour pour ceux qui retournent dans leurs capitales.

Un instant s'il vous plait, le Directeur général adjoint voudrait vous adresser quelques mots.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OPERATIONS

Before you conclude, I would just like to say two words. One is that on behalf of the Director-General, we would like to thank all of you for your excellent contributions, which jointly made this Council session very successful and, of course, to you, Mr Chair, for your able leadership.

Second, the Chair has just mentioned that we are going to follow-up on the recommendations made at this Council. That will certainly include expediting the evaluation work on the Regional Office for the Near East. We will, of course, duly submit our report as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 14.45 hours

La séance est levée à 14 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 14.45

